

THIS IS A MULTIPLE CHOICE PAPER. PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE PROVIDED QUESTION PAPER. EACH QUESTION IS FOLLOWED BY ANSWERS MARKED A AND B, OR A, B, C AND D. ONLY ONE ANSWER IS CORRECT. CHOOSE THE MOST CORRECT ANSWER AND CIRCLE IT CLEARLY. THANK YOU & ALL OF THE BEST.

1. The Sun is very much larger than any other planet in our Solar System.

- A. **True**
- B. False

2. The time it takes the Earth to revolve once around the Sun is approximately a _____

- A. day
- B. month
- C. week
- D. **year**

3. Which planet is the largest amongst the terrestrial/rocky planets?

- A. Pluto
- B. Mercury
- C. Mars
- D. **Earth**

4. Which planet in our Solar System spins fastest?

- A. Saturn
- B. Earth
- C. Mercury
- D. **Jupiter**

5. During what phase of the Moon can we observe a total solar eclipse?

- A. **New Moon**

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- B. Full Moon
- C. First Quarter
- D. Last Quarter

6. Which of the following arrangement represent the phase mentioned in Question 5 above?

- A. Earth, Sun, Moon
- B. Earth, Moon, Sun
- C. Sun, Earth, Moon
- D. Moon, Earth, Sun

7. The Moon's faint outer shadow that falls upon the Earth is referred to as the _____

- A. Full moon
- B. Umbra
- C. Penumbra
- D. New moon

8. Which of the following is the best approximate shape of our Solar System?

- A. Flat disk
- B. Helix
- C. Spiral
- D. Ball shaped

9. An area that separates terrestrial planets from outer planets is referred to as the _____

- A. Kuiper belt
- B. Oort belt
- C. Asteroid belt
- D. Terrestrial belt

10. Approximately by what angle is the Earth's rotation axis tilted, to the plane of its orbit around the Sun?

- A. 25.3 degrees

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B. 33.5 degrees

C. 23.5 degrees

D. 35.3 degrees

11. The rotation of the Earth on its axis to the plane of its orbit around the Sun causes _____ to occur.

A. Seasons

B. Day & Night

C. Days

D. Nights

12. Which one of the following does not belong to the group below?

A. Earth

B. Mars

C. Venus

D. Jupiter

13. Which spacecraft, launched in 2006 has flown by Pluto in July 2015?

A. Spirit

B. New Horizon

C. Space shuttle

D. Opportunity

14. Which of the following stars are the coolest?

A. Yellow

B. Red

C. Blue

D. White

15. Which of the following planets in our Solar System has the least number of natural satellites?

A. Earth

B. Saturn

C. Uranus

D. Mercury

16. What does the unit “light year” measure:

A. Volume

B. Distance

C. Mass

D. Brightness

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17. Which two main gases can be found in the Sun?

- A. Oxygen & Hydrogen
- B. Hydrogen & Helium
- C. Hydrogen & Lithium
- D. Oxygen & Lithium

18. From which Observatory did astronomers discover the closest star to the Earth after the Sun?

- A. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- B. South African Astronomical Observatory
- C. Johannesburg
- D. Boyden

19. How many natural satellites does planet Earth have?

- A. 2
- B. 64
- C. 31
- D. 1

20. The scientific name for a shooting star is _____

- A. Meteor
- B. Meteoroid
- C. Comet
- D. Satellite

21. If the planets Venus, Earth and Mars are arranged according to decreasing day lengths, the sequence will be

- A. Venus, Earth, Mars
- B. Mars, Venus, Earth.
- C. Venus, Mars, Earth
- D. Earth, Mars, Venus.

22. When the Earth orbits the Sun, the North Pole always points in the same direction.

- A. True
- B. False

23. When it rotates along its axis, the Earth rotates from _____

- A. East to West
- B. West to East
- C. West to North
- D. East to North

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24. Earth's orbit around the Sun takes much longer than its rotation on its axis.

- A. True
- B. False

25. Which of the following is the hottest planet in our Solar System?

- A. Venus
- B. Mercury
- C. Mars
- D. Jupiter

26. On one of the following planets the surface is extremely hot during the day and icy cold at night. Which one is that?

- A. Earth
- B. Jupiter
- C. Mercury
- D. Uranus

27. What are the rings of Saturn made up of?

- A. Ice and dust
- B. Gas and dust
- C. Dust and water droplets
- D. Rocks and dust

28. Mark Shuttleworth, a South African IT millionaire from Cape Town was launched into space on _____.

- A. 20 April 2001
- B. 25 April 2002
- C. 20 June 2004
- D. 25 June 2002

29. During his time in space, Mark Shuttleworth spent time at the ____

- A. Moon
- B. Baikour cosmodrome
- C. International Space Station
- D. Russian Space Station

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30. Stars and planets are born from _____

- A. Other stars
- B. Cloud of gas and dust**
- C. Cloud of gas
- D. Rocks

TIE BREAKERS (SUDDEN DEATH)

1. Which of the following is not part of the listed planets?

- A. Uranus
- B. Neptune
- C. Mars
- D. Saturn

2. How many planets have rings around them?

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Six
- D. All

3. The year 2015 marks the celebration of the second closest star to Earth after the Sun. Which star is that?

- A. Alpha Centauri
- B. Omega Centauri
- C. Proxima Centauri
- D. Eris

4. The Sun rotates on its axis approximately once every

- A. 1 year
- B. 25 days
- C. 1 week
- D. 1 month

5. Dark spots on the surface of the Sun have lower temperatures than the rest of the Sun's surface.

- A. True
- B. False