

Cosmic Theology and Astronomy

Theology And Astronomy · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which 16th-century astronomer and canon of the Catholic Church proposed the heliocentric model of the universe?

- A) Tycho Brahe
- B) Nicolaus Copernicus**
- C) Johannes Kepler
- D) Galileo Galilei

2. In Islamic cosmology, what is the 'Arsh' commonly interpreted as?

- A) A constellation
- B) The Throne of God**
- C) A celestial river
- D) The center of the galaxy

3. The 'Cosmological Argument' for the existence of a deity often relies on which physical law regarding the beginning of the universe?

- A) Law of Universal Gravitation
- B) The Second Law of Thermodynamics
- C) The Big Bang theory**
- D) Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle

4. Which planet in our solar system was named after the Roman god of the underworld?

- A) Mars
- B) Jupiter
- C) Saturn
- D) Pluto**

5. What is the term for the medieval theological view that the Earth is the stationary center of the universe?

- A) Geocentrism**
- B) Heliocentrism
- C) Cosmological constant
- D) Astro-theology

6. Thomas Aquinas, in his 'Five Ways', described the universe as an entity that requires a 'First Mover'; which branch of physics best explains the movement of planets today?

- A) Quantum mechanics
- B) General Relativity**
- C) Classical mechanics
- D) Thermodynamics

7. In Hindu cosmology, what is the cycle of creation, preservation, and dissolution of the universe called?

- A) Karma
- B) Dharma
- C) Kalpa**
- D) Samsara

8. The 'Goldilocks Principle' in astrobiology, which suggests the universe is uniquely suited for life, is a scientific variation of what theological concept?

- A) Anthropocentrism
- B) Fine-tuning argument**
- C) Divine Providence
- D) Predestination

9. Which celestial event was recorded by Chinese astronomers in 1054 AD and later interpreted by some as a sign of divine intervention?

- A) The appearance of Halley's Comet
- B) The supernova that created the Crab Nebula**
- C) A solar eclipse
- D) The transit of Venus

10. In Mayan theology, the movement of which planet was central to their calendar and ritual life?

- A) Venus**
- B) Jupiter
- C) Mars
- D) Saturn

11. What is the name of the theory that suggests the universe was created by an intelligent cause rather than undirected processes, often discussed in contemporary philosophy?

- A) Big Bang theory
- B) Steady State theory
- C) Intelligent Design**
- D) String theory

12. Which Roman god of the sky and king of the gods is the namesake of the largest planet in our solar system?

- A) Neptune
- B) Mars
- C) Jupiter**
- D) Saturn

13. The concept of 'ex nihilo' (creation out of nothing) in theology is often compared by physicists to the beginning of the universe in which theory?

- A) Steady State
- B) Big Bang**
- C) Multiverse theory
- D) Oscillating Universe

14. What does the term 'Celestial Spheres' refer to in the Ptolemaic model of the universe, which was widely accepted by medieval theologians?

- A) Gas giant planets
- B) Concentric rings holding the planets**
- C) Black holes
- D) Galactic clusters

15. In Norse mythology, what is the name of the world tree that supports the nine realms of the universe?

- A) Yggdrasil**
- B) Bifrost
- C) Midgard
- D) Asgard

16. What is the light-gathering instrument that allowed 17th-century thinkers to observe the moons of Jupiter, challenging contemporary theological views of the heavens?

- A) Microscope
- B) Telescope**
- C) Astrolabe
- D) Sextant

17. Which Greek philosopher's works were synthesized with Christian theology by Thomas Aquinas to explain the structure of the cosmos?

- A) Plato
- B) Aristotle**
- C) Socrates
- D) Epicurus

18. The 'Great Attractor' is a gravity anomaly in intergalactic space; which theological concept regarding the 'order' of the universe does this structure represent to some thinkers?

- A) Chaos
- B) Cosmos**
- C) Void
- D) Nihilism

19. In ancient Egyptian theology, the sun god Ra was believed to travel across the sky in what?

- A) A chariot
- B) A solar barque**
- C) A winged horse
- D) A golden sphere

20. Which chemical element, essential for life, is primarily forged in the hearts of stars, a fact often cited in 'theology of nature' discussions?

- A) Hydrogen
- B) Helium
- C) Carbon**
- D) Neon

21. The 'Expansion of the Universe' was first observed by Edwin Hubble; how does this discovery impact the 'Steady State' theological view of an unchanging universe?

- A) Supports it
- B) Refutes it**
- C) Is unrelated
- D) Proves it

22. What is the name of the region of space around a star where conditions might be right for liquid water, a central topic in the theological debate of extraterrestrial life?

- A) Event Horizon
- B) Habitable Zone**
- C) Oort Cloud
- D) Asteroid Belt

23. In Babylonian theology, the creation of the world is detailed in which epic poem involving the god Marduk?

- A) Gilgamesh
- B) Enuma Elish**
- C) Atra-Hasis
- D) Theogony

24. Which astronomical phenomenon, where a star dramatically increases in brightness, was historically interpreted by many cultures as a divine omen?

- A) Solar flare
- B) Supernova**
- C) Nebula
- D) Pulsar

25. What physical constant determines the strength of gravity and is frequently discussed in 'fine-tuning' theological arguments?

- A) Planck constant
- B) Gravitational constant (G)**
- C) Speed of light
- D) Fine-structure constant