

This Student Life – Series 2

EPISODE 17

Dur: 07:09

Music – dur: 00:15

EPISODE 17 SCENE 1 – SOPHIE'S BOX ARRIVES

Opening box and unpacking materials.

SOPHIE:

Right. Here it is. My first box from the OU. Shall I open it?

NEESHA:

Oh, I remember getting my first box.

SOPHIE:

First box? You've only had the one.

NEESHA:

Yeah, well I remember how exciting it all was.

SOPHIE:

There is that, but it's very complicated.

NEESHA:

What do you mean?

SOPHIE:

Well, I don't know what to do with it all.

NEESHA:

Um. Put it on your desk and then get the bits out you need as you go.

SOPHIE:

Really? Oh but you're so disorganised, Neesha. I've printed out these planners for each week see, and then I can tick all the bits off as I go along.

NEESHA:

Wow, that is organised.

SOPHIE:

And I'm going to colour code all my highlighting and then at the end of each chapter I'm going to make a mind map.

NEESHA:

Great. I'll steal yours then.

SOPHIE:

What for?

NEESHA:

Oh, yeah. I don't really know. Well why are you doing one then? It's just odd we're doing the same course that's all.

SOPHIE:

But you're 6 months ahead of me. I'll catch up though, I'm going to do another course starting in October, and that way we'll be at the same point.

NEESHA:

Oh. Well I hadn't really thought of that.

SOPHIE:

Yep, it's best to speak to the advisers and they can talk to you about your best options.

NEESHA:

You're such a girly swat. I suppose you would be a good study buddy though.

SOPHIE:

I'm not a swat. It's just that I'm taking this seriously, unlike last time round at uni where I just got trashed the whole time.

NEESHA:

You. Never? Funny how it all changes. This time 3 months ago it was all boys boys boys.

SOPHIE:

Yeah. Well they aren't all they cracked up to be, are they?

NEESHA:

Speak for yourself. I'm still keeping my options open.

SOPHIE:

And, you've discussed that with your Mum have you?

EPISODE 17, SCENE 2 – DONNA: AND LOUISE: DO THEIR TMAS

Quiet in the kitchen. Its late at night.

DONNA:

Okay. Right, one hour and then we have that box of chocolates with a coffee for a break.

LOUISE:

Mmmm. Okay, Mum. You do know how to motivate. "Explore the view that a consumer society produces winners and losers".

DONNA:

My tutor says that you need to do short and concerted bursts of study and take regular breaks.

LOUISE:

Well, in the absence of any other plans I'm going to give that a try, especially the bit about regular breaks. What about a short break now?

DONNA:

Let's just do a bit more first. Anyway, I've got to identify some shortcomings in this Milgram experiment.

LOUISE:

What's that about? Sounds a lot more interesting than mine.

DONNA:

(laughs) You always say that, Louise. Okay, well, this guy Milgram, he did this experiment where he set up this thing to give people electric shocks, and he told people that they had to administer this dose of electricity even though it got to a point of being fatal.

LOUISE:

Holy Moley. And did he go to prison?

DONNA:

(*laughs*) No. It was an experiment. It had all been approved, and he claimed to be investigating obedience to authority.

LOUISE:

Well, I don't know what's so clever about that. Clearly that wouldn't have shown anything, because nobody would deliberately kill another person just because a person in a white coat told them to.

DONNA:

Actually, most of the people did give lethal doses of electricity because they felt that they should.

LOUISE:

Well, I wouldn't of.

DONNA:

How can you be so sure? We often do things like paying taxes, or our TV licence and other things because we feel that we should.

LOUISE:

Don't get me started on the TV licence.

DONNA:

Well, you know, if people can do these things then what could we have done if we'd been in Nazi Germany?

LOUISE:

Mum, that's a ridiculous thing to say.

DONNA:

I'm just saying that if it can be shown that normal people will obey bad orders, what does that mean about free will and how much agency we have?

LOUISE:

Agency? Mum, you shouldn't think too much about all this stuff. No wonder you get down.

DONNA:

Oh well, actually it's what keeps me sane.

LOUISE:

If that's sanity, I think I'll go back to defining the terms on my TMA. Even better, why don't we have that break now?

EPISODE 17, SCENE 3

Sounds of a keyboard being tapped. A door opens.

DAVE:

Okay, Harry. How's it going?

JACK:

Are you drunk again? You know, you're not going to live till you're 40.

DAVE:

Forty what?

JACK:

Forty years, Dave, years.

DAVE:

How's your head now? You know, after that little accident.

JACK:

I'm fine now Dave. It was only a few books.

DAVE:

Oh good. No hard feelings then. Hey, a nice cup of tea wouldn't go amiss, matey. What's this then 'Politics and Power in the UK'? Mmm, looks interesting.

JACK:

Here you are, a nice strong cup of tea. What are you doing with my book?

DAVE:

Well, reading it. I agree with this.

JACK:

What?

DAVE:

What they say here about how politics is all a process of determining who gets what, when, how and why.

JACK:

Really?

DAVE:

Yeah. You know what they say – it's the rich wot gets the pleasure and the poor wot gets the blame.

JACK:

It's not really about class Dave.

DAVE:

Well it ought to be. It's all very well all this stuff here about free and fair elections. Right, yeah, fair enough and all that, but let's face it, if voting changed anything they'd just abolish it, wouldn't they?

JACK:

But that's precisely why they need checks and balances. See, what they say in the book is that the state isn't neutral, but it isn't necessarily partisan either. In my essay I've got to talk about how much power the Prime Minister has.

DAVE:

Loads, I reckon. Any chance you could get us a biscuit to go with this?

JACK:

Oh yeah, of course. Well, the thing is that our Prime Minister is not like the US President. Here you are – custard creams your favourite.

DAVE:

You're like a son to me you know that, Jack.

JACK:

What are you on about?

DAVE:

No, no, no, nothing. Just ignore me. So has the PM got this absