**Essay Titles for NST Part II Adolescence**

**General essay titles:**

* What can neuroimaging techniques tell us about the development of social cognition?
* How might adolescent brain development contribute to social and emotional behaviour at this time of life?
* Are adolescents more socially influenced by their peers?
* To what extent does brain development influence adolescent behaviour?
* How does the onset of puberty impact brain development?
* Why do most mental health problems first appear in adolescence?
* Discuss the evidence that social media affects wellbeing in adolescence.

Lecture 1

Lecture 2

Lecture 3

Lecture 4

* How might adolescent brain development contribute to social and emotional behaviour at this time of life?
* Mentalising abilities are fully developed by the age of 5 years. Discuss.
* How does puberty play a role in social brain development?
* What is neuroplasticity? How might it influence social brain development?
* What changes in social behavior occur during this period?
* How might we know if adolescence is a sensitive period for social development? What evidence would suggest this?
* Why might mental and neural “flexibility” during adolescence be important?
* How might the social context influence adolescent brain and behavior development?

Lecture 5

Lecture 6

* What are the mental health conditions that are common among adolescents and what are the risk factors for the onset and persistence of these conditions during adolescence?
* Why is adolescence a peak time for the onset of several mental health conditions?
* What is the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of adolescents?
* Have outcomes for the mental health of adolescents changed over time?
* What is the relationship between mental health and educational attainment in adolescence?

Lecture 7

* Is adolescence special?
* Are there cross-cultural differences in adolescence?
* Is adolescence universal?
* What characteristics of adolescence are general across species and what are unique to humans?
* What is the function of extended adolescence?

Lecture 8

* What adolescent-specific or adolescent-emergent changes in self-control occur during this period?
* Why do you think society has negative stereotypes of adolescents? Are these stereotypes supported by the evidence?
* Describe and discuss the models of adolescent risk taking.