Quiz 1: Basic astronomy

NAME: _________________________________

1) Which two elements are stars made of, mostly? _________ and _________

2) Describe in a sentence what the principal difference is between a star and a planet:

3) The explosion of a massive star at the end of its life is known as a _____________________.

4) The most massive stars in the Universe end up as (circle one) ___.
   a) white dwarfs          b) neutron stars          c) black holes

5) A typical galaxy, like our Milky Way galaxy, contains many (circle one) ___ of stars.
   a) millions               b) billions               c) trillions

6) What are the three broad classes of “normal” galaxies?

7) What kind of galaxy is the Milky Way? ________________________________

8) Describe in a sentence what a quasar is:

9) What is the definition of a light-year?

10) What unit do astronomers use to measure the luminosities of stars and galaxies?

BONUS QUESTIONS (extra credit): Consider two stars, one with a magnitude of 2 and the other a magnitude of 15.

   a) What can you say about the magnitude 2 star compared to the magnitude 15 star?

   b) What is true about the magnitude 2 star that is not true about the magnitude 15 star?