

# OCR (B) Biology A-Level

## 5.2.3 - The effect of ageing on the nervous system

### Flashcards

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State the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.



## State the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

- Memory loss
- Confusion
- Problems with sleep
- Mood swings
- Incontinence and loss of speech in the later stages



Describe the potential causes of  
Alzheimer's disease.



Describe the potential causes of Alzheimer's disease.

- Buildup of proteins in and around brain cells
- Inheritance
- Exposure to certain contaminants (e.g. chemicals and industrial metals)
- Traumatic head injuries



Describe the changes to the nervous system as a person ages.



Describe the changes to the nervous system as a person ages.

- Nerve cells die (brain and spinal cord begin to lose weight)
- Speed of transmission is slower



State 3 problems that ageing of the nervous system can cause.





State 3 problems that ageing of the nervous system can cause.

- Visual impairments
- Hearing impairments
- Memory loss



Name 3 age-related visual impairments.



Name 3 age-related visual impairments.

- Cataracts
- Glaucoma
- Macular degeneration



# What are cataracts?



# What are cataracts?

A clouding over of the lens (often due to ageing) caused by the clumping together of proteins.



# What is glaucoma?



## What is glaucoma?

Damage caused to the optic nerve by increased pressure in the eye (often due to a buildup of fluid in the front of the eye)



# What is macular degeneration?





## What is macular degeneration?

Macular degeneration is where the small central part of the retina, called the macula, causes the central part of a person's vision to worsen.

