

Questions 1 to 4

Reading Passage 1 has five paragraphs A-E.

Choose the correct heading for sections **A-B** and **D-E** from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number i-viii in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings		
İ	Communication in feral children	
ii	Measurement of child development	
III	Relevance of poor socialisation to human development	
iv	Visual stimulus and brain development	
v	Research into feral children to date	
vi	Effects of an upbringing in the wild	
vii	Outline of a case involving feral children	
viii	Similarities between wolves and humans	

- 1. Paragraph A
- 2. Paragraph B

Example	Answer	
3. Paragraph C	vii	

- 4. Paragraph D
- 5. Paragraph E





Α

When babies open their eyes and begin to register the existence of the outside world, there begins an intricate process of neural development. Instincts get switched on one by one, an array of survival tools that come pre-packaged with a newborn baby. But the brain cannot develop unless it receives the right stimuli. Susan Greenfield, in her book *The Human Brain*, describes the case of a six-year-old boy who grew up blind in one eye. Ophthalmologists examined all possible causes of his blindness and could find nothing physically wrong. Then, after reviewing his medical history, it was remembered that as a baby he had had his eye bandaged for two weeks to allow a minor infection to heal. As a result, neural circuits that should have processed the incoming signals from his eye had not developed properly – in fact, they were probably co-opted for another purpose entirely – and therefore the eye was useless.

В

'Feral' children – children who have grown up in the wild, often nurtured by wolves and other wild animals – provide a cryptic glimpse into the development of the human brain . There are few genuine examples of feral children, and none of them has been studied with any rigour or objectivity, but what can they tell us about the human brain and the development of human nature?

C

vii Outline of a case involving feral children

In 1920, the Reverend J. Singh, the founder of a rural orphanage in India, was told of a 'Manush-Bagha', or 'man-ghost', in the jungle some miles from his village. This apparition was said to have the body of a human being and the hideous head of a ghost. The reverend's curiosity was aroused, and he embarked on a trip into the jungle, making sure to take with him a number of armed guards. He discovered, in fact, two 'ghosts'. They were two young girls, one an infant, their faces almost completely hidden by a wild mass of matted hair, who had been raised by wolves. Singh named them Kamala and Amala. Kamala, he guessed was around eight years old, and Amala was about eighteen months.

D

Behaviourally, the two girls were not human, that much was clear. They bore the marks of their life in the wild, and were covered in sores, cuts and boils. Their joints





had seized up so they could only move about on all fours; they certainly could not stand up. They appeared to be nocturnal, sleepy during the day and lively and awake at night. Singh reports that their vision appeared to have become adapted to the night. They had a taste for raw meat too. They showed no signs of communication, and it would be some time before Singh heard then utter a single meaningful sound.

Ε

The wolf girls of Midnapore could never express themselves beyond communicating the most basic needs. Their story makes clear the fundamental importance of nurture, experience and the social environment in which we are raised. Our cognitive mechanisms for dealing with the world – whether they are face recognition, language acquisition or emotional development – will not appear of their own accord. Beyond a certain point, it may be too late to switch them on.

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