

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: **Student A**
Interviewed by: **Joanna McMinn**
Date of interview: **17/10/2011**

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.

Personal/sensitive information regarding individuals who may be living has been removed from transcripts where necessary.

Copyright and Permissions

Rights owned or controlled by The Open University.

All use of this transcript in part or in full requires prior permission from The Open University Archive.

Please contact university-archive@open.ac.uk to discuss possible use of the content.

Student A Clip

Clip title: Obstacles to study

Duration: 00:01:16

Clip start point in full interview: 00:02:03

Clip end point in full interview: 00:03:18

Interview identifier: 039_S_01

Description:

Student A describes the conditions, support and some resentment towards Open University study in the Official IRA Cages (Compounds of The Maze/Long Kesh Prison) and the impact of security restrictions in the early 1980s.

Transcript:

Right okay, and then you started with the OU then, was that obligatory to do the other courses first?

No I don't think it was though, I think they wanted to know that you were committed to the course before the actual prison would pay, but I think they knew the sort of people in the Cages that we were anyway, so, as a matter of fact half the time they didn't give us the courses.

Okay, so what kind of support was there then for doing education in the Cages?

There was support internally, it was encouraged within the Cage to actually take part in education courses that was encouraged. There would have been obstacles in terms of you know, I don't think that the prison was that happy with them, like the idea of prisoners being smarter than the jailers, they didn't like that idea at all. Well support, mainly, there was an education officer, there, prison education officer, there was, I would say he was fairly helpful, fairly useful in getting you the resources that you needed, but usually the sort of security was the blanket ban for everything.

Right, yes.

You know, I mean, they would cite security as why you couldn't get something, or do something or whatever.