

SAMPLE FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS
Physics 2021

1. Who studied the gaps in the Asteroid Belt? _____ .

2. How many moons does Pluto have? _____

3. A “shooting” or “falling” star is what? _____

4. Which asteroid was discovered first? _____

5. A small piece of rock orbiting the Sun would be called
 - a. a meteoroid
 - b. a meteor
 - c. a meteorite
 - d. an asteroid
 - e. a comet

6. The particular feature of a comet that always points away from the Sun is
 - a. the coma
 - b. the ion tail
 - c. the dust tail
 - d. the hydrogen envelope
 - e. the nucleus

7. The aphelia of comet orbits
- are all closer to the Sun than the orbit of Pluto
 - are all located far beyond the orbit of Pluto
 - are mostly confined to the region between Mars and Jupiter
 - are non-existent because the orbits are hyperbolic
 - can be located anywhere from inside the orbit of Pluto to as far as 50,000 AU
8. Compared to Jovian planets, terrestrial planets have a
- More rocky composition
 - Lower density
 - More rapid rotation
 - Larger size
 - More than one of the above
9. The combined matter in the Asteroid Belt would produce an object of what approximate size?
- Much larger than the size of the Earth
 - About the size of the Earth
 - About the size of Mars
 - About the size of the Moon
 - Much smaller than the Moon
10. How are comets and asteroids different?

Answers:

- Kirkwood
- 5
- Meteor
- Ceres
- a
- b
- e
- a
- e.
10. Comets: very eccentric orbits; all directions, dirty snowballs, small size
Asteroids: slightly eccentric orbits; in ecliptic plane, rocky, relatively larger