

USAAAO  
National Astronomy Olympiad  
First Round  
02/12/2018-02/16/2018  
Time Limit: 75 Minutes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Proctor: \_\_\_\_\_

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This exam contains 6 pages (including this cover page) and 30 questions. Each question is worth 1 point, so there are 30 points total.

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- (1 point) A planet's orbit around a star has a semimajor axis of 16 AU. What is the period of the planet's orbit?
  - 6 years
  - 32 years
  - 64 years
  - 256 years
  - 4096 years
- (1 point) Which of the following has the longest wavelength?
  - UV
  - Optical
  - Radio
  - X-rays
  - Microwave
- (1 point) What is the peak wavelength in Angstroms ( $\text{\AA}$ ) of electromagnetic radiation emitted by a star at a temperature of 10,000 K, assuming a blackbody spectrum? (Wien's constant  $\sigma_w \approx 2.9 * 10^7 \text{\AA} * \text{K}$ )
  - 290  $\text{\AA}$
  - 2,900  $\text{\AA}$
  - 5,800  $\text{\AA}$
  - 29,000  $\text{\AA}$
  - 58,000  $\text{\AA}$
- (1 point) Determine the azimuth of Capella (Aurigae) in its upper culmination as seen from geographic latitude of  $\phi = +45^\circ 58'$ 
  - $0^\circ$
  - $90^\circ$
  - Undefined
  - $180^\circ$
  - $360^\circ$

5. (1 point) From which geographic latitude does the star Antares ( $\alpha$  Scorpio,  $\delta = -26^\circ 19'$ ) never rise?
- A.  $26^\circ 19'$
  - B.  $63^\circ 41'$
  - C.  $56^\circ 19'$
  - D. Never happens
  - E.  $53^\circ 41'$
6. (1 point) For the following problem find the range in which the answer lies: on the day of summer solstice, on which geographic latitude is the sun culminating at the angle of  $+72^\circ 50'$  north of the equator?
- A.  $0^\circ - 15^\circ$
  - B.  $15^\circ - 30^\circ$
  - C.  $30^\circ - 45^\circ$
  - D.  $45^\circ - 60^\circ$
  - E.  $60^\circ - 75^\circ$
7. (1 point) For the following problem, find the range in which the answer lies: looking from Greenwich on February 10th ( $s_o = 9^h 17^m 48^s$ ) at what time is Pollux ( $\alpha = 7^h 42^m 16^s$ ) at its upper culmination?
- A. 12 am - 6 am
  - B. 6 am - 12 pm
  - C. 12 pm - 6 pm
  - D. 6 pm - 10 pm
  - E. 10 pm - 12 am
8. (1 point) What is the main energy transport process in the core of the Sun?
- A. Radiation
  - B. Convection
  - C. Conduction
  - D. Diffusion
  - E. Advection
9. (1 point) What are the bright regions on the solar photosphere called?
- A. Sunspots
  - B. Limbs
  - C. Faculae
  - D. Prominences
  - E. Flares
10. (1 point) When seen from Earth, what is Venus' phase when it is at greatest elongation?
- A. New

- B. Crescent
  - C. Quarter
  - D. Gibbous
  - E. Full
11. (1 point) Which planets have primary atmospheres?
- A. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune
  - B. Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars
  - C. Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn
  - D. Venus and Earth
  - E. Mercury and Mars
12. (1 point) Which of the following planets or dwarf planets has not been visited by a spacecraft?
- A. Pluto
  - B. Haumea
  - C. Ceres
  - D. Mercury
  - E. Neptune
13. (1 point) Star A has a surface temperature of 10,000 K while Star B has a surface temperature of 4,000 K. Star B is 10 times larger than Star A and its distance from Earth is half that of Star A. What is the magnitude difference between Stars A and B?
- A. -10.48
  - B. -7.47
  - C. -0.48
  - D. 2.53
  - E. 7.47
14. (1 point) What property of the interiors of stars changes at the Kraft break, around 1.6 Solar masses?
- A. The dominant spin state flips
  - B. The dominant energy transport mechanism in the interior changes
  - C. The flaring activity increases
  - D. The core becomes iron-rich
  - E. Hydrogen burning ends in the core
15. (1 point) Which of the following stages will our Sun not evolve through?
- A. Red giant
  - B. White dwarf
  - C. Cepheid variable
  - D. Planetary nebula
  - E. Main sequence

