geocentric	system is one which has the centre of the earth as its reference point; the model of the solar system which has the earth at the centre
giant stars	large, highly luminous stars which are brighter than main sequence stars of the same colour; giants represent a late phase in stellar evolution
heliocentric model	one which has the sun as the centre for measurements
hertzsprung-russle diagram	a diagram which displays the brightness of stars versus either their colour, spectral class or surface temperature
hubble constant	the constant that relates the speed of recession of the galaxies to the age of the universe

infrared	long-wave radiation emitted by hot objects with wavelengths greater than 700nm and less than 1mm
inverse square law	a relationship in which one quantity is directly proportional to the inverse of another quantity squared
ionosphere	a spherical shell of ionised gas surrounding the earth; it can be used to reflect short-wave radio waves
Kepler's laws	three laws relating the motion of the planets
light-year	the distance that light travels in one year

line spectrum	the spectrum of an element consisting of lines in certain frequencies (colours) only (each line being an image of the slit of the spectroscope)
luminosity	a measure of the actual brightness of an astronomical object
main sequence	a region on the H-R diagram containing the majority of stars; it is in this region that stars spend the main part of their lives converting hydrogen into helium
matter	everything that exists that has mass and takes up space
microwaves	electromagnetic waves with wavelengths ranging from 1mm to 0.1m

neutron star	a star at the end of its evolution; its mass similar to the sun with diameter 20km
Newtons law of universal gravitation	the force of attraction between two masses is proportional to the product of the masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between their centres
nucleosynthesis	the production of the elements by nuclear reactions
nucleus	the dense positive core of the atom containing almost all the mass of the atom; made up protons and neutrons
parallax	the apparent movement of an object against a background, when viewed from different positions