

Gravity and Astrophysics – Test 1

1. Two masses, each of mass m , have gravitational force F between them. What is the gravitational force between two masses, each of charge q ?

A $\frac{F}{3}$ B $3F$ C $9F$

2. One of the moons of Mars is called Deimos.

- mass of Deimos = 1.3×10^{22} kg
 - mass of Mars = 6.4×10^{23} kg
 - and 2.3×10^6 m from the centre of Mars to the centre of Deimos
- Calculate the mean force holding Deimos in orbit.

3. The gravitational potential, V , at the surface of Earth is -9.81 J kg^{-1} .

- (a) Sketch a graph of how V varies with increasing distance, r , from Earth.
- (b) Describe how to calculate the work done in raising a 1 kg mass away from Earth.

4. The relationship between the time period, T , and the radius, r , of an orbit is given by:

- (a) State the factor by which the time period changes when the radius is doubled.
- (b) State the factor by which the radius must change in order to quadruple the time period.

5. Some information about the Sun and Earth is provided:

- mass of the Sun = 5.97×10^{24} kg
- radius of the Sun = 6.37×10^6 m
- time period for Earth orbit = 3.16×10^7 s
- time for Earth to spin on its axis = 8.64×10^4 s

The equation for escape velocity, v is $\sqrt{\frac{2GM}{R}}$

Calculate the escape velocity from the surface of Earth.

You may not have to use all of the information given above.

6. Outline the stages that a massive star passes through when hydrogen is used up in its core.

7. Explain why stars can emit radiation, such as infrared.

8. Use Stefan's law to predict what would happen to the luminosity if the radius of a star is doubled, separately, in a star.

- (a) The surface temperature is doubled.
- (b) The radius is halved.

9. One parsec is 3.1×10^{16} m. Use this value to determine the value of 1 astronomical unit (AU) in parsecs.

10. When the Andromeda galaxy is observed from Earth, the spectrum shows a blue shift. Explain what causes this blue shift **and** state what this tells us about the galaxy.

11. Describe what is meant by *dark energy*.

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