European History through the Lens of Astronomy

European History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which 16th-century Polish astronomer first formulated a comprehensive heliocentric cosmology in his work 'De revolutionibus orbium coelestium'?

A) Johannes Kepler
B) Nicolaus Copernicus
C) Tycho Brahe
D) Giordano Bruno

2. In 1610, which Italian polymath discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter, later named the Galilean moons, using a self-made telescope?

A) Galileo Galilei
B) Giovanni Domenico Cassini
C) Christiaan Huygens
D) Ole Rømer

3. Which Danish nobleman and astronomer made the most accurate pre-telescopic observations of planetary positions, which later enabled Kepler to derive his laws of planetary motion?

A) Cassini
B) Brahe
C) Flamsteed
D) Halley

4. The 17th-century Dutch scientist Christiaan Huygens is credited with the discovery of which of Saturn's moons in 1655?

A) Rhea
B) Dione
C) Titan
D) Tethys

5. In 1676, which Danish astronomer provided the first quantitative measurement of the speed of light by observing the eclipses of Jupiter's moon Io?

A) Ole Rømer
B) Jean Picard
C) Nicolas-Louis de Lacaille
D) Jeremiah Horrocks

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6. Which English scientist, in his 1687 work 'Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica', formulated the universal law of gravitation?

A) Robert Hooke
B) Edmond Halley
C) Isaac Newton
D) Christopher Wren

7. Which German-born British astronomer discovered the planet Uranus in 1781, initially believing it to be a comet?

A) Johann Gottfried Galle
B) William Herschel
C) Heinrich Olbers
D) Friedrich Bessel

8. In 1846, which two astronomers, one French and one British, independently predicted the existence and position of Neptune based on irregularities in Uranus's orbit?

A) Urbain Le Verrier and John Couch Adams
B) Karl Ludwig Harding and Franz von Paula Troughton
C) Johann Encke and James Challis
D) George Airy and Alexis Bouvard

9. Which Italian astronomer discovered the Cassini Division, a dark gap in the rings of Saturn, in 1675?

A) Giovanni Domenico Cassini
B) Francesco Bianchini
C) Angelo Secchi
D) Geminiano Montanari

10. Who was the first woman to be appointed as the 'Astronomer Royal' in any country, a position she held in Ireland starting in 1923?

A) Caroline Herschel
B) Mary Somerville
C) Alice Perry
D) Alice Everett

11. Which scientist, born in the Russian Empire (part of the European intellectual sphere), proposed the 'Tsiolkovsky rocket equation' in 1903, providing the foundation for space flight?

A) Konstantin Tsiolkovsky
B) Sergei Korolev
C) Hermann Oberth
D) Wernher von Braun

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12. In 1919, the British astronomer Arthur Eddington conducted an expedition to Sobral and Príncipe to verify which theory of Albert Einstein by observing the deflection of starlight?

A) Quantum Mechanics
B) General Relativity
C) Special Relativity
D) The Big Bang Theory