NORTHWEST TERRITORIES EARTH SCIENCES 11 · UNIT A · 25 QUESTIONS

Astronomy and the Solar System — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

1 **The nebular theory states that the solar system formed from a collapsing cloud of**

- A liquid water only
- B pure iron
- C gas and dust
- D solid rock only

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

2 **As the early solar nebula collapsed, gravity pulled material toward the centre and the cloud began to**

- A spin faster and flatten
- B stop moving
- C cool into solid ice
- D expand forever

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

3 **In the early solar system, the Sun formed at the centre while planets formed from the**

- A outer edge of space
- B gas escaping the Sun
- C remains of old stars only
- D surrounding disk of material

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

4 **The inner planets are mainly made of**

A rock and metal

B ice only

C liquid helium

D hydrogen gas

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

5 **The outer planets are mainly made of**

A hydrogen and helium gases

B ice

C rock and metal

D solid iron

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

6 **Which planet is a terrestrial planet**

A Neptune

B Venus

C Jupiter

D Saturn

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

7 **Which planet is a gas giant**

A Saturn

B Earth

C Mercury

D Mars

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

8 **Earth can support life in part because it has liquid water on its surface and a protective**

A tilt of 90 degrees

B atmosphere

C pair of large moons

D ring system

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

9 **Earth lies in the habitable zone, where temperatures allow water to exist mainly as a**

A solid only

B gas only

C plasma

D liquid

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

10 **Earth magnetic field helps protect life by deflecting much of the harmful charged particles from the**

A deep ocean

B asteroid belt

C Moon

D Sun

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

11 **The leading idea for the origin of the Moon is a giant impact between early Earth and a**

A Mars sized body

B dwarf planet

C gas giant

D passing comet

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

12 **The Moon affects Earth most noticeably through**

A earthquakes only

B ocean tides

C volcanoes

D wind patterns

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

13 **The phases of the Moon are caused by changes in how much of the sunlit side we see from**

A Earth

B the Sun

C the asteroid belt

D Mars

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

14 **Seasons on Earth are mainly caused by the**

A tilt of Earth axis

B distance from the Sun

C speed of rotation

D phases of the Moon

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

15 **Day and night on Earth are caused by Earth**

A revolution

B tilt

C orbit of the Moon

D rotation

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

16 **One year on Earth is about the time needed for Earth to complete one**

A orbit of the Moon

B trip around the galaxy

C orbit around the Sun

D rotation on its axis

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

17 **The asteroid belt lies mainly between the orbits of**

A Earth and Mars

B Saturn and Uranus

C Venus and Earth

D Mars and Jupiter

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

18 **A comet develops a bright tail when it nears the Sun and its icy material**

- A stops moving
- B freezes solid
- C turns to rock
- D vaporizes

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

19 **Pluto is now classified as a**

- A dwarf planet
- B moon
- C terrestrial planet
- D gas giant

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

20 **Planets stay in orbit around the Sun because of**

A friction

B gravity

C magnetism only

D wind

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

21 **Venus is hotter than Mercury mainly because Venus has a thick atmosphere that traps heat through the**

A brighter surface

B greenhouse effect

C larger orbit

D faster rotation

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

22 **Mars shows polar ice caps and a very thin**

A magnetic shield

B ocean

C ring system

D atmosphere

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

23 **Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system and its Great Red Spot is a long lasting**

A ice cap

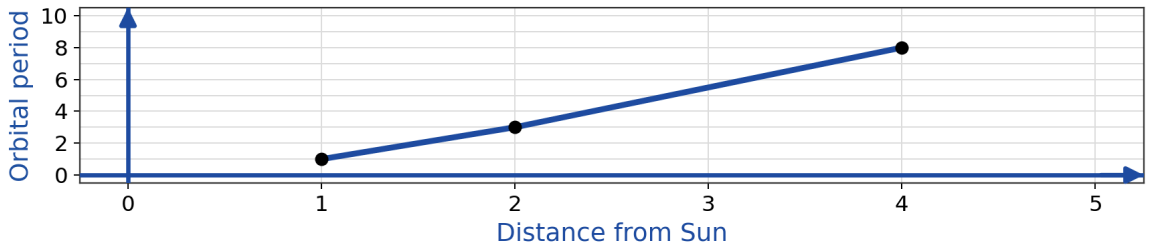
B storm

C volcano

D ocean

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

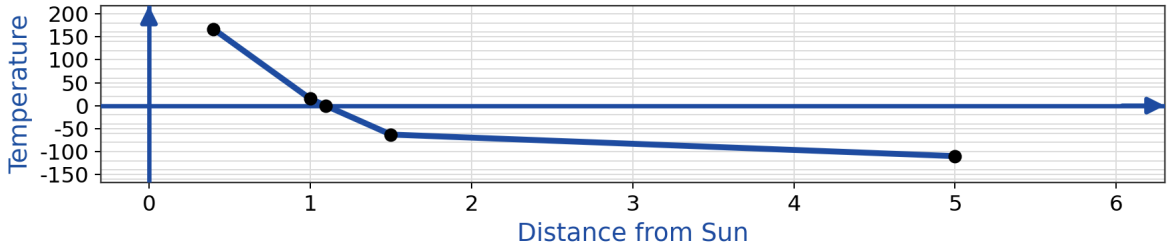
24 **The graph shows orbital period against distance from the Sun. The orbital period at distance 4, in graph units, is _____**



ANSWER

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

25 **The graph shows average surface temperature against distance from the Sun. The overall trend in the graph is that**



A temperature rises as distance increases

B temperature stays the same

C temperature rises then falls to zero

D temperature falls as distance increases

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. D
10. D
11. A
12. B
13. A
14. A
15. D
16. C
17. D
18. D
19. A
20. B
21. B
22. D
23. B
24. 8
25. D

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.