

## Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

### Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee:	<b>Jenny Meegan</b>
Interviewed by:	<b>Paddy</b>
Date of interview:	<b>26/11/2012</b>

#### **Important**

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

In some cases, interviewees may have made changes to the transcript.

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**Clip title:** I hope you don't think I believe this!

**Duration:** 00:01:49

**Clip start point in full interview:** 00:16:24

**Clip end point in full interview:** 00:18:13

**Interview identifier:** 064\_T\_01

**Description:** Jenny Meegan, interviewed by a former student, describes the challenges of tutoring students on D102, (Social Sciences: A Foundation Course) in the mid-1980s in the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison)

**Transcript:**

*There was a lot of learning to do. And what about, were there some areas that you found particularly difficult in teaching?*

I don't think so. In D102 [Social Sciences: A Foundation Course] in the very first year, people had to write an essay, I think it was for the Psychology block, where they related something to their own experience and sometimes that was a bit difficult because people would be writing about life in the prison from a very frank point of view and I would have to be marking this as an academic piece of work and everything was censored, you know, everything as you know and you would have to mark it and make the sort of comments which were academic comments and knowing that this, I mean, sometimes it was a little delicate but it was alright. No. it was an academic course, sometimes it was difficult, I mean at the beginning, sometimes it was difficult with the Republicans to get them to put a fair view of the Liberal view of the state and that was quite a battle and with the Loyalists, some of them to get and to put the Marxist view of the state. I think that in about my second or third year, I got the best essay I had read on Marxism from a Loyalist and the best essay I had read on Liberalism from a Republican, now at that point I began to think maybe this course, you know, though I must admit on one of them there was a little star, saying "Jenny I hope you don't think I believe this".