Vision: A Window on Consciousness - Assignment

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For this assignment you want to answer each question in an essay format. Please type your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Each answer should be about 1 paragraph long, at least ½ page per answer. You should have at least 2 typed pages, double-spaced with 1” margins (all around) to turn in on the due date.

1. Since it is difficult to study individual neurons in awake human beings, how do we use monkeys to study individual neurons and attention?

2. Discuss each of the experiments that led to the conclusion:
   “Most neurons in the earlier stages of the visual pathway responded mainly to whether their preferred visual stimulus was in view or not, although a few showed behavior that could be related to changes in the animal’s perception. In the later stages of processing, on the other hand the proportion whose activity reflected the animal’s perception increased until it reached 90%.” (SA, Vision: A Window of Consciousness, 2002)

3. What are the 2 conclusions about visual awareness? Be sure to discuss the evidence for both conclusions.

4. Discuss the 2 studies that indicate that we have identified an animal’s conscious perception.

5. What is the picture of the brain that is emerging because of the research that has been done on visual consciousness?