



Grade 11



Earth and Space Science
Earth and Space

Additional FCAT Practice Questions

Directions: Select the best answer for each of the following questions

1. The distance from the Earth to the Sun is called an astronomical unit. At this point in time, the Earth is one astronomical unit from the Sun. It takes the Earth 12 months to orbit the Sun once. In six months, the Earth will be on the exact opposite side of the Sun from where it is right now. How many astronomical units will the Earth be away from the Sun at that time?
 - A. 1 AU
 - B. 2 AU
 - C. 6 AU
 - D. 12 AU

2. Venus is the closest planet to Earth. It is almost four times wider than the Earth's moon. Why does the moon appear so much larger than Venus when viewed from Earth?
 - A. the Earth's atmosphere makes the moon appear larger
 - B. the moon is much closer to Earth than Venus
 - C. the atmosphere of Venus makes the planet look smaller
 - D. the moon reflects more light than Venus, making it look larger

3. When planets are viewed from Earth, they appear to move through a stationary background of stars. Each planet moves through the night sky with different apparent speeds. Why do Venus and Mars appear to move faster than Jupiter and Saturn?
- A. Venus and Mars are smaller, and are not slowed down by the Sun's gravity
 - B. Jupiter and Saturn are so large, they are each affected by the other's gravity
 - C. Jupiter and Saturn are gas giants and move slower than rocky planets
 - D. Venus and Mars are closer to the Sun and have smaller orbits
4. Phobos and Deimos are the two moons of Mars. Phobos is 22 kilometres wide, and Deimos is 12 kilometres wide. Despite being larger, Phobos only takes 7.6 hours to orbit Mars, while Deimos takes 30.4 hours. Why would the larger moon take less time to orbit Mars?
- A. Phobos is closer to Mars
 - B. Deimos is closer to Mars
 - C. Phobos is farther from Mars
 - D. Deimos is slowed down by the gravity of Phobos
5. A year is the time it takes for a planet to orbit the Sun once. Every planet has a different length of year. Which of the following would have the longest year?
- A. Mercury
 - B. Jupiter
 - C. Neptune
 - D. Uranus

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. C