22. (a) What contributes to the GmM/r^2 force on m is the (spherically distributed) mass M contained within r (where r is measured from the center of M). At point A we see that $M_1 + M_2$ is at a smaller radius than $r = a$ and thus contributes to the force:

$$|F_{\text{on } m}| = \frac{G\,(M_1 + M_2)\,m}{a^2} \quad .$$

(b) In the case $r = b$, only M_1 is contained within that radius, so the force on m becomes GM_1m/b^2.

(c) If the particle is at C, then no other mass is at smaller radius and the gravitational force on it is zero.