Reading Comprehension

Task 1. Read the text.

USING MOBILE PHONES DOES NOT CAUSE BRAIN CANCER ACCORDING TO THE LARGEST STUDY EVER CONDUCTED ON THE SUBJECT, BUT AUSTRALIAN EXPERTS ARE STILL CAREFUL ABOUT THE RESULTS

1. According to the 18-year long study of more than 350,000 people, there is little to no increase in the risk of brain tumours in mobile phone users compared with people who do not use them.

2. Researchers from the Danish Institute of Cancer Epidemiology in Copenhagen studied the data of 10,729 tumours of the central nervous system and found long-term mobile users had similar cancer rates to those who had not had a mobile phone contract. There was no overall increase observed in the risk of cancer or tumours of the central nervous system.

3. Previous research on the subject has been criticised for not looking at long-term (ten years or more) mobile usage. "The extended follow-up allowed us to investigate effects in people who had used mobile phones for 10 years or more, and this long-term use was not associated with higher risks of cancer," writes the study's author. "However, as a small to moderate increase in risk for subgroups of heavy users or after even longer induction periods than 10-15 years cannot be ruled out, further studies with large study populations, where the potential for misclassification of exposure and selection bias is minimised, are warranted."

4. Bruce Armstrong, Professor of Public Health at the University of Sydney's School of Public Health, said the research is "much better" than any preceding work because of the length of time and because it took into account the socio-economic status of the subjects. However Professor Armstrong said there are issues with the study, particularly because it focused on how long users had phone contracts for rather than how much time they spent using their mobile.

5. He also said it was not true to say there was no link between mobile phones and brain cancer risk. "There was weak evidence of an association between mobile phone use and risk of brain tumours, but any evidence of increased risk was not more evident in the temporal lobe (temporal glioma), which is the area that is most exposed to mobile phone radiation and where you would expect to find evidence of an association, nor in people who had held subscriptions for the longest time," he said. "The bottom line is that the study does not change my overall view that there is still considerable uncertainty remaining about the risk of mobile phone use and brain tumours."

Task 2. Put questions to each paragraph covering the following issues

1. risk of brain tumours in mobile phone users	**3.** criticism of the previous research	**5.** link between mobile phones and brain cancer risk
2. cancer rates	**4.** Bruce Armstrong's opinion about the latest research	

Task 3. Answer the questions.

1) Are scientists interested in the problem of long-term mobile use and its effects?
2) What health problems can long-term mobile phones use cause?
3) Does the latest research recognise the risk of developing brain cancer?
4) Why are some experts still careful about the results?
5) What conclusion is made at the end of the article about the risk of mobile phone use and brain tumours?

Task 4. Speak about the previous and latest research on the relationship between using mobile phones and risk of brain cancer (5-7 sentences).