

Preface

Participants, instructors and assessors should take note of the conditions as laid down in the Award Handbook.

This programme is for guidance and is not to be taken as a rigid syllabus. To indicate the content appropriate to young people with varying degrees of knowledge and experience, it is arranged under three headings: '**For beginners**', '**For those with some knowledge**' and '**For the more advanced**', and participants are free to select as broad or as restricted an aspect of this skill as they wish, but appropriate social and cultural aspects are to be covered.

COLLECTIONS, STUDIES AND SURVEYS

ASTRONOMY

Introduction

The study of Astronomy should give a balance between the attainment of knowledge and the application of practical skills and, throughout the programme, participants should have the opportunity to develop an understanding of related historical and scientific development. The activity may be followed either on an individual basis or as part of a group or club.

For Assessment: evidence of individual progress, sustained interest and a commitment of genuine leisure time should be shown over the required period. This should take the form of a diary, log or notebook. Group activities are to be assessed with regard to each individual's contribution to planning, execution and completion.

For beginners

Participants starting this activity should develop a good knowledge of.

- 1 The night sky as seen with the unaided eye from their home area.
- 2 The main constellations and the brighter stars.
- 3 Finding directions by the stars.
- 4 The seasonal changes in appearance of the night sky and the apparent motion of the sun, moon and planets.
- 5
 - a) the Earth-Moon and the solar system
 - b) the Sun as a moving star and member of the Milky Way system or Galaxy
 - c) the Milky Way as one amongst countless other galaxies in the Universe

For those with some knowledge

Participants should:

- 6 Compile a record of regular observations and suitable charts. This must include reference to at least one of the following:
 - a) the phases of the Moon and its motion against the star background. The seasonal change in the apparent height of its path
 - b) the observed change in position of one of the five planets visible to the naked eye, to be made at regular intervals during the period
 - c) the apparent tracks of bright meteors, preferably observed during one of the regular meteor showers occurring during the year
 - d) the observed tracks of artificial satellites
 - e) sunspot positions obtained by projection through binoculars or a small telescope. The observation of aurorae in appropriate locations
- 7 Learn to make and use simple pieces of apparatus, e.g. a home-constructed clinometer, a simple two-lens telescope or other forms of sighting devices.
- 8 Observe and record in a systematic manner any unusual object, e.g. a comet, which may be visible during the period.

For the more advanced

Participants should:

- 9 Make regular observations with binoculars or a simple telescope and produce a written record in diary form.
- 10 Produce a written paper on some aspect of astronomy which has appealed to them from their own observations. This should involve further reading, research and a development of their scientific and historical understanding of astronomy.