

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: **Martina Anderson**

Interviewed by: **Joanna McMinn**

Date of interview: **08/09/2011**

Important

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Clip title: Starting Open University study

Duration: 00:01:42

Clip start point in full interview: 00:09:50

Clip end point in full interview: 00:11:33

Denis had been given the authorisation from the prison establishment to come in an hour earlier and take me through the Government and Politics in A level because that is what he taught because he was a teacher, and Denis took me through that and I just loved it, I really, really loved it and there was course work and there was an exam and I got an A on both. And he wanted me then to do a foundation course [Open University first year course] with the OU, which I just thought was the biggest giant step of mankind, it was like going on the moon, [laughs] those people, little old me to even think or countenance going into a university world, even though I wasn't going into the physical environment, I mean, I wasn't the person that would have got an OU, I wouldn't have gone near a university, that wasn't my pathway in life, so after much encouragement from Denis and from Ella, he says look, try the foundation course, and we will be here to help you through it if there is any help you need, with it, so nervous as I was I took a deep breath and started the foundation course and just loved that whole environment of sort of studying, thinking and applying sort of what I was learning and fighting the times with even the structure of the essay and all of that. [00:11:33]