16. (1 point) Which of the following are not high mass stars (relative to the others)?
- A. Wolf-Rayet stars
  - B. Type-II supernova progenitors
  - C. Cepheid variable
  - D. Red dwarfs
  - E. Red supergiants
17. (1 point) On a Hertzsprung-Russell diagram, where would we find stars that are cool and dim?
- A. Upper right
  - B. Lower right
  - C. Upper left
  - D. Lower left
  - E. Middle
18. (1 point) What do the cores of low-mass and high-mass main-sequence stars have in common?
- A. Both have a uniform composition
  - B. Both are burning hydrogen
  - C. Both are convective
  - D. Both are radiative
  - E. Both are contracting
19. (1 point) The thermal pressure of a gas depends on
- A. Density only
  - B. Temperature only
  - C. Both density and temperature
  - D. Composition
  - E. Gravity
20. (1 point) What happens to the core of a star after a planetary nebula occurs?
- A. It contracts from a protostar to a main-sequence star
  - B. It breaks apart in a violent explosion
  - C. It becomes a white dwarf.
  - D. It becomes a neutron star
  - E. none of the above
21. (1 point) Find the visual magnitude of the binary star  $\alpha$  Pisces, given that the visual magnitudes of each component in the binary system are 4.3 and 5.2. Pick the choice whose range encompasses the right answer.
- A. 0-1
  - B. 1-2
  - C. 2-3

- D. 3-4  
E. 4-5
22. (1 point) Which of the following is not a method used to detect exoplanets?
- A. Radial Velocity
  - B. Transits
  - C. Microlensing
  - D. Gravitational Waves
  - E. Direct Imaging
23. (1 point) Which of the following type of planet was the first to be discovered around a Solar-type star?
- A. Earth-like
  - B. Super-Earth
  - C. Mini-Neptune
  - D. Super-Neptune
  - E. Hot Jupiter
24. (1 point) A star of radius 0.72 solar radii experiences a periodic dip in brightness once every 13.8 days, thought to be a result of an orbiting exoplanet. The normalized flux during one of these dips in brightness is 0.98. What is the radius of the exoplanet?
- A. 0.014 solar radii
  - B. 0.102 solar radii
  - C. 0.144 solar radii
  - D. 0.706 solar radii
  - E. 0.713 solar radii
25. (1 point) The center of the Milky Way is a part of which zodiac constellation?
- A. Gemini
  - B. Sagittarius
  - C. Scorpio
  - D. Cancer
  - E. Virgo
26. (1 point) The youngest stars in the Milky Way are found predominantly in which part of the galaxy?
- A. In the halo
  - B. In globular clusters
  - C. In the thinner part of the disc closer to the galactic plane
  - D. In the thicker part of the disc farther from the galactic plane
  - E. In the central bulge

27. (1 point) In the 1920s Harlow Shapely estimated the size of the Milky Way galaxy using which of the following?
- A. RR Lyrae stars
  - B. Pulsating asymptotic giant branch stars
  - C. Type Ia supernovae
  - D. Type II supernovae
  - E. white dwarf stars
28. (1 point) What is the theoretical diffraction limited angular resolution in visible light (5,500 Å) of a typical 20-cm (8 in) amateur telescope?
- A. 0.35 arcsec
  - B. 0.69 arcsec
  - C. 0.017 arcsec
  - D. 1.7 arcsec
  - E. 6.9 arcsec
29. (1 point) To improve the angular resolution of a telescope one must
- A. Increase the diameter of the mirror or lens
  - B. Increase the telescope magnification
  - C. Increase the focal length of the eyepiece
  - D. Increase the focal length of the telescope
  - E. All of the above
30. (1 point) Find the total sum of the binary system of the star Capella, if semi-major axis between them is 0.85 AU, and period of 0.285 years.
- A. 5.5 solar masses
  - B. 6.5 solar masses
  - C. 7.5 solar masses
  - D. 8.5 solar masses
  - E. 9.5 solar masses