**Autistic or not?**

*Use the criteria of the DSM 4 to decide whether the following cases should be given a diagnosis of autism or not.*

1. Mala has very few friends or close relationships, did not speak until the age of five, uses strange language and likes to build model planes.
2. Englebert cannot look people in the eye and will not respond to people’s emotions in the correct way. Although his speech is normal, he rarely speaks to other people, instead he prefers to speak to himself. He will only eat certain kinds of food and they have to be arranged on his plate in alphabetical order.
3. Asha has a number of deep interests, for example in water. She will play with water for hours on end watching the pattern of drops fall from her hand. However, she will never try to involve anyone else in this interest, she seems happy to do it alone. She responds very badly to physical contact from other people.
4. Guinevere has never spoken clearly, although she sometimes makes regular grunting noises. Her IQ is well below average, although it is difficult to administer the test as she is unable to properly understand the instructions and will not listen to the psychologist.
5. Whenever he is excited or stressed, Thag has a tendency to flap his hands. He will also sometimes be found repeatedly banging his head against the floor. Thag will say a few words to his mother but not to anyone else. When a friend visited his mother and smiled at him, Thag became violent towards her.