

Test Four Preview

AST 101 Solar System

As before, use the Course Outline as your specific guide; these comments here can help you in determining where to especially focus. By this final portion of the course, there is little in the way of new concepts; it's mostly factual now, so more straightforward.

By now, you should know the order of the planets out from the sun. And continue memorizing the basic data for the planets (and Pluto), particularly the distance from the sun and size, both relative to earth.

Mars is outlined well for you in the blue Course Outline. But recently I have added a couple of topics of which you should familiarize yourself with the highlights. These new topics are the Mars Rovers mission and the Phoenix Lander mission. Note what their scientific purpose was and any specific discoveries of interest. I will point out that you should know what the infamous canals of Mars turned out to be.

I have nothing to add beyond the course outline about Jupiter, but with Jupiter's Galilean satellites, I'll mention that you should know each moon's distinctive properties. Or in other words, you should be able to tell them apart, should I show you photographs or describe them.

I have nothing to add about Saturn, but do note the several features mentioned of the ring system. Know your Titan facts and features. And what is the remarkable activity found on Enceladus?

Note the two main hypotheses proposed to explain the bizarre, complex surface composition of Miranda at Uranus. Also, what are the two explanations offered for the unusual axis tilt of Uranus and its system of satellites? There weren't many features and facts about Uranus, so get to know them more readily by reviewing the notes.

What surprised us about Neptune when Voyager visited it in 1989? Note the contrasting orbits of Neptune's two largest moons. What interesting event may have happened in the distant past to result in the current Neptunian satellite system? What surprising activity did Voyager II find on Triton's icy surface?

Be versed in the pros and cons over the planetary status of Pluto. Note the recent discovery at Pluto. What is Eris and what was its role in the debate over Pluto's classification?

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