**Testing the Cranial Nerves**

One method of assessing neurological damage is to test cranial nerve function. Working with a partner, perform the following tests as instructed that demonstrate cranial nerve function. Your assignment involves determining which cranial nerve(s) is/are assessed by which test. Be sure to include the name AND number in your answer.

**Test A.**

Ask the subject to swallow their saliva.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test B.**

Using a penlight, check each eye for pupillary constriction. Shine the light indirectly at the corner of one eye (not too close and not directly in the eye) and check whether each pupil gets smaller. The eye into which the light is shining should demonstrate a prompt pupillary constriction. The opposite eye should respond by constricting as well.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test C.**

Ask the subject to close their eyes and close one nostril. Present the open nostril with the test stimulus and ask the subject to sniff and identify the odor. Repeat for the other nostril.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test D.**

Hold your index finger about 3 feet in front of the subject’s face. Tell the subject to follow your fingertip by moving the eyes only, not the head. As you observe the subject’s eyes, move your finger slowly up, down, left, and right.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test E.**

Ask the subject to stick out their tongue and move it side to side.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test F.**

Ask the subject to close his/her eyes. Pick one ear to test. Next to that ear, rub your fingers together and ask if the subject hears the sound. Repeat for the other ear.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test G.**

Have the subject close his/her eyes. Lightly whisk a piece of dry cotton over the mandibular, maxillary, and ocular areas of the face. Check both sides of the face. Have the subject clench his/her teeth.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test H.**

Place your hands on your partner’s shoulders and ask him/her to raise them against your resistance.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Test I.**

Ask the patient to smile and then frown.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT DO THE FOLLOWING TEST but see if you can figure out what nerve is involved.**

In the first test, the posterior wall of the pharynx is touched with a tongue depressor. The normal response is contraction of the pharyngeal muscles and elevation of the soft palate. The response is called the gag reflex.

Cranial Nerve(s) Tested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Were there any nerves that you did not test? If so, which ones?**

**How could we test those particular cranial nerves?**