



## 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. Which of these 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

11. 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

12. Comets have two tails. One is a dust tail comprises of particles from its surface. What is the other tail called..?

- a) Ion
- b) Stream
- c) Double tail

13. Which of these is NOT usually characteristic of a comet's orbit?

- a) Retrograde orbit
- b) Eccentric to ecliptic
- c) Circular orbit

14. The asteroid belt is between..?

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

15. The area that meteor showers originate from in the sky is called the..?

- a) Ecliptic
- b) Zenith
- c) Radiant

16. Meteor Showers occur because..?

- a) An object hits the atmosphere
- b) Fireballs hit Earth
- c) The Earth moves into a point on its orbit where debris has been left

17. How do spacecraft travel safely through the asteroid belt?

- a) All asteroid orbits are carefully plotted
- b) The belt is not densely packed with asteroids
- c) They have shields on them like the Millennium Falcon in the Empire Strikes back

18. What is the object that falls into Earth's atmosphere leaving a lit trail behind it?

- a) Meteor
- b) Meteoroid
- c) Meteorite

19. Long term comets are thought to originate in what area of the solar system?

- a) Asteroid Belt
- b) Kuiper Belt
- c) Oort Cloud

20. Short term comets are thought to originate in what area of the solar system?

- a) Asteroid Belt
- b) Kuiper Belt
- c) Oort Cloud

21. The nucleus of a comet is surrounded by..?

- a) A Tail
- b) A Coma
- c) A Full Stop

22. Meteorites are made of..?

- a) Rock or Iron
- b) Ice or Rock
- c) Cheese or Onion

## Answers

1. (a)
2. (b)
3. (c)
4. (b)
5. (a)
6. (c)
7. (b)
8. (b)
9. (b)
10. (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
11. (c)
12. (a)
13. (c)
14. (b)
15. (c)
16. (c)
17. (b)
18. (a)
19. (c)
20. (b)
21. (b)
22. (a)