The brain and the spinal cord are very delicate and, as they are vital to human survival, they must be protected. One structure that provides protection for these two parts are the meninges.

1. Describe the structure of the meninges. (6 marks)

**3 layers (0.5)**

**Dura mater (0.5) tough layer (0.5) closely stuck to inside of skull (0.5)**

**Arachnoid mater (0.5) mesh/web layer beneath dura mater (1)**

**allows CSF to flow through (1)**

**Pia mater (0.5) delicate layer (0.5) closely stuck to brain surface (0.5)**

1. Explain the role of the cerebrospinal fluid. (6 marks)

**Protection (1):**

**Acts as a shock absorber for impacts (0.5)**

**Blood-brain barrier prevents entry of bacteria/harmful substances (0.5)**

**Support (1)**

**Supports skull within cranial cavity by providing a cushion of fluid (1)**

**Transport (1)**

**Transports gases, nutrients and wastes to and from CNS (1)**

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