

# Sabrina Cohen-Hatton



## Did You Know...?

Only 3 out of every 100 firefighters in the UK are female. Sabrina wants to inspire more girls to become firefighters.

## Sabrina's Childhood

Sabrina was born in Newport, South Wales in 1983. Sabrina's life was hard when she was a teenager. She became homeless when she was 15 years old and she did not have any family to support her. Sabrina sold magazines to help her to make money to buy food and to rent a flat.



## Sabrina's Career

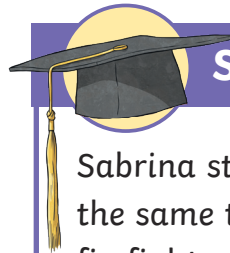


Sabrina applied to join the fire service when she was 18 years old. She was the first female firefighter to work at her station. Sabrina loves her job and she wants to do the best that she can every day.



Sabrina now works as the Chief Fire Officer of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. This means that Sabrina has to make sure that all of the firefighters who work with her stay safe and that they help as many people as they can in the best way possible. She has written a book all about her job and what it is like to be a firefighter.

## Sabrina's Studies



Sabrina started to go to university at the same time as she was working as a firefighter. She would fight fires in the daytime and read books at night.

Sabrina was interested in how firefighters make important choices in difficult situations and she wanted to learn more about how she could help her fellow firefighters to make fewer mistakes when fighting fires.

She attached cameras to the helmets of commanders who were attending fires and then she watched the videos that had been recorded so that she could try to understand how they make choices.

After doing this, Sabrina came up with three important questions that all firefighter commanders now ask themselves when they are making difficult choices:

1. What is the goal?
2. What do I expect to happen?
3. Are there more good things that will happen if I act or more bad things?

Sabrina has won many awards for her research and she has worked with fire services around the world.



# Questions

1. Which of these statements is true? Tick one.

- Sabrina's first role in the first service was as a Chief Fire Officer.
- Sabrina went to university before becoming a firefighter.
- Sabrina has written a magazine about her life as a teenager.
- Sabrina was the first female firefighter to work at her station.

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Sabrina began to study how firefighters make important choices.
- Sabrina came up with three important questions.
- Sabrina watched the videos that had been recorded.
- Sabrina attached cameras to the helmets of commanders.

3. How old was Sabrina when she joined the fire service? Tick one.

- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18

4. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to one fact that you learnt in that section.

Sabrina's Childhood

Sabrina now works as the Chief Fire Officer of the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

Sabrina's Career

Sabrina attached cameras to the helmets of commanders who were attending fire.

Sabrina's Studies

Sabrina was born in Newport, South Wales in 1983.

Did You Know...?

Only 3 out of every 100 firefighters in the UK are female.

5. Fill in the missing words.

She would fight \_\_\_\_\_ in the daytime and read \_\_\_\_\_ at night.

6. What is the third of the three important questions that Sabrina came up with?

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7. Think of an adjective that you would use to describe Sabrina Cohen-Hatton and use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. Which of these statements is true? Tick one.

- Sabrina's first role in the first service was as a Chief Fire Officer.
- Sabrina went to university before becoming a firefighter.
- Sabrina has written a magazine about her life as a teenager.
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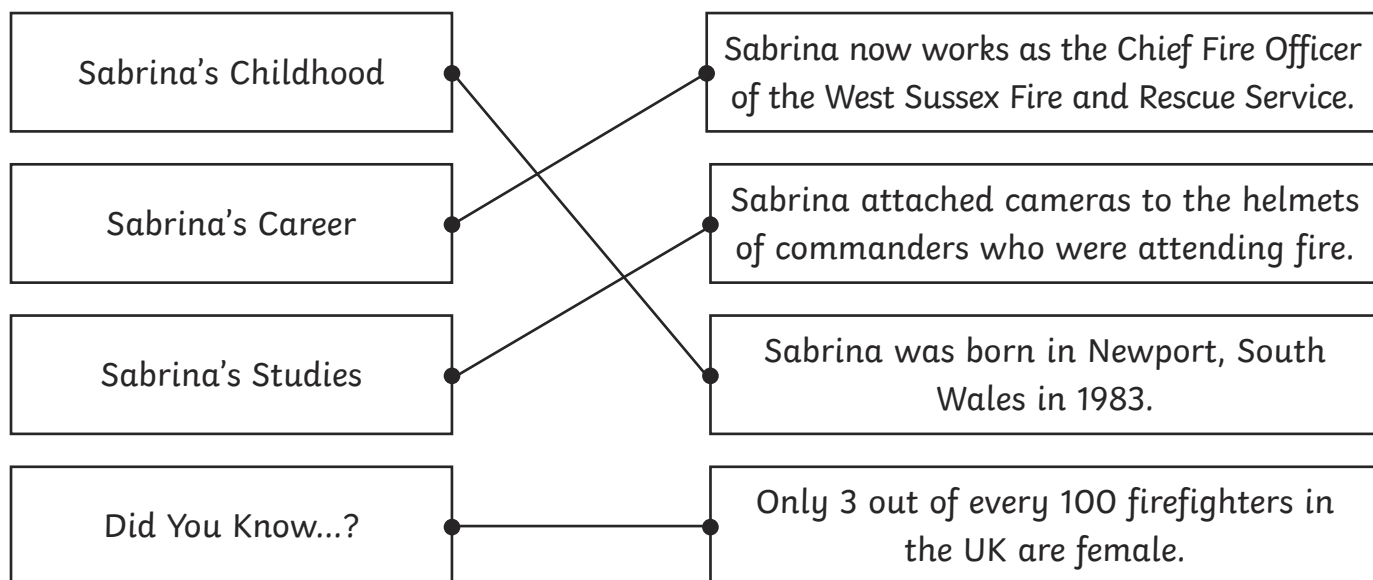
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- 1** Sabrina began to study how firefighters make important choices.
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3. How old was Sabrina when she joined the fire service? Tick one.

