

Structure of the brain.

The brain is protected by the cranium and enclosed by two membranes known as meninges. The membrane has three layers i.e the dura matter, arachnoid and Pia matter.

The brain has cerebrum which is the largest part of the brain. It consists of two parts the right and the left cerebral hemispheres joined by the corpus callosum. The cerebrum plays several roles which include: receiving impulses from different organs, controls learning and controls reasoning and memory. (Dolan, C. J. Price, S. Zek (2004).

The brain has the hypothalamus which is located on the ventral region of the cerebrum. The hypothalamus performs various functions which include: acts as a coordination centre that regulates hunger, sleep, thirst, water balance, blood pressure and body temperature. It also acts as a link between the nervous and endocrine systems.

The brain is made up of thalamus which located on the ventral region of the cerebrum, its functions include integration of information from the sensory receptors to the cerebrum by enhancing certain signals and blocking others. It also function as an integration centre for sensory impulses of sight and hearing. (Frackowiak, R. S. (2004).

The brain consists of the cerebellum (mid brain) which coordinates body movements, maintains balance and posture and also allows making of precise movements eg running and walking.

The brain is made up of the pituitary gland which has two lobes i.e posterior and anterior lobes. It secretes various hormones that influence other glands and body functions.

The brain is made up of Medulla Oblongata (hind brain). It is the part that attaches to the spinal cord. It controls automatic actions such as heartbeat, breathing, salivation, and vasodilation or vasoconstriction of blood vessels. It also controls involuntary activities such as sneezing, swallowing, vomiting and coughing. (. K. J. Friston, C. D. Frith, R. J. Dolan (2004)