

Psychology - for students who are 16-17 years old

Course introduction

Course objectives

- To gain a better understanding of some of the aspects of human behaviour
- To appreciate the intricacies of social behaviour and its impacts
- To explore empathy and all that it entail
- To apply understanding to case studies and examples

Each topic will include a mixture of didactic or learning-assisted content (video, text, powerpoint) and self-directed learning activities to complete.

Topic titles

1. What is special about social intelligence and social skills?
2. The good and the bad news about empathy.
3. Trust and mistrust.
4. Co-operation, altruism and spite.

Independent project work

This piece of work will combine all of the content covered in the course. Information covered during independent study, webinars and tutorials has been designed to help students achieve solid theoretical background knowledge coupled with data analysis and presentation skills.

Students will either choose from a list of suggestions or identify a situation that illustrates some of the kinds of human social behaviour that this course is about. It could be something current, such as a response to a pandemic, or it could be from history. It could even be an imagined situation in the future – perhaps a change society in some way and think about how people respond.

Students could choose a situation in your local community or across the world. Once they have chosen a situation they will write a report for the general reader using what they have learnt on this course to explain or suggest what is happening and why. While there is room for your own voice and opinions, you will also support reasoning with research evidence from the course materials.