CITY OF LONDON
FREEMEN'S SCHOOL

SAMPLE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION PAPER

For pupils currently in Year 9

ENGLISH

Name:	Age:	Year:

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions:

1. Answer **all** the questions in Section **A**.
2. Answer **ONE** question from Section **B**.
3. You will be given marks for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4. You have 90 minutes for the exam. Spend 45 minutes on Section A and 45 minutes on Section B.

Section A	
Section B	
Total	

SSH	**S1211**	**T12**	✓	ENG

Section A

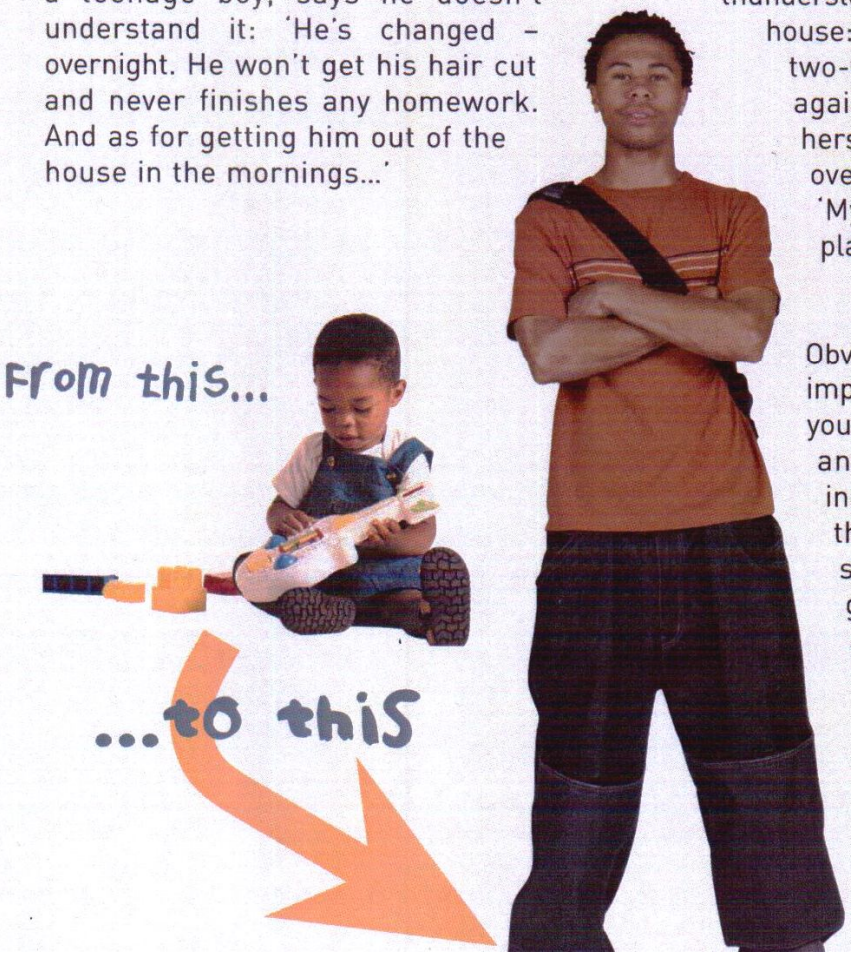
Read the article 'What's really going on in a teenager's brain?' and then answer all of the questions.

In this article, the writer explains the dramatic changes that take place during adolescence, as young people become teenagers. She also reports on how recent research is beginning to offer new explanations of why adolescents behave as they do.

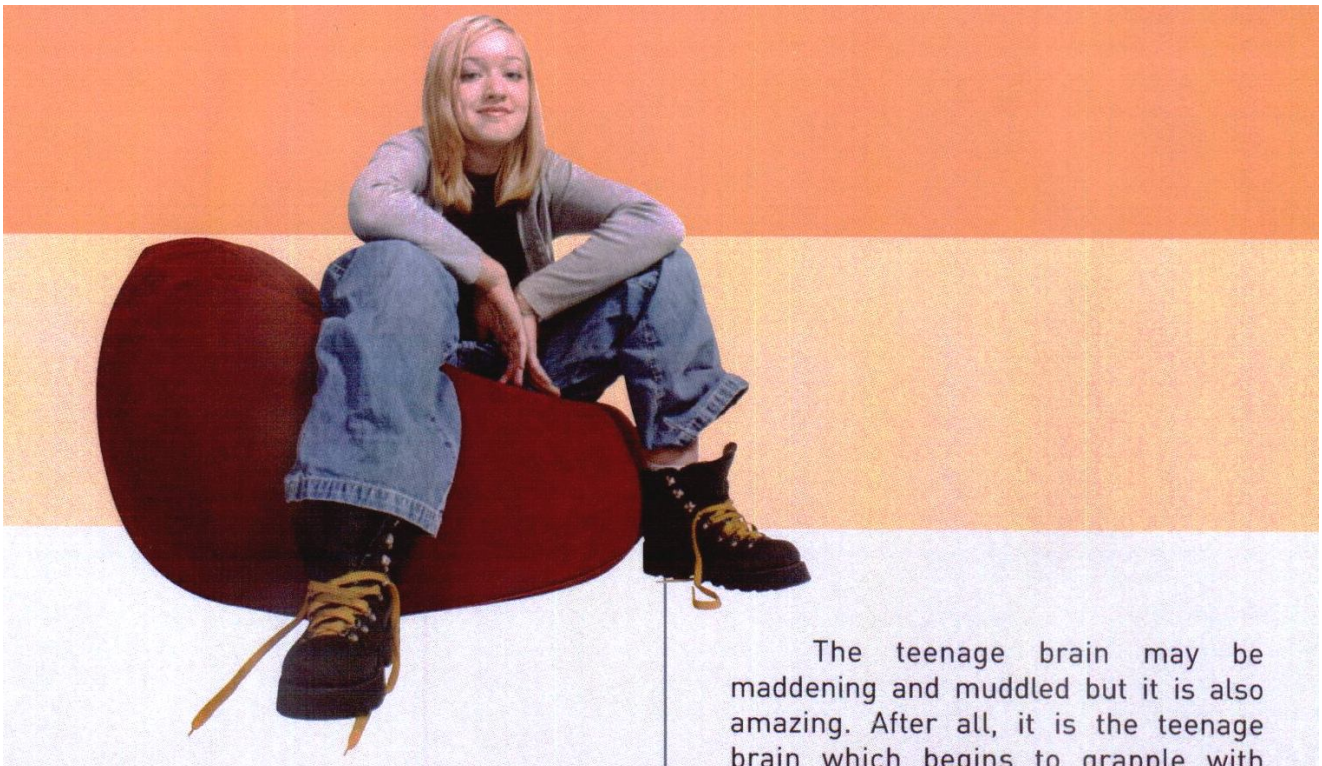
What's really going on in a teenager's brain?

