



Read the following text and answer the questions in English

Mobile phones and health risks¹

5	<p>Professor Stewart -of the National Radiological Protection Board- warns that children should not use mobile phones because of the possible health risks involved. "I don't think we can honestly say mobile phones are totally safe, especially in the case of children. If electromagnetic radiation poses a risk, it will affect children more than adults because their skulls are thinner and their brains are still developing".</p>
10	<p>"If you have a teenager and you feel they can benefit in terms of security by having a mobile phone, it is a personal decision, although mobile phones have not always helped on that basis. My belief is that they should use them for as short a time as possible and they should use text messaging as much as possible." Prof Stewart said. "But if mobile phones are available to three-to eight-year-olds I can't believe for a moment that can be justified.</p>
15	<p>In spite of a series of health scares and worries about the effects of mobile phone technologies, there are now more than 50m mobile phones in use in the UK, only 10m fewer than the national population. A quarter of seven- to 10-year-olds now own a mobile phone, according to latest figures.</p>
20	<p>It is true that the health risks remain unproved. Scientists have not yet found proof that the electromagnetic radiation emitted by mobile phones could be dangerous, but new evidence suggests that there might be possible health implications.</p> <p>Last year, a study in Sweden reported that using a mobile phone for 10 years or more could quadruple the risk of ear tumours. A Dutch study in 2003 suggested that the new more powerful 3G phones can affect brain function. "This is still a relatively new area and the divergent views show how more research is needed" Prof Stewart said.</p> <p>There is no question that much more research is required, and that the mobile industry should fund it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Adapted from <i>TheGuardian</i>)</p> <p>¹ risk: A situation involving exposure to danger</p>

QUESTIONS

1. What is Dr Stewart's attitude concerning the use of mobile phones by children and teenagers? Use your own words.

(2 marks)



2. **Are the following statements true or false?** Quote the words from the text that support your view.

1. Prof. Stewart doesn't believe that mobile phones always give security to youngsters.
2. The British seem to take no notice of the possible risks involved in using mobiles.
3. In England, one in four children aged between seven and 10 have their own mobile.
4. There is now clear scientific evidence that mobiles are dangerous for health.
5. Because mobile phone use is a relatively recent phenomenon, more scientific research is needed and the mobile companies should pay for it.

(2 marks)

3. **Find in the text the words and expressions whose meaning match the following definitions:**

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. A person's mental or physical condition. | (lines 1 to 10) |
| 2. Presents or constitutes | (lines 1 to 10) |
| 3. A bone framework enclosing the brain | (lines 1 to 10) |
| 4. General anxiety or alarm about something. | (lines 10 to 20) |
| 5. Not demonstrated by evidence | (lines 10 to 20) |

(1 mark)

4. **Complete the text below using the correct word from the box on the right.**

Mobiles and children

"I've got an ...1... little girl, Katariina. She doesn't have a ...2.... I don't let her play with my mobile. I don't ...3... let her play with the dead ones. She's only started ...4... beef this year. If there's a danger, you want ...5... them away from it. I'll probably let her ...6... a mobile when she's 10 or 11, when she's of ...7... age when she needs to be on her ...8...".

Richard Liang

own
even
eating
have
to keep
an
mobile
eight-year-old

(2 marks)

5. **Write a composition of about 150 words on one of the following:**

1. Describe a real or an imaginary case of emergency when a mobile came in useful.
2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having so many phones around.

(3 marks)