- 15
- 16
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- 18**

4. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to one fact that you learnt in that section.



5. Fill in the missing words.

She would fight **fires** in the daytime and read **books** at night.

6. What is the third of the three important questions that Sabrina came up with?

**The third of the three important questions that Sabrina came up with is 'are there more good things that will happen if I act or more bad things?'**

7. Think of an adjective that you would use to describe Sabrina Cohen-Hatton and use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would use the adjective 'hard-working' to describe Sabrina because the text says that she went to university at the same time as she was working as a firefighter and that must not have been easy to do.**

# Sabrina Cohen-Hatton



## Did You Know...?

Currently, around 3 out of every 100 of Britain's firefighters are female.

## Childhood

Sabrina Rachel Cohen-Hatton was born in Newport, South Wales, in 1983. Sabrina's life was difficult during her teenage years. She was made homeless at the age of 15 and she had no family to support her. Sabrina slept on the streets and in abandoned buildings. She sold magazines outside for up to 12 hours per day so that she could begin to save money towards renting a flat. Despite this, Sabrina still attended school and she achieved excellent grades in her exams.



## Becoming a Firefighter

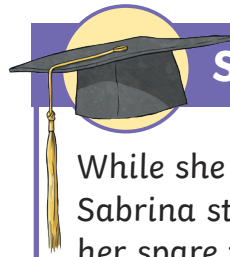


Sabrina applied to join the fire service when she was 18 years old and she became the first female firefighter at her local station. However, Sabrina remembers that it was not easy and that she experienced a lot of **discrimination** because of her gender.



Sabrina now works as a Chief Fire Officer. This means that she is responsible for being in charge at serious incidents and she makes the choices that keep many other people safe. As part of her work, Sabrina tries to inspire other girls to become firefighters.

## Sabrina's Studies



While she was working as a firefighter, Sabrina started to study **psychology** in her spare time. She is so interested in the subject that she completed a PhD at Cardiff University.

Sabrina learnt a lot about how firefighters make urgent and important choices in difficult situations. She attached cameras to the helmets of commanders who were attending fires and she watched the videos that had been recorded so that she could try to understand how they make choices.

Sabrina used the information that she learnt to set up a new way of working called the 'decision control process'. When it was put in place, the system that Sabrina created made commanders up to five times more aware of what they were dealing with at the scene of the fire. This hugely reduced the number of errors that commanders made and Sabrina has won many awards for her research.

## Decision Control Process

Sabrina came up with three important questions that all firefighter commanders now ask themselves when they are making difficult choices. She called this the 'decision control process'. The questions are:

1. What is the goal?
2. What do I expect to happen?
3. Are there more good things that will happen if I act or more bad things?

## Glossary

**discrimination:** The unjust or unfair treatment of people usually because of their ethnicity, age, sex, gender or disability.

**psychology:** The study of the human mind and how people think and behave.



# Questions

1. **As part of her work, Sabrina tries to inspire other girls to become firefighters.**

Why do you think that Sabrina does this? Tick one.

- because there are too many female firefighters
- because there are too few female firefighters in the service
- because girls are not allowed to become firefighters
- because Sabrina wants to teach them all herself

2. Draw **four** lines and match each sub-heading to what that section is about.

Childhood	This section is about how Sabrina started to work in the fire service.
Becoming a Firefighter	This section is about what Sabrina has learnt by studying psychology.
Sabrina's Studies	This section is about what life was like for Sabrina when she was growing up.
Decision Control Process	This section is about the questions that Sabrina came up with.

3. **She attached cameras to the helmets of commanders who were attending fires...**

Why do you think that this was a helpful thing for Sabrina to do? Tick one.

- because she liked watching videos about firefighting
- because it helped her to see what was really happening
- because the videos were too scary for people to see
- because the commanders took too many photographs

4. What is the decision control process? Tick one.

- a set of questions for commanders to ask themselves
- a way of watching videos collected by commanders
- a foolproof way of putting out all fires
- a way of studying psychology at university

5. Look at the section called **Decision Control Process**.  
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'advantages'.

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6. Why did Sabrina sell magazines?

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7. Summarise why it was not easy for Sabrina to become the first female firefighter at her local station.

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8. If you could ask Sabrina Cohen-Hatton one question, what would you ask her and why?

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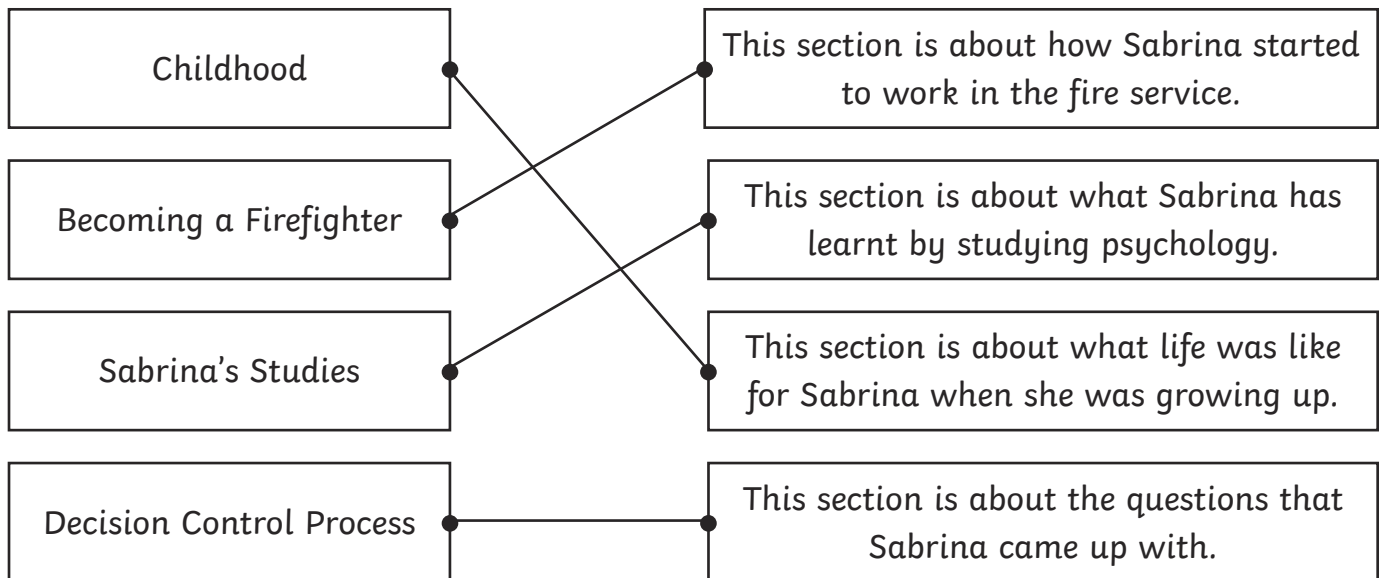
# Answers

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Why do you think that this was a helpful thing for Sabrina to do? Tick one.

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4. What is the decision control process? Tick one.

- a set of questions for commanders to ask themselves**
- a way of watching videos collected by commanders
- a foolproof way of putting out all fires
- a way of studying psychology at university

5. Look at the section called **Decision Control Process**.  
Find and copy one word that means the same as 'advantages'.

**benefits**

6. Why did Sabrina sell magazines?

**Sabrina sold magazines outside for up to 12 hours per day so that she could begin to save money towards renting a flat.**

7. Summarise why it was not easy for Sabrina to become the first female firefighter at her local station.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It was not easy for Sabrina to become the first female firefighter at her local station because she experienced discrimination because of her gender.**

8. If you could ask Sabrina Cohen-Hatton one question, what would you ask her and why?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would ask Sabrina 'how did you manage to study psychology at the same time as working as a firefighter?' because that seems like a lot to fit in at once and I'd like to see if she has any tips for doing lots of things at the same time.**

# Sabrina Cohen-Hatton



## Early Life

Sabrina Rachel Cohen-Hatton was born in Newport, South Wales, in 1983. Sabrina experienced very unsettled teenage years. She was made homeless at the age of 15 and she had no family to support her. Sabrina slept either on the streets or in abandoned buildings and she sold magazines outside for up to 12 hours per day so that she could begin to save money towards renting a flat. Despite this, Sabrina still attended school and she achieved excellent grades in her GCSEs.

## Did You Know...?

Currently, just over 3% of Britain's firefighters are female.

## Becoming a Firefighter



Sabrina applied to join the fire service when she was 18 years old and she became the first female firefighter at her local station. However, Sabrina reports that it was not easy being the first female to hold the position. She remembers experiencing a lot of discrimination because of her gender.



Sabrina has now worked her way through every **rank** in the fire service. She currently works as a Chief Fire Officer, which means that she is responsible for managing serious incidents and she makes the decisions that keep many other people safe. As part of her work, Sabrina tries to inspire other girls to become firefighters.



## Lifelong Learning

While she was working as a firefighter, Sabrina completed a bachelor's degree in **psychology** in her spare time. She is so interested in the subject that she continued her studies by completing a PhD at Cardiff University.

Sabrina was fascinated by how firefighters make urgent and important decisions in difficult circumstances. She conducted a study in which she attached cameras to the helmets of commanders who were attending fires. She watched the videos that had been recorded so that she could try to understand how they make choices.

By doing this, Sabrina found out that the **guidance** that firefighters were working with was not suitable for the way that they actually make decisions. She used this information to set up a new way of working called the 'decision control process'. When it was put in place, the system that Sabrina created made commanders up to five times more aware of what they were dealing with at the scene of the fire. This hugely reduced the number of errors that commanders made and Sabrina has won many awards for her research.

## Decision Control Process

The decision control process that Sabrina created is based on three important questions:

1. What is my goal?
2. What do I expect to happen?
3. Are the benefits of my action greater than the risks?

In 2015, the decision control process was included in national guidelines for the UK. Since then, Sabrina has worked with fire commanders around the world to reduce human error and increase firefighter safety.

### Glossary

**guidance:** Advice or information given to someone, usually to help them to solve a problem.

**psychology:** The study of the human mind and how people think and behave.

**rank:** A position within an organisation that holds a certain level of responsibility or status.



# Questions

1. **However, Sabrina reports that it was not easy being the first female to hold the position.**

How else could the author have written this sentence? Tick one.

- It was untrue that Sabrina was the first female firefighter.
- It was likely that Sabrina found the job easy.
- It was difficult for Sabrina to be the first female firefighter.
- Sabrina had to hold many objects while at work.

2. Number the achievements from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in Sabrina's life.

- She achieved excellent grades in her GCSEs.
- Sabrina has worked with fire commanders around the world.
- She conducted a study in which she attached cameras to the helmets of commanders.
- She became the first female firefighter at her local station.

3. Fill in the missing words.

Sabrina has now worked her way through every \_\_\_\_\_ in the fire \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Look at the section **Early Life**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'deserted'.

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5. In which section can the reader find information about the beginning of Sabrina's career?

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6. Predict what you think Sabrina Cohen-Hatton will do over the next 10 years.

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7. Using the information in the section **Becoming a Firefighter**, comment on how Sabrina was different from the firefighters who had worked at her local station before her.

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8. Do you have to read this text in the order that it is written in? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. **However, Sabrina reports that it was not easy being the first female to hold the position.**

How else could the author have written this sentence? Tick one.

- It was untrue that Sabrina was the first female firefighter.
- It was likely that Sabrina found the job easy.
- It was difficult for Sabrina to be the first female firefighter.**
- Sabrina had to hold many objects while at work.

2. Number the achievements from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in Sabrina's life.

- 1** She achieved excellent grades in her GCSEs.
- 4** Sabrina has worked with fire commanders around the world.
- 3** She conducted a study in which she attached cameras to the helmets of commanders.
- 2** She became the first female firefighter at her local station.

3. Fill in the missing words.

Sabrina has now worked her way through every **rank** in the fire **service**.

4. Look at the section **Early Life**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'deserted'.

**abandoned**

5. In which section can the reader find information about the beginning of Sabrina's career?

**The reader can find information about the beginning of Sabrina's career in the section called Becoming a Firefighter.**

6. Predict what you think Sabrina Cohen-Hatton will do over the next 10 years.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict that Sabrina will study more about how firefighters think and use what she has learnt to do more work on improving firefighter safety.**

7. Do you have to read this text in the order that it is written in? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Sabrina was different from the firefighters who had worked at her local station before her because she was the first female firefighter to work there and she faced a lot of discrimination because of this.**

8. Do you have to read this text in the order that it is written in? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: No, you do not have to read the text in the order that it is written because the sub-headings help you to find the information that you want to read and you do not have to start from the beginning.**