

Assessment answers

Six exercises - Marks out of 20

1. Put the eight planets in order from the Sun. (4 marks)

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune. Award 0.5 per correctly placed planet.

2. Classify the Sun, Earth, Jupiter and the Moon. (4 marks)

Star, rocky planet, gas giant, natural satellite. Award 1 per correct answer.

3. True or false: the Sun is a star; Pluto is one of the eight planets. Give reasons. (4 marks)

True: the Sun produces energy through fusion. False: Pluto is a dwarf planet. Award 1 for each verdict and 1 for each reason.

Assessment - continued

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4. Explain rotation, orbital revolution and an Earth year. (3 marks)

Rotation: spinning on an axis. Orbital revolution: travelling around another body. An Earth year: one Earth orbit around the Sun. Award 1 each.

5. Why does the 3D model alter sizes and distances? (3 marks)

To keep bodies visible. It must explain its scale. You cannot find true distances by measuring the artistic view. Award 1 for each idea.

6. Why is Pluto a dwarf planet? (2 marks)

It is nearly round and orbits the Sun, but does not dominate its orbital neighbourhood. Award 1 for the criteria it meets and 1 for the criterion it does not meet.