Worksheet 9: How the brain works

The brain is like a committee of experts. All the parts of the brain work together, but each part has its own special properties.

The frontal lobes:

The frontal lobes have a wide range of functions. Overall, the frontal lobes are a kind of 'management centre'. They deal with:

- solving problems
- setting goals
- making decisions
- starting, carrying out and finishing tasks
- keeping us interested and motivated
- controlling our social behaviour
- planning movements and the control of certain muscles

List some practical examples of the likely impairments a person with dementia may have if the frontal lobes are damaged:

The temporal lobes:

The temporal lobes are on either side of the brain, near the temples. They deal with:

- memory – memories of our own life as well as facts and general knowledge
- recognition of faces
- recognition of objects
- language – understanding the meaning of words
- understanding speech and talking

List some practical examples of the likely impairments a person with dementia may have if the temporal lobes are damaged:

Occipital lobes:

The occipital lobes at the back of the brain deal with visual information.

List some practical examples of the likely impairments a person with dementia may have if the occipital lobes are damaged:

Parietal Lobes:

The parietal lobes are in the upper-rear part of the brain. They deal with:

- information from our senses about space, perception and size
- telling our left from our right side
- the position of our limbs
- reading, writing and processing numbers
- recognising objects as three-dimensional
- working out where objects – including moving objects – are in relation to each other, and to ourselves

List some practical examples of the likely impairments a person with dementia may have if the parietal lobes are damaged:

Brain stem:

The brain stem is at the base of the brain. It deals with bodily functions such as heartbeat and breathing.

List some practical examples of the likely impairments a person with dementia may have if the brain stem is damaged:

Forester-Morgan, T. & Mould, S. (2021) *The Dementia Care Training Library*.

Cerebellum

The cerebellum controls:

- balance and posture
- staying upright
- things that we normally do automatically

List some practical examples of the likely impairments a person with dementia may have if the cerebellum is damaged: