Physics Milestones and Discoveries

Physics · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Who is credited with the invention of the first practical reflecting telescope in 1668?

A) Isaac Newton
B) Galileo Galilei
C) Johannes Kepler
D) Christiaan Huygens

2. Which scientist is famously known for the 1909 oil-drop experiment that determined the charge of a single electron?

A) J.J. Thomson
B) Robert Millikan
C) Ernest Rutherford
D) James Chadwick

3. In 1895, Wilhelm Röntgen discovered which type of electromagnetic radiation, earning him the first Nobel Prize in Physics?

A) Gamma rays
B) Ultraviolet light
C) X-rays
D) Infrared radiation

4. Who was the first person to measure the speed of light using the eclipses of Jupiter's moon, Io, in 1676?

A) Ole Rømer
B) Albert Michelson
C) Hippolyte Fizeau
D) Léon Foucault

5. Which physicist discovered the neutron in 1932, a breakthrough that significantly advanced the field of nuclear physics?

A) Niels Bohr
B) Enrico Fermi
C) James Chadwick
D) Werner Heisenberg

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6. The first controlled nuclear chain reaction was achieved in 1942 under the direction of which physicist?

A) Robert Oppenheimer
B) Leo Szilard
C) Enrico Fermi
D) Edward Teller

7. Who constructed the first working laser, demonstrating the stimulated emission of radiation in 1960?

A) Charles Townes
B) Theodore Maiman
C) Arthur Schawlow
D) Gordon Gould

8. In 1911, Heike Kamerlingh Onnes discovered which phenomenon when cooling mercury to liquid helium temperatures?

A) Superconductivity
B) Bose-Einstein condensation
C) Superfluidity
D) Ferromagnetism

9. Which scientist successfully proved the existence of electromagnetic waves in 1887, validating Maxwell's theory?

A) Michael Faraday
B) Heinrich Hertz
C) André-Marie Ampère
D) James Clerk Maxwell

10. Who conducted the 'torsion balance' experiment in 1798 to measure the Earth's density and the gravitational constant?

A) Henry Cavendish
B) Charles-Augustin de Coulomb
C) Joseph-Louis Lagrange
D) Pierre-Simon Laplace

11. The transistor, which revolutionized modern electronics, was invented in 1947 by which team of researchers?

A) Bardeen, Brattain, and Shockley
B) Curie, Becquerel, and Rutherford
C) Bohr, Pauli, and Dirac
D) Watson, Crick, and Franklin

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12. Who was the first person to formulate the laws of planetary motion, describing how planets move in elliptical orbits?

A) Nicolaus Copernicus
B) Tycho Brahe
C) Johannes Kepler
D) Isaac Newton