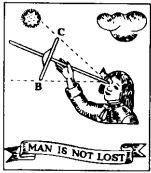


RGO ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 63



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for the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council

ASTRONOMICAL AND CALENDARIAL DATA SHEET FOR 1996

PHASES OF THE MOON

New Moon			First Quarter			Full Moon			Last Quarter		
d	h	m	d	h	m	d	h	m	d	h	m
Jan.	20	12	50	Jan.	27	11	14	Jan.	5	20	51
Feb.	18	23	30	Feb.	26	05	52	Feb.	4	15	58
Mar.	19	10	45	Mar.	27	01	31	Mar.	5	09	23
Apr.	17	22	49	Apr.	25	20	40	Apr.	4	00	07
May	17	11	46	May	25	14	13	May	3	11	48
June	16	01	36	June	24	05	23	June	1	20	47
July	15	16	15	July	23	17	49	July	1	03	58
Aug.	14	07	34	Aug.	22	03	36	July	30	10	35
Sept.	12	23	07	Sept.	20	11	23	Aug.	28	17	52
Oct.	12	14	14	Oct.	19	18	09	Sept.	27	02	51
Nov.	11	04	16	Nov.	18	01	09	Oct.	26	14	11
Dec.	10	16	56	Dec.	17	09	31	Nov.	25	04	10
								Dec.	24	20	41

SEASONS

		d	h	m
Vernal Equinox	— Spring begins	Mar.	20	08 03
Summer Solstice	— Summer begins	June	21	02 24
Autumnal Equinox	— Autumn begins	Sept.	22	18 00
Winter Solstice	— Winter begins	Dec.	21	14 06

SUMMER TIME

In the United Kingdom BST, one hour in advance of GMT, will be kept from March 31^d 01^h to October 27^d 01^h GMT.

ECLIPSES

1. A total eclipse of the Moon on April 3–4 is visible from part of Antarctica, the Indian Ocean, West Asia, Africa, Europe (including the British Isles), Iceland, Greenland, the Atlantic Ocean, South America, the West Indies and the eastern part of North America. The eclipse begins on April 3 at 22^h 22^m and ends on April 4 at 01^h 58^m. Totality lasts from 23^h 27^m on April 3 to 00^h 53^m on April 4.
2. A partial eclipse of the Sun on April 17–18 is visible from New Zealand, part of Antarctica and the South Pacific Ocean. The eclipse begins on April 17 at 20^h 31^m and ends on April 18 at 00^h 43^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 22^h 37^m on April 17, when 0.88 of the Sun's diameter is obscured.
3. A total eclipse of the Moon on September 27 is visible from part of Antarctica, extreme west Asia, Africa, Europe (including the British Isles), Iceland, Greenland, the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic regions, The Americas except Alaska and the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean. The eclipse begins at 01^h 13^m and ends at 04^h 35^m. Totality lasts from 02^h 19^m to 03^h 29^m.
4. A partial eclipse of the Sun on October 12 is visible from the extreme north-east of Canada, Greenland, Iceland, the North Atlantic Ocean, Europe (including the British Isles) and North Africa. The eclipse begins at 12^h 00^m and ends at 16^h 05^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 14^h 02^m, when 0.76 of the Sun's diameter is obscured.

All times are in GMT

JPH/CYH

1991 November
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CALENDAR 1996

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES AND ERAS

Dominical Letter	GF	Julian Period (year of)	6709
Epact	10	Roman Indiction	4
Golden Number (Lunar Cycle)	II	Solar Cycle	17

Era	Year	Begins	Era	Year	Begins
Byzantine	7505	Sept. 14	Grecian (Seleucidæ)	2308	Sept. 14
Roman (AUC)	2749	Jan. 14			(or Oct. 14)
Nabonassar	2745	Apr. 24	Indian (Saka)	1918	Mar. 21
Japanese	2656	Jan. 1	Diocletian	1713	Sept. 11

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Epiphany	Jan. 6	Low Sunday	Apr. 14
Septuagesima Sunday	Feb. 4	Rogation Sunday	May 12
Quinquagesima Sunday	Feb. 18	Ascension Day—Holy Thursday	May 16
Ash Wednesday	Feb. 21	Whit Sunday—Pentecost	May 26
Quadragesima Sunday	Feb. 25	Trinity Sunday	June 2
Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	Mar. 17	Corpus Christi	June 6
Palm Sunday	Mar. 31	First Sunday in Advent	Dec. 1
Good Friday	Apr. 5	Christmas Day (Wednesday)	Dec. 25
Easter Day	Apr. 7		
First Day of Passover (Pesach)	Apr. 4	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Sept. 23
Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)	May 24	First day of Tabernacles (Succoth)	Sept. 28
Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	5757 Sept. 14		
First day of Ramadân	Jan. 22	Islamic New Year	1417 May 19

All Jewish and Islamic dates above are tabular dates, which begin at sunset on the previous evening and end at sunset on the date tabulated. In practice, the dates of Islamic fasts and festivals are determined by an actual sighting of the appropriate new Moon.

CIVIL CALENDAR—UNITED KINGDOM

Accession of Queen Elizabeth II	Feb. 6	Coronation Day	June 2
St David (Wales)	Mar. 1	The Queen's Official Birthday*	June 15
Commonwealth Day	Mar. 11	Birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh	June 10
St Patrick (Ireland)	Mar. 17	Remembrance Sunday	Nov. 10
Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II	Apr. 21	Birthday of the Prince of Wales	Nov. 14
St George (England)	Apr. 23	St Andrew (Scotland)	Nov. 30

*Date subject to confirmation

HOLIDAYS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following list contains bank holidays, (compiled from the *Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971*), common law holidays and days to be given in lieu for holidays which fall on a weekend. Dates given in *italic* are those which are subject to Royal proclamation. There is no statutory requirement for a day to be given in lieu if one of the days falls at the weekend and is not covered by the act. In such cases probable dates are given in *italic* when they have not yet been authorised by Royal proclamation.

	England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland
New Year	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1, Jan. 2
St Patrick	—	Mar. 18	—
Good Friday	Apr. 5 ‡	Apr. 5 ‡	Apr. 5
Easter Monday	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	—
May Day	May 6	May 6	May 27
Spring	May 27	May 27	May 6
Battle of the Boyne	—	<i>July 12</i>	—
Summer	Aug. 26	Aug. 26	Aug. 5
Christmas	Dec. 25 ‡	Dec. 25 ‡	Dec. 25
Boxing Day	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	<i>Dec. 26</i>

‡ Common Law Holiday

Holiday falls on a Saturday

† Holiday falls on a Sunday

Warning: Clauses in the *Banking and Financial Dealings Act* allow the Government to alter dates at short notice.