Astronomy 150 – Midterm	Name:
April 29 2004 – Spring 2004	TA's Name & Section (2 pts):

Answer all questions in the space provided. If you have any questions, raise your hand. 100 points possible. No calculators.

0 (3 pts) Rocks have a density of about g/cm^3 , water has a density of g/cm^3 , and iron has a density of about g/cm^3 .

1 (6 pts) How do we determine the age of the lava flow from the Apollo 15 landing site?

2 (6 pts) How do we determine the age of the lava flow from the area surrounding Mt. Olympus on Mars?

You have discovered a new planet orbiting the Sun at a distance of 0.9 AU. This planet is the same size as the Earth, but is 1.3 times more massive. The planet has an uncompressed density of $6.0~g/cm^3$ and a moment-of-inertia factor of 0.33.
3 (5 pts) How does the gravity of this planet compare to the Earth's gravity? [Be quantitative; show your work.]
4 (4 pts) What is the most likely composition of this planet? [Remember to give a qualitative indication of the amount of each substance.]
5 (3 pts) How is the mass distributed in the interior?
6 (6 pts) Would you expect the geological activity on this world to be greater or less than the Earth's? Explain your answer.

7 (8 pts) Explain how both human and robot missions to the planets sampled materials from deep under a surface without having to waste time digging.
8 (8 pts) The Moon is a much smaller target than the Earth, but has many large impact basins on its surface while the Earth has none. Explain why the Earth has no large impact basins on its surface.
9 (2 pts) The youngest rocks on the Moon are:
 (a) found primarily in the highlands. (b) older than most every rock on the Earth. (c) composed primarily of iron. (d) less than about 1 million years old.
(e) really made of green cheese.

10 (5 pts) Recent data from the Mars Explorer Rovers suggests that liquid water existed on at least one part of the surface of Mars in the past. Explain why liquid water cannot exist on the surface of Mars today.
11 (3 pts) Where is one place on Mars where we can find liquid water today?
12 (8 pts) Explain how we can determine what substances are on the surface of Mars without bringing a sample back to Earth.

13 (4 pts) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate as	tmospheric gas.
A secondary atmosphere is composed primarily of:	and
The Earth's atmosphere is composed primarily of:	and
14 (8 pts) Explain why the Earth's atmosphere is o	different from a "typical" secondary atmosphere.
15 (3 pts) Explain why you cannot use an Earth-b spectrum.	pased telescope to observe in the Ultraviolet part of the

	Pick one of the	nese two e	vents and	explain he	ow the Eart	th would ha	ve been diff	erent had t	his impa
not occurre	ed.								
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