## **Astronomy 2B03**

## **SAMPLE MIDTERM QUESTIONS**

## REMEMBER TO BRING A PENCIL and ID TO THE MIDTERM!!!

TEST: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in class Thursday, October 24th 2019 in class

- 1. Evidence of the expansion of the universe is shown by
  - a) The Einstein Cross
  - b) The 4.5 billion year age of the Earth
  - c) The abundances of the elements in stars
  - d) The redshifts of distant galaxies
- 2. Hubble's Law says that
  - a) The universe is primarily composed of dark energy
  - b) The galaxies were once much closer together
  - c) The universe is mostly dark
  - d) The Earth and Sun are getting gradually farther apart
- 3. What can you calculate by taking the inverse of the Hubble constant?
  - a) the age of the Solar System
  - b) the recession velocity of the Universe
  - c) the age of the Universe
  - d) the Doppler Shift
  - e) the distance to the centre of the Universe
- 4. Galaxies
  - a) all have a spiral-like structure
  - b) are gradually shrinking under their own gravity
  - c) are gradually expanding by the action of Hubble's Law
  - d) can be bigger than the Milky Way is
- 5. Lookback time
  - a) is a consequence of the finite speed of light
  - b) shows us what the Earth looked like when it formed
- c) allows astronomers in the Andromeda galaxy to see the Milky Way as it is in the future
  - d) all of the above
- 6.Radio waves travel through space at what speed?
  - a) much faster than the speed of light
  - b) faster than the speed of light, since their wavelength is longer
  - c) at the speed of sound
  - d) at the speed of light,  $3 \times 10^8$  m/s

- 7. The observational fact about a Cepheid variable star that leads to a measurement of its distance from the Earth is that its period of variation is directly related to its
  - a) absolute magnitude or luminosity.
  - b) apparent magnitude.
  - c) speed away from us, using the relativistic effect upon pulsation period
  - d) surface temperature.
- 8. What is the basic difference between ultraviolet, visible, and infrared radiation?
  - a) half-life
  - b) age
  - c) wavelength
  - d) velocity
- 9. Which of the following characteristics does **NOT** apply to giant elliptical galaxies?
  - a) rapidly rotating
  - b) not forming many stars
  - c) lacking spiral arms
  - d) found in the centres of galaxy clusters
  - e) all of the above
- 10. Ann sees Bob travel by her in a very fast spaceship
- a) Ann observes Bob's clock to be running slowly and Bob observes Ann's clock to be running slowly
- b) Ann observes Bob's clock to be running slowly and Bob observes Ann's clock to be running fast
- c) Ann observes Bob's clock to be running fast and Bob observes Ann's clock to be running slowly
- d) Ann observes Bob's clock to be running fast and Bob observes Ann's clock to be running fast
  - e) something else

## 11. Parallax is

- a) the circular or elliptical motion of a star in a binary system, as the two stars orbit around each other.
  - b) the apparent shift that we see in the position of a nearly star as we orbit the Sun.
  - c) the difference between the apparent brightness and the intrinsic
  - d) the apparent change in the distance to a star if its light is dimmed by dust
- 12. About where is our solar system located within the Milky Way Galaxy?
  - a) at the center of the galaxy
- b) about two-thirds of the way from the center of the galaxy to the outskirts of the galactic disk
- c) about 10 percent of the way from the center of the galaxy to the outskirts of the galactic disk
  - d) in the halo of the galaxy above the galactic disk
  - e) none of the above