Reflexes and the Reflex Arc

Reflexes are responses that are **automatic**, very quick and help protect the body from being injured. For example, if you put your hand on something very hot, you automatically move your hand away – this stops the skin from getting seriously damaged.

The passage of information in a reflex, from the receptor to the effectors is called a reflex arc.

The neurones involved in a reflex arc go through the spinal cord, but bypass the conscious part of the brain, making the response quicker. Often only a few neurones are involved, so the impulse doesn't have to travel far and can arrive at the effectors almost at once. If reflex responses involved the conscious part of the brain they would be much slower. Why?

Stages of a Reflex Arc.



Q1.	Explain why a renex reaction is laster than a voising (conscious) reaction.	(3)