



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

CAPRICORN SOUTH DISTRICT

SENIOR PHASE

GRADE 8

BASELINE TEST

NATURAL SCIENCES

TERM 4

OCTOBER 2025

SECTION A

QUESTION 1: Multiple Choice [8 marks]

Choose the correct answer and write **only the letter (A–D)** next to the question number.

1. The Sun is best described as:

A. A planet

B. A moon

C. A star

D. An asteroid

(1)

2. The Earth is the ____ planet from the Sun.

A. Second

B. Third

C. Fourth

D. Fifth

(1)

3. The Milky Way Galaxy is:

- A. The name of our solar system
 - B. The galaxy in which our solar system is found
 - C. The nearest star to Earth
 - D. A large asteroid belt (1)
4. The **nearest star** to Earth (other than the Sun) is:
- A. Polaris
 - B. Sirius
 - C. Proxima Centauri
 - D. Alpha Centauri A (1)
5. One **light year** is:
- A. The distance light travels in one year
 - B. The time light takes to reach the Moon
 - C. The speed of light per year
 - D. The distance between Earth and the Sun (1)
6. The path that planets follow around the Sun is called:
- A. Orbit
 - B. Axis
 - C. Rotation
 - D. Revolution (1)
7. The Milky Way appears as a faint band of light in the sky because:
- A. It is made of clouds
 - B. It contains billions of distant stars
 - C. It reflects sunlight
 - D. It is close to the Moon (1)
8. Early astronomers studied space mainly by using:
- A. Satellites
 - B. Rockets
 - C. Telescopes
 - D. Space probes (1)

QUESTION 2: Fill-in [7 marks]

Write the correct word(s) in the blank spaces.

- 2.1 The Sun provides _____ and _____ energy for life on Earth. (2)
- 2.2 The group of the Sun and all the objects that move around it is called the _____. (1)
- 2.3 Our galaxy is called the _____. (1)
- 2.4 The planet known as the “Red Planet” is _____. (1)
- 2.5 The _____ is the central star around which all planets orbit. (1)
- 2.6 The path that planets follow around the Sun is an _____. (1)

SECTION B

QUESTION 3: [8 marks]

- 3.1 Name **three objects** found in our solar system. (3)
- 3.2 Explain why Earth’s position in the solar system is suitable for life. (2)
- 3.3 Give **two differences** between a **star** and a **planet**. (2)
- 3.4 Why do scientists use light years instead of kilometres when measuring space distances? (1)

QUESTION 4: [7 marks]

- 4.1 Describe what the **Milky Way Galaxy** is. (2)
- 4.2 Suggest **two tools or technologies** used by modern astronomers to study space. (2)
- 4.3 State **one difference** between a reflecting and a refracting telescope. (1)
- 4.4 Explain how a telescope helps scientists to study space. (2)

TOTAL: 30 MARKS