Can you believe your eyes? Is it the same person? When you look at a photograph of a teenager as a small child, it is hard to believe that it *is* the same person. For parents, it can be difficult to accept that their cute little toddler has become a complete stranger. Steve Johnson, the father of a teenage boy, says he doesn't understand it: 'He's changed – overnight. He won't get his hair cut and never finishes any homework. And as for getting him out of the house in the mornings...'

This is nothing new. Even Aristotle, the famous philosopher of Ancient Greece, said teenagers appeared 'changeable in their desires'. And Shakespeare described adolescence as largely a time for 'stealing and fighting'! For Ellen Liddle, the mother of twins, adolescence was like a thunderstorm crashing all round her house: 'It was like having a pair of two-year-olds in the house again.' Lisa Grey, a teenager herself, says she sometimes feels overwhelmed by her feelings: 'My moods are all over the place from day to day.'



So what's really happening? Obviously, adolescence is an important period of change when young people develop emotionally and physically, becoming independent and establishing their own identities. At the same time, they have to go to school, take exams and think about their futures. But why do teenagers who are usually friendly and thoughtful sometimes become grouchy for no reason, slam doors or forget to phone home?



For many years scientists blamed hormones. It was believed that the brain was fully developed by the age of three. But now, in ground-breaking work, scientists have discovered that the teenage brain is actually undergoing a dramatic transformation. 'We used to think that if there were brain changes in adolescence they were slight,' says Elizabeth Sowell, one of the USA's top researchers in the area. 'Now we are bowled over by what we discover about the teenage brain every day.'

So, it is the brain, *not* hormones, that is behind the baffling behaviour of teenagers. Research has shown that the teenage brain is a giant construction project. In fact, the changes taking place in the brain at this time are so great that adolescence may be as important as early childhood in terms of brain development.

The teenage brain may be maddening and muddled but it is also amazing. After all, it is the teenage brain which begins to grapple with complicated ideas such as honesty and justice. It develops empathy, the ability to understand other people's viewpoints. It also has to absorb huge amounts of knowledge and develop independent ways of thinking.

'I love teenagers,' says one woman with two grown-up children. 'I like their ability to think for themselves, to argue and get excited by ideas. Most of all, I like the way I can learn from them!' Perhaps this view, and the knowledge that the adolescent brain is still growing and changing, will give some reassurance to teenagers like Lisa, and to parents like Steve and Ellen.



The human brain

Section A

1. *'My moods are all over the place from day to day.'* (paragraph 2)

   Give one quotation from **paragraph 3** which supports this idea.

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[1 mark]

2. Steve Johnson says about his son:

   '*He's changed – overnight*.' (paragraph 1)

   Explain the effect of the dash in this quotation.

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[2 marks]

3. *'...adolescence was like a thunderstorm crashing all round her house.'* (paragraph 2)

   Explain what the choice of language in this quotation suggests about Ellen's view of adolescence.

   - _____
     _____
     _____
   - _____
     _____
     _____

[4 marks]

4. In this article about adolescence, the writer has included quotations from a range of people to give a balanced view.

   What is the effect of including quotations from **parents**.

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[4 marks]

5. Paragraph 4 is about scientists' research into teenage brains.

a) Give one word of phrase from this paragraph which shows that the writer believes the scientists' research is new and important.

_____

[1 mark]

b) **Explain** how the scientists have reacted to their discoveries.

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[4 marks]

6. What does the phrase *a giant construction project* (paragraph 5) suggest about the teenage brain?

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[4 marks]

7. How does the writer present teenage years as a very confusing time?

You might like to consider:

- The opinions from parents
- The use of scientific information
- The use of language.

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[10 marks]

Turn-over for Section B

Section B

Select and answer one of the following tasks:

1. Write an article for your school magazine about the difficulties of teenage life.
2. Write a description of a very badly behaved teenager.
3. Write a speech arguing that teenagers are put under too much pressure in life.

[30 marks]