

UK's Lunar Leap: Artemis, Mars Rovers, and New Spaceports Take Center Stage

Space Exploration UK · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. What vital role does the UK play in NASA's Artemis program, aiming to return humans to the Moon?

- A) Developing the lunar lander for Artemis III.
- B) Providing the refuelling module for the Lunar Gateway and developing communication satellites for the lunar surface.**
- C) Training all NASA astronauts for lunar missions.
- D) Designing the primary propulsion system for the Orion spacecraft.

2. Which UK-born individual is a key figure in the European Space Agency's (ESA) astronaut program, having recently graduated from basic training?

- A) Major Tim Peake
- B) Dr. Rosemary Coogan**
- C) Helen Sharman
- D) Piers Sellers

3. The UK is making significant advancements in terrestrial launch capabilities. Which of these locations is among the UK's operational or planned spaceports for vertical launches?

- A) Spaceport Snowdonia
- B) Spaceport Machrihanish
- C) SaxaVord Spaceport, Shetland**
- D) Spaceport Cornwall

4. The Rosalind Franklin rover, a significant European mission with UK involvement, is designed to explore which celestial body?

- A) Venus
- B) Jupiter
- C) Mars**
- D) The Moon

5. What is a key objective of the UK's Project Nova, involving a network of telescopes across its overseas territories?

- A) To search for extraterrestrial life.
- B) To track satellites, space debris, and provide planetary protection.**
- C) To map the surface of the Moon in high resolution.
- D) To monitor weather patterns on Earth with unprecedented detail.

6. In addition to its role in the Artemis program, what other significant lunar initiative is the UK contributing to through Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL)?

- A) Developing a lunar tourism service.
- B) Designing a propulsion system for lunar ascent vehicles.
- C) Creating the Moonlight constellation for lunar navigation and communications.**
- D) Building a habitat for future lunar colonists.

7. What is the primary focus of the UK's significant new £500 million investment in its national space programs, as announced in March 2026?

- A) Funding manned missions to the International Space Station.
- B) Supporting high-growth technologies and enabling British companies to expand globally.**
- C) Developing new telescopes for deep space observation.
- D) Establishing a UK-based space tourism industry.

8. Which UK spaceport, operational since 2023, is licensed for vertical launches and aims to support small satellite launches into polar and sun-synchronous orbits?

- A) Spaceport Cornwall
- B) Space Hub Sutherland
- C) SaxaVord Spaceport, Shetland**
- D) Spaceport Machrihanish

9. The UK has a growing astronaut corps within ESA. Which of the following individuals was selected as a career astronaut, distinguishing herself as one of the UK's recent astronaut candidates?

- A) Meganne Christian
- B) John McFall
- C) Dr. Rosemary Coogan**
- D) Tim Peake

10. The Rosalind Franklin rover, a European mission with UK engineering input, is notable for its ability to drill to what depth beneath the Martian surface to search for signs of life?

- A) 10 centimeters
- B) 2 meters**
- C) 50 centimeters
- D) 5 meters