

The Nervous System

Chapter 24: The Nervous System · Topic 1

Key Concept

The central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) processes information, while the peripheral nervous system (nerves) connects it to the rest of the body.

Neurons are specialised cells that transmit electrical signals throughout the nervous system, forming complex networks for communication.

Reflex actions, like pulling away from something hot, happen quickly through the spinal cord without waiting for the brain's conscious decision.

Understanding the nervous system helps explain how we think, move, sense our surroundings, and react to different situations.

Quick Revision Notes

- Central nervous system: brain and spinal cord.
- It processes information.
- Peripheral nervous system: nerves connecting to the body.
- Neurons transmit electrical signals.
- They form complex communication networks.
- Reflex actions happen quickly via the spinal cord.
- They don't wait for conscious brain decisions.
- The nervous system enables thought, movement and sensing.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw and label the nervous system.
- 2 Discuss the difference between central and peripheral nervous systems.
- 3 Explain what neurons do.
- 4 Research an example of a reflex action.
- 5 Discuss why reflexes are fast.
- 6 Explain how the nervous system helps us react to danger.