Space Explorer Challenge

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Which planet is nicknamed the Red Planet?
   A. Mars
   B. Venus
   C. Mercury
   D. Neptune

2. What object supplies most of the light and heat reaching Earth?
   A. Jupiter
   B. The Moon
   C. The Sun
   D. Polaris

3. Which mission first landed humans on the Moon?
   A. Apollo 8
   B. Apollo 11
   C. Gemini 4
   D. Voyager 1

4. Which planet has the greatest diameter in our solar system?
   A. Earth
   B. Saturn
   C. Neptune
   D. Jupiter

5. Which essential life-support function does a spacesuit provide outside a spacecraft?
   A. Preventing all effects of gravity
   B. Maintaining pressure and supplying oxygen
   C. Making the astronaut's bones weightless
   D. Replacing oxygen with nitrogen

6. The main asteroid belt lies mostly between which two planets?
   A. Mars and Jupiter
   B. Earth and Mars
   C. Venus and Earth
   D. Saturn and Uranus

7. Which planet do the moons Phobos and Deimos orbit?
   A. Neptune
   B. Jupiter
   C. Saturn
   D. Mars

8. Which spacecraft pair was launched in 1977 to explore the outer planets?
   A. Spirit and Opportunity
   B. Viking 1 and 2
   C. Voyager 1 and 2
   D. Pioneer 3 and 4

9. Why is Venus hotter at its surface than Mercury, despite being farther from the Sun?
   A. A powerful greenhouse effect
   B. A faster rotation
   C. Heat reflected by a large moon
   D. More intense solar radiation at its orbit

10. What causes the Moon's ordinary monthly phases?
   A. Clouds forming on the Moon
   B. Earth's shadow covering it every night
   C. The Moon producing more light each week
   D. Our changing view of its sunlit half

11. Which moon of Saturn has lakes and seas of liquid methane and ethane?
   A. Triton
   B. Europa
   C. Titan
   D. Ganymede

12. New Horizons made its historic 2015 flyby of which dwarf planet?
   A. Ceres
   B. Pluto
   C. Eris
   D. Haumea

13. Astronauts in orbit appear weightless mainly because they and their spacecraft are doing what?
   A. Experiencing gravity only on the spacecraft's exterior
   B. Traveling beyond the reach of Earth's gravity
   C. Moving fast enough to eliminate their mass
   D. Continuously falling around Earth

14. Which moon is the most volcanically active world in our solar system?
    A. Io
    B. Callisto
    C. Titan
    D. Earth's Moon

15. A comet follows an elliptical orbit around the Sun. Where does it move fastest?
    A. At every point equally
    B. Farthest from the Sun
    C. Nearest the Sun
    D. Only while crossing Earth's orbit