

Comprehension

Answer the following questions using information from the reading texts. Write answers in the spaces provided, or blacken the appropriate circles.

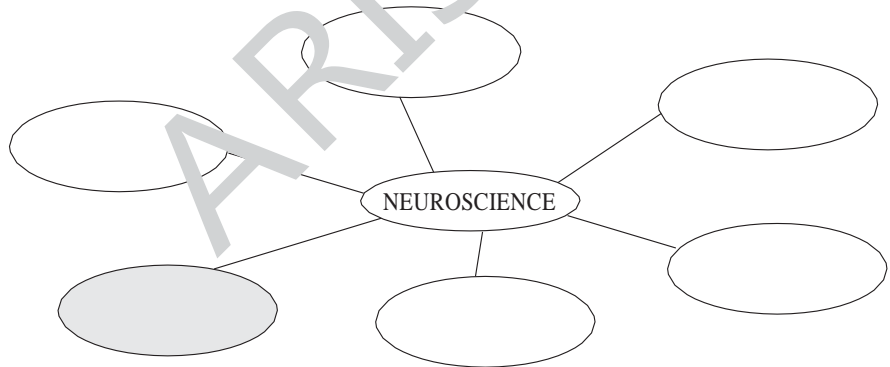
For questions 1-15, refer to the text on pages 138-140.

- 1 With reference to the subtitle, decide which of the following best describes the tone of the title?
- | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. playful | | | | |
| B. gloomy | | | | |
| C. determined | | A | B | C |
| D. unconvinced | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

- 2 Find an example for each of the following mentioned in paragraph 1.
- i) An example of girly things: _____
- ii) An example of non-girly things: _____

3 The writer says 'I am barely female' (lines 8-9). What does she mean?

4 According to paragraph 3, the study of neuroscience is commonly taken as a crossover of various areas of knowledge. Enter the components in the graphic organiser below based on the information given. In the grey oval, name the components the writer feels should be included to complete the picture.



- 5 What is the writer's tone at the close of paragraph 3?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. mocking | | | | |
| B. mournful | | | | |
| C. confused | | A | B | C |
| D. self-conscious | | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

- 6 What is the main focus of paragraph 4?
- A. the writer's misgivings about the study results of gender differences in the brain
 B. the theory that gender difference is natural because humans are born unequal
 C. the Daily Mail's story as a reminder of gender discrimination
 D. how neuroscience can be used to oppose girl power
- A B C D

- 7 What do the following refer to?
- a) 'this' (line 38) _____
- b) 'this' (line 40) _____

- 8 With reference to paragraph 5, which study area does the writer think neuroscientists should focus on?
- _____

- 9 What does 'this dichotomy' (line 44) refer to?
- _____

- 10 Fill in the blanks with reference to the information in paragraph 5. Use ONE word for each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

According to the writer, personality tests enjoy mass appeal among _____, _____ and _____.

- 11 According to paragraph 6, why was the writer in frequent contact with neurosurgeons?
- _____

- 12 Based on the information in paragraph 6, complete the following summary about what the writer learned from neurosurgeons. Use ONE word for each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

The (i) _____ admitted to the writer they are unable to gain a full understanding of the brain through (ii) _____. There is still a lot to be learnt about the brain, such as the (iii) _____ mechanisms of a damaged brain; if the brain is able to compensate for the damage through the (iv) _____ parts of its system taking over the affected functions; or its (v) _____ of being when a person is in a coma.

- 13 Describe the main argument of authors Hilary Rose and Steven Rose.
- _____

14 Match the headings (A-E) to the paragraphs in the main text by writing the correct letter in the space next to each paragraph number or set of paragraph numbers.

Headings

- A. A reading of neuroscience
- B. Pre-programming and rewiring the brain
- C. It's complicated ... or is it?
- D. Not girly enough
- E. Tell us something new

Paragraph(s)	A-E
1-2	
3	
4-6	
7	
8-10	

15 The text is ...

- A. a medical report.
- B. an opinion piece.
- C. a science dissertation.
- D. a popular scientific article.

A B C D

For questions 16-21, refer to the text on page 141.

16 Find two phrases (other than the phrase 'human brain') in paragraph 1 that refer to the brain.

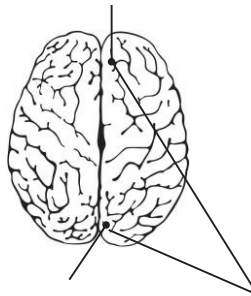
17 Describe the varying 'mental predilections of the sexes' (line 6) based on the results of the study in paragraph 2.

The neuroconnection enjoyed by:

- a) most women: their _____ and _____ hemispheres are joined more effectively
- b) most men: activities between their _____ and _____ lobes are more pronounced

18 Label and describe the functions of different parts of the brain in the spaces provided.

Frontal lobe



Left side of brain

- _____
- _____

Right side of brain

- _____
- _____
- co-ordinated action
- _____

19 Answer the following questions by choosing either ‘left side’ or ‘right side’. Blacken ONE circle only for each question.

