

SOLAR SYSTEM QUIZ

1. What is the closest planet to the Sun?

- a) Mercury
- b) Venus
- c) Earth

2. There are 8 recognised planets in the Solar System. How many of them are gas giants?

- a) 3
- b) 4
- c) 5

3. What planet has the highest mountain in the Solar System?

- a) Venus
- b) Earth
- c) Mars

4. What is the hottest terrestrial planet?

- a) Mercury
- b) Venus
- c) Earth

5. Why can we see surface details on Mars and Mercury but not on Venus?

- a) Venus is covered by too many clouds to see any features
- b) Venus is too far away to see any features
- c) Venus is too near the Sun to see any features

6. What planet could float in water because of its low density?

- a) Earth
- b) Jupiter
- c) Saturn

7. True or False? Only Saturn and Uranus have rings around them.

- a) True
- b) False

8. What planet orbits the Sun on its side?

- a) Saturn
- b) Uranus
- c) Neptune

9. What is the furthest gas giant from the Sun?

- a) Uranus
- b) Neptune
- c) Pluto

10. Planets follow an approximate orbit called the..?

- a) Equator
- b) Eccentric
- c) Ecliptic

11. True or False? Planets exactly follow the ecliptic.

- a) True
- b) False

12. The Astronomical Unit measures the mean distance of Earth to the Sun. What approximate value is this..?

- a) 150,000,000 km
- b) 140,000 km
- c) 13,000 km

13. Which of these describes when the Earth is NEAREST the Sun..?

- a) Aphelion
- b) Perihelion
- c) Astronomical Unit

14. Which of these is NOT a classification of a dwarf planet..?

- a) Is in orbit around the Sun
- b) Is not a satellite
- c) Has hydrostatic equilibrium (near-spherical /consistent shape)
- d) Has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit
- e) Has an atmosphere

15. What is TNO the abbreviation for?

- a) Trans-Neptunian Object
- b) Terrestrial Neo Organism
- c) Trust No One

16. True or False? Venus can be used to illustrate the danger of extreme global warming.

- a) True
- b) False

17. Which is NOT an advantage of manned space missions over unmanned missions?

- a) Humans require extensive and expensive training for space work
- b) Humans can cope with difficult conditions and carry out movements that no robot would be capable of
- c) A Human does not need programming and can be flexible and intelligent enough to carry out different tasks

18. Which is NOT an advantage of unmanned space missions over manned missions?

- a) They can go further away from Earth and can travel for longer periods
- b) They do not need extra room for life support
- c) They do not need lengthy programming

19. What are planetary rings?

- a) Saturn's internal structure
- b) A circle of light around a planet
- c) Thousands of rock and ice particles in close orbit around a planet

20. When a planet appears to move backwards in the sky it is said to be in what state?

- a) Direct Motion
- b) Stationary Point
- c) Retrograde

21. Inferior planets are nearer the Sun than Earth. Which of these are inferior planets?

- a) Mars and Mercury
- b) Mercury and Venus
- c) Venus and Mars

22. Superior planets are planets outside Earth's orbit. Which of these are superior planets?

- a) Mercury and Mars
- b) Venus and Mars
- c) Mars and Jupiter

23. When the Earth is between the Sun and a superior planet, the superior planet is said to be at..?

- a) Conjunction
- b) Opposition
- c) Occultation

24. When a planet is on the opposite side of the Sun from the Earth, the planet is said to be at..?

- a) Conjunction
- b) Opposition
- c) Occultation

25. The angle at which an inferior planet can be seen best is when it is at right angles to the Sun and Earth. The angle is called the angle of..?

- a) Elongation
- b) Opposition
- c) Conjunction

26. When an inferior planet passes in front of the Sun when seen from Earth it is said to be in..?

- a) Conjunction
- b) Occultation
- c) Transit

27. When a body such as the Moon or a planet orbits in front of another planet or star it is said to be doing what..?

- a) Transiting
- b) Occulting
- c) Opposing

28. The moons of Mars are thought to be an example of..?

- a) A satellite formed in the same area of space as the planet
- b) A satellite captured by the planet
- c) A satellite formed from the debris from an impact with the planet

29. Our Moon is thought to be an example of..?

- a) A satellite formed in the same area of space as the planet
- b) A satellite captured by the planet
- c) A satellite formed from the debris from an impact with the planet

30. Jupiter's Galilean Moons are thought to be an example of..?

- a) A satellite formed in the same area of space as the planet
- b) A satellite captured by the planet
- c) A satellite formed from the debris from an impact with the planet

ANSWERS

1. (a)
2. (b)
3. (c)
4. (b)
5. (a)
6. (c)
7. (b)
8. (b)
9. (b)
10. (c)
11. (b)
12. (a)
13. (b)
14. (e)
15. (a)
16. (a)
17. (a)
18. (c)
19. (c)
20. (c)
21. (b)
22. (c)
23. (b)
24. (a)
25. (a)
26. (c)
27. (a)
28. (b)
29. (c)
30. (a)