

Why do Human Beings do Good Things?

Carlos Ramirez, a white man originally from Madrid in Spain, was standing on a subway platform in New York, when a young black man nearby had an epileptic seizure and rolled on to the track.

Hearing a train coming, whilst many American bystanders stood by doing nothing, Carlos impulsively jumped down to try to save the young man, only to realise that the train was approaching too fast.

At great risk to himself, Carlos jumped on top of the young man's body and pushed him down into a drainage ditch between the tracks. The train operator saw them, but it was too late to stop: five cars of the train passed over their bodies. Neither of them were injured but because he was delayed, Carlos missed an important job interview.

When asked why he had done it, Carlos said, 'I just saw someone who needed help. I did what I felt was right.' A great example of altruism.

1. From Piliavin et al.'s (1969) Subway Samaritan study, **outline** what 'diffusion of responsibility' means and **how** it relates to this article. **(3)**
2. From Levine et al.'s (2001) study of cross-cultural altruism, **outline** what 'simpatia' means and **how** it relates to this article. **(3)**
3. **Explain how** this article relates to the social area of psychology. **Support** your answer with evidence from the article. **(4)**
4. **Outline** the results from Piliavin et al.'s (1969) Subway Samaritan study and **briefly explain how** these results may relate to the article. **Support** your answer with evidence from the article. **(7)**
5. (a) **Using** your psychological knowledge, **suggest** and **explain** at least two ways in which individuals may be encouraged to help others from diverse social and cultural backgrounds. **(8)**
(b) **Evaluate** the suggestions you have made in part (a) **using** your knowledge of psychology. **(10)**

