

QUICK ASTRONOMY QUIZ - ANSWERS

Kids – 3 points for a correct answer

Teenagers – 2 points for a correct answer

Grown-ups – 1 point for a correct answer

Astronomers – half a point for a correct answer but a forfeit of minus 10 points for a wrong answer!

1. Jupiter
2. Andromeda
3. Voyager 1. Half marks if you did not get the fullname – there is also a Voyager 2 not quite as far from earth.
4. Haumea, Makemake, Eris, 2007 OR10, Sedna, Quaoar, and Orcus. Potentially there could be as many as 200 such planets in the Kuiper Belt! So you might know of a new one not on this list.
5. Dark Matter. There is also another even more mysterious substance which is supposed to account for the observed accelerated expansion of the universe known as Dark Energy.
6. Deneb (Alpha Cygni) in the constellation of Cygnus. Deneb's exact distance from the Earth is still rather uncertain. The currently accepted distance is around 2,600 light-years.
7. Approximately 150 million km or 93 million miles. (If you are within 10 million km or 7 million miles of the right answer you can have the points).
8. Approximately 300 thousand km per second or 186 thousand miles per second. (If you are within 10 thousand km or 7 thousand miles per second of the right answer you can have the points).
9. Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus all have ring systems, though less distinct than Saturn's. Most were only discovered in the last 30 or so years.
10. Sirius (Alpha Canis Majoris) in the constellation of Canis Major. It is also one of our nearest stellar neighbours which partly accounts for its apparent brightness. It is not however the brightest star in the night sky in real terms – just to our eyes it is.