



CAMBRIDGE

International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™ Psychology 0266

Lesson 3: Prosocial behaviour 3.2 Biological explanation

Learning objective	To gain knowledge and understanding of the biological explanation for prosocial behaviour
Lesson objectives	By the end of the lesson, learners will be able to: • Define what is meant by neurotransmitters • Explain the function of the neurotransmitter serotonin in prosocial behaviour • Explain the function of the hormone oxytocin in prosocial behaviour • Apply knowledge of the role of neurotransmitters and hormones in prosocial behaviour to novel scenarios
Vocabulary	Neurotransmitters: chemical signals produced by a nerve cell and released to the target cell. Hormones: chemical substances, produced and released by a gland and carried in the bloodstream, which alters the activity of one or more specific target cells.
Previous learning	Learners have studied key concepts in prosocial behaviour, including the types of prosocial behaviour, how prosocial behaviour changes with age, and the role of individual and situational factors. Learners will be able to define the term 'hormone' from previous study of Topic 2: Sleep and dreams.

Plan

Activities		Resources
Beginning (5 mins)	Ask learner to complete the starter activity to refresh themselves on what is meant by 'hormones'	Neurotransmitter video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhowH0kb7n0
Middle (50 mins)	• Remind learners of the definition of hormones from Topic 2: Sleep and dreams. • Share the key term definition of hormones with the class and explain the role of oxytocin in prosocial behaviour. • Ask learners to work in in pairs to sort the scenarios into those which increase or decrease oxytocin.	

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- Learners share any previous knowledge and understanding about neurotransmitters.
- Ask learners to create a diagram in their notes based on the video. Replay sections of the video to help learners complete their diagrams if necessary.
- Share the key term definition of neurotransmitters with the class and explain the role of serotonin in prosocial behaviour.

End (5 mins)

Learners research the effects of levels of serotonin on prosocial behaviour and capture this information in their notes.

Reflection and evaluation

Reflection:

Summary evaluation:

What two things went really well? (Consider both teaching and learning.)

1.

2.

What two things would have improved the lesson? (Consider both teaching and learning.)

1.

2.

What have I learned from this lesson about the class or individuals that will inform my next lesson?

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