



**Western
Tutorial
College**

Your bridge to success

ASTRONOMY GCSE



What will I learn?

The course is split into 4 topics...

Topic 1 – Earth, Moon and Sun

As well as studying these three bodies individually, you will look at the interactions between them that cause the cycles of night and day, months and years. They are also responsible for the more spectacular events such as lunar and solar eclipses.

Topic 2 – Planetary Systems

This topic consists of a detailed study of the solar system, focusing on the planets orbiting the Sun, comets and meteors, and how they were discovered.

Topic 3 – Stars

We investigate the major constellations in the night sky and how to use them to navigate around the sky and Earth. Although the stars seem to remain the same for millennia, they follow a very slow of birth and death. The topic looks at how stars evolve and the stages they go through during their life, including nebulae, red giants, supernovae, neutron stars and black holes.

Topic 4 – Galaxies and Cosmology

Our Sun is just one of billions of stars in the Milky Way galaxy. This topic looks at how this was discovered, and our place in the universe.

Astronomy question:

How old is the universe, and why do we believe the Big Bang theory?

Find out more about astronomy by visiting the Royal Astronomical Society website www.ras.org.uk, also NASA at www.nasa.gov

Is this the right subject for me?

If you are fascinated by the night sky and our continual exploration of the universe then GCSE Astronomy is the subject for you. The course will allow you to understand the movement of the bodies in the solar system, explaining many of the cycles in the night and daytime sky. It will also explain how scientists since ancient times have used imagination, measurements and scientific methods to explore the universe in which we live

What will I achieve by studying the GCSE Astronomy course?

You will develop important scientific skills as well as extending the range of areas where you use these skills. Whether as a stand-alone subject or a companion to further study, the course will explain a range of astrophysical phenomena and help to develop a range of personal skills.

Do I have to take the final exams?

This is up to you, but the exam certificate as a validation of your study and skills developed.

How will I be assessed?

There are two units.

Unit 1 – assessed through a two hour exam paper, with questions based on the 4 topics mentioned.

Unit 2 – this is assessed through a piece of coursework, based on the astronomical observations you make. You will choose two small projects, one based on the naked eye and the other using an instrument such as a sundial, binoculars, a telescope or camera.

You will be given plenty of help and guidance along the way

Some more details...

What are the entry requirements?

There are no formal entry requirements, although a genuine interest in astronomy and a basic ability in English and maths would be very useful.

How can I apply for this course?

Enrolling is very simple. You can:

- complete the enquiry form on our website

www.westerntutorialcollege.co.uk

- send us an e-mail to enquiries@westerntutorialcollege.co.uk

- Call us
0117 929 7747

- Drop in during office hours. Our address is:

**Western Tutorial College
Albion House
12A Broad Street
Bristol
BS1 2HL**

How much does it cost?

The course costs £150 per term, which is excellent value. Payment must be made before the course begins.

When will the course run?

Wednesdays from 17th September 2014
6:15 – 7:50 pm for 30 weeks

Term dates

17/09/14 – 22/10/14 and 5/11/14 – 17/12/14
7/1/15 – 11/2/15 and 25/2/15 – 25/3/15
15/4/15 – 3/6/15 (exam date to be confirmed)

To reserve your place, contact us now using one of the above methods

See the website for our other courses