

Potential Misdiagnoses with (high) Giftedness

Character Trait	Challenge	Diagnosis
Fast and complex thinking	Boredom, underexertion	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, depression, narcissistic PD
High logical and analytical abilities	Making things too complex, inability to accept illogical matters	ADHD, Asperger's syndrome, compulsive behavior, narcissistic PD
Visual and spatial style of learning and thinking	Seemingly chaotic	ADHD
Intense concentration skills, long attention span, stamina	Unresponsiveness, daydreaming, fixation	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, depression, social phobia, low IQ, schizoid personality disorder (PD), avoidant PD
Tendency to imagination	Pathologization	Schizophrenia, narcissistic PD
Searching for patterns	Compulsiveness, dogmatism	Asperger's syndrome, dysfunctional social behavior, compulsion, anxiety disorder, compulsive PD, narcissistic PD
Divergent thinking/ creativity	Being misunderstood, rejection	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, borderline PD, oppositional PD, narcissistic PD
Very good memory	Impatience, rejection of routine	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, narcissistic PD
Little need for practice/exercise	Lack of acquiring basic skills and learning strategies	ADHD, narcissistic PD
Linguistic abilities	Humor, seems like a know-it-all, dominance	Dysfunctional social behavior
Critical thinking	Demystification, uncomfortable questions	ADHD, Asperger's syndrome, dysfunctional social behavior, depression, anxiety disorder, oppositional PD, narcissistic PD

Potential Misdiagnosis with (high) Giftedness

Character Trait	Challenge	Diagnosis
Thirst for knowledge, varied interests	Inappropriately high expectations of oneself and others	Dysfunctional social behavior, compulsion, narcissistic PD
Intrinsic motivation	Perfectionism	Compulsion, Avoidant PD, narcissistic PD
Openness	Unconventionality	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, oppositional PD, narcissistic PD
Independence	Nonconformity	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, schizoid PD, oppositional PD, narcissistic PD
Need for input	Finding the right stimulus dosage	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, mania, addiction, borderline PD, narcissistic PD
High energy level	Overexerting the environment	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, mania, borderline PD, narcissistic PD
High Sensitivity	Regulating emotions	ADHD, Asperger's syndrome, dysfunctional social behavior, anxiety disorders, hypochondria, psychosomatic disorders, schizophrenia, schizoid PD, compulsive PD, avoidant PD, narcissistic PD
Intense emotionality	Social difficulties	ADHD, dysfunctional social behavior, depression, anxiety disorders, borderline PD, oppositional PD, avoidant PD, narcissistic PD, PTSD
Strong sense of justice	Difficulty to approach things in a practical manner	Asperger's syndrome, compulsion, oppositional PD, compulsive PD, narcissistic PD
Feeling of being different	Loneliness	Social phobia, Asperger's syndrome, avoidant PD, schizoid PD, oppositional PD, narcissistic PD

Frequent Dual Diagnoses with (high) Giftedness

The specific dynamics of giftedness can lead to the following clinical pictures:

ADHD

Dysfunction of Social Behavior/ Emotions

Depression

Anxiety Disorders

Social Phobia

Psychosomatic Disorders

Addictions

Personality Disorders:

Borderline

Oppositional

Avoidant

Narcissistic

In these cases, though the diagnosis will be correct, it is highly correlated to giftedness. Treatment will only be successful, if it addresses and finds solutions for the specific challenges of giftedness. A mere implementation of classic therapies for the respective disorder, following the treatment manual, will have no, or very limited, positive effect.