

## Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners: course outcomes survey

### A successful result: rated 4.5 out of 5 overall

The 12 attendees of a course run at U3A (University of the Third Age) in Bournemouth were surveyed to gauge their perceptions of the teaching quality, learning outcomes and benefits of the course.

### How the survey was conducted

At the end of the course, each attendee was issued with a feedback form and a stamped addressed envelope. They were asked to return their completed forms anonymously (to reduce bias) after a period of time for reflection.

The form consisted of a set of statements about the course. The attendees indicated how strongly they agreed with each statement using the following attitudinal scale:

1 Strongly disagree    2 Disagree    3 Neutral    4 Agree    5 Strongly agree

### Survey results

The table of results shows the average response for the group arrived at by aggregating the responses of each individual:

| Sections                         | Statements  | Average     |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Teaching and materials           | The topics in the course were clearly explained               | 4.83        |
|                                  | I was able to get answers to my questions during the sessions | 4.67        |
|                                  | The theory and exercises were at the right level for me       | 4.25        |
|                                  | The course sheets provided were useful                        | 4.83        |
| Learning outcomes                | I understand how the clues in cryptic crosswords work         | 4.08        |
|                                  | I have acquired skills that help me solve cryptic crosswords  | 4.33        |
|                                  | I know how to develop my cryptic crossword skills further     | 4.17        |
|                                  | The course has met my expectations                            | 4.58        |
| The benefits of doing the course | I enjoyed doing the course                                    | 4.58        |
|                                  | I found the course interesting                                | 4.58        |
|                                  | Doing the course has contributed to my personal development   | 4.08        |
|                                  | I intend to continue doing cryptic crosswords                 | 4.58        |
| <b>Overall average</b>           |   | <b>4.47</b> |

The average response for each statement was midway between “Agree” and “Strongly agree”

### Conclusions

The results show that the attendees rated the course very positively across all the aspects that were measured.