

ASTRONOMICAL INFORMATION SHEET No. 87



Prepared by

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ASTRONOMICAL AND CALENDARIAL DATA SHEET FOR 2006

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.	29	14	15	Jan.	6	18	56	Jan.	14	09	48	Jan.	22	15	14
Feb.	28	00	31	Feb.	5	06	29	Feb.	13	04	44	Feb.	21	07	17
Mar.	29	10	15	Mar.	6	20	16	Mar.	14	23	35	Mar.	22	19	11
Apr.	27	19	44	Apr.	5	12	01	Apr.	13	16	40	Apr.	21	03	28
May	27	05	26	May	5	05	13	May	13	06	51	May	20	09	21
June	25	16	05	June	3	23	06	June	11	18	03	June	18	14	08
July	25	04	31	July	3	16	37	July	11	03	02	July	17	19	13
Aug.	23	19	10	Aug.	2	08	46	Aug.	9	10	54	Aug.	16	01	51
Sept.	22	11	45	Aug.	31	22	57	Sept.	7	18	42	Sept.	14	11	15
Oct.	22	05	14	Sept.	30	11	04	Oct.	7	03	13	Oct.	14	00	26
Nov.	20	22	18	Oct.	29	21	25	Nov.	5	12	58	Nov.	12	17	45
Dec.	20	14	01	Nov.	28	06	29	Dec.	5	00	25	Dec.	12	14	32
				Dec.	27	14	48								

SEASONS

		d	h	m	
Vernal Equinox	— Spring begins	Mar.	20	18	26
Summer Solstice	— Summer begins	June	21	12	26
Autumnal Equinox	— Autumn begins	Sept.	23	04	03
Winter Solstice	— Winter begins	Dec.	22	00	22

SUMMER TIME

In the United Kingdom BST, one hour in advance of GMT, will be kept from March 26^d 01^h to October 29^d 01^h GMT.

ECLIPSES

1. A total eclipse of the Sun on March 29. The path of totality begins in the easternmost tip of Brazil, crosses the Atlantic Ocean, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Niger, N.W. Chad, Libya, the N.W. tip of Egypt, the eastern Mediterranean Sea, Turkey, the Black Sea, N.W. Georgia, S.W. Russia, Kazakstan, the S. tip of Russia and ends in the N. tip of Mongolia. The partial phase is visible from the eastern part of South America, Africa except the south-eastern part, Europe including the British Isles, western and central Asia and the northern half of India. The eclipse begins at 07^h 37^m and ends at 12^h 46^m; the total phase begins at 08^h 35^m and ends at 11^h 47^m. The maximum duration of totality is 4^m 11^s.

2. A partial eclipse of the Moon on September 7 is visible from parts of Antarctica, Australasia, Asia, Africa, Europe including the British Isles. The umbral eclipse begins at 18^h 05^m and ends at 19^h 38^m. The time of maximum eclipse is 18^h 51^m when 0.19 of the Moon's diameter is obscured.

3. An annular eclipse of the Sun on September 22. The path of annularity begins in Guyana and crosses Suriname, French Guiana, the South Atlantic Ocean and ends south west of the Kerguelen Islands. The partial phase is visible from South America except the southern and western tips, western and southern Africa and parts of Antarctica. The eclipse begins at 08^h 40^m and ends at 14^h 40^m; the annular phase begins at 09^h 52^m and ends at 13^h 29^m. The maximum duration of annularity is 07^m 04^s.

All times are in GMT (UT)

* www.dti.gov.uk/er/sumtimetb.htm

CYH/SAB

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CALENDAR 2006

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES AND ERAS

Dominical Letter	A	Julian Period (year of)	6719
Epact	30	Roman Indiction	14
Golden Number (Lunar Cycle)	XII	Solar Cycle	27

Era	Year	Begins	Era	Year	Begins
Byzantine	7515	Sept. 14	Grecian (Seleucidæ)	2318	Sept. 14
Roman (AUC)	2759	Jan. 14			(or Oct. 14)
Nabonassar	2755	Apr. 22	Indian (Saka)	1928	Mar. 22
Japanese	2666	Jan. 1	Diocletian	1723	Sept. 11

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

Epiphany	Jan. 6	Low Sunday	Apr. 23
Septuagesima Sunday	Feb. 12	Rogation Sunday	May 21
Quinquagesima Sunday	Feb. 26	Ascension Day—Holy Thursday	May 25
Ash Wednesday	Mar. 1	Whit Sunday—Pentecost	June 4
Quadragesima Sunday	Mar. 5	Trinity Sunday	June 11
Fourth Sunday in Lent—Mothering Sunday	Mar. 26	Corpus Christi	June 15
Palm Sunday	Apr. 9	First Sunday in Advent	Dec. 3
Good Friday	Apr. 14	Christmas Day (Monday)	Dec. 25
Easter Day	Apr. 16		

First Day of Passover (Pesach)	Apr. 13	Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Oct. 2
Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)	June 2	First day of Tabernacles (Succoth)	Oct. 7
Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah)	5767 Sept. 23		
Islamic New Year	1427 Jan. 31	First day of Ramadân	Sept. 24

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 10
Commonwealth Day	Mar. 13	Birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh	June 10
St Patrick (Ireland)	Mar. 17	Remembrance Sunday	Nov. 12
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 or for Northern Ireland proclamation by the Secretary of State. 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. Consult The Department of Trade and Industry, www.dti.gov.uk/er/bankhol.htm, or the Scottish Executive, www.scotland.gov.uk/faq/bankhol.asp (telephone 0131 244 8242), for the latest details.

	England and Wales	Northern Ireland	Scotland
New Year	Jan. <i>1</i> † Jan. 2	Jan. <i>1</i> † Jan. 2	Jan. <i>1</i> † Jan. 3 Jan. 2
St Patrick	—	Mar. 17	—
Good Friday	Apr. 14‡	Apr. 14‡	Apr. 14
Easter Monday	Apr. 17	Apr. 17	—
Early Spring	<i>May 1</i>	<i>May 1</i>	May 1
Spring	May 29	May 29	<i>May 29</i>
Battle of the Boyne	—	<i>July 12</i>	—
Summer	Aug. 28	Aug. 28	Aug. 7
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.