Which side of the brain is being used chiefly in

Left side

Right side

i) understanding an instruction manual?

ii) creating an abstract painting?

iii) making lists?

iv) memorising maths formulas?

20 What scientific explanation mentioned in paragraph 3 can be used in support of the claim that ‘your driving instructor is more likely to be a man’ (line 23)?

In general the _____ and _____ hemispheres of our brain process information in different ways, and we tend to process information using our dominant side. As the results of a study on neural patterns in _____ revealed, the _____ specimens exhibited more connections in the _____, home for _____, than those of the females, hence lending support to the claim.

21 Decide whether the following statements are **True**, **False**, or the information is **Not Given**. Blacken ONE circle only for each statement.

	T	F	NG
i) Gender roles are less pronounced in our enlightened times. <i>yes: more crossover than ever in these enlightened times (lines 22-23)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) The front and rear lobes of the brain are associated with different functions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ARIST

Vocabulary

A Learn more about the words and expressions used in the reading texts.

girly (line 6)	/gɜːli/	(adj) overly feminine, representing a clichéd view of females <i>Bella enjoyed doing girly things like experimenting with make-up and wearing her mother's jewellery.</i>
ramp up (line 17)	/ræmp.ʌp/	(v) increase or intensify <i>Authorities ramped up security around the area after the attack last week.</i>
epiphenomenal (line 27)	/,epɪfə'nɒmɪnəl/	(adj) having a second or secondary purpose <i>She believes dreams are an epiphenomenal by-product of brain activity.</i>
overhype (line 31)	/,əʊvə'haɪp/	(v) give something more publicity, media or marketing attention than it deserves <i>The film company began promoting this film last year, and have continued overhyping it since.</i>
plausible (line 36)	/ˈplɔːzəbl/	(adj) believable, easy to accept as the truth <i>Flying across the country to meet my friend for a weekend seems plausible but not really probable.</i>
bitchy (line 38)	/ˈbɪtʃi/	(adj) unpleasant, gossipy and backstabbing (informal but not offensive/taboo) <i>The chat show host had a reputation for being bitchy about his guests, not all of whom saw the funny side of his remarks.</i>
debunk (line 44)	/,di:'bʌŋk/	(v) reveal something to be untrue (especially a myth, rumour or theory) <i>The scientists debunked common sleep-related myths on the programme, including that everyone needs the same amount.</i>
quasi- (line 56)	/ˈkweɪzɪ/ or /ˈkwɑːzi/	(prefix) pretending or trying to be equivalent to something else <i>The Man Who Cried Wolf is a quasi-detective story about a man who travels to Uruguay that actually has mostly comic elements.</i>
flog (line 78)	/flɒg/	(v) sell (often in an unofficial or crude way) <i>He went around flogging household products door-to-door for a living.</i>
thrive (line 26)	/θraɪv/	(v) live well, prosper and grow <i>Many plants and animals have been able to thrive here because of the excellent conditions.</i>

B Complete each of the following sentences with a word or phrase from the box. Use the correct form. Refer to the vocabulary list in Appendix to check meanings if needed. Use each word or phrase ONCE only.

cliché	culturally expected	debate
gender role	glass ceiling	neutral

- 1 The presence of a _____ in the company prevented Maggie from getting her well-deserved promotion.
- 2 The manager sparked a _____ in the company for refusing to grant additional paternity leave to a male employee.
- 3 It is a bit of a _____ to say that girls are better than boys at verbal skills, though it has a ring of truth to it.
- 4 Educational researchers think that toys should be made gender-_____ instead of exhibiting either male/female characteristics to avoid forcing _____ on children.
- 5 A study in Hong Kong found that men tend not to seek help when necessary because they are _____ to be tougher and more competent than women.

C Complete the following letter to the editor with the words from the box. Use the correct form. Refer to the vocabulary list in Appendix to check meanings if needed. Use each word ONCE only.

access	agenda	approach
challenge	eliminate	highlight

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on the eve of International Women’s Day (IWD), which is celebrated on 8 March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women and to (1) _____ a bias obstructing gender equality – education.

Investing in girls through education, an (2) _____ tabled by the UK’s Department for International Development and agreed to by leading national and global development agencies, seems to be the solution.

However, this (3) _____, in which the other sex is excluded, is far from perfect. Ensuring girls' (4) _____ to education is important, but so is schooling for boys that can create better motivated males to (5) _____ privileges that favour men, and dominant social norms and behaviour.

Therefore, education for all, rather than simply empowering girls, is key to (6) _____ gender inequality.

C H Chung
Pokfulam

Writing

You are a member of the school debate team. The team is taking part in a debating contest and the motion is: *The existing education system in Hong Kong favours female students.*

Decide whether your team is for or against the motion and construct a graphic organiser to map out your arguments for the debate.

Speaking

Group interaction

Your class is debating the motion, 'Men and women should be viewed as complete equals.' Your group is deciding which side to argue for.

You may want to talk about:

- how men and women are similar and different
- whether the two sexes are complementary
- the pros and cons of viewing men and women as complete equals

Individual response

Do you think our society is guilty of gender stereotypes? Why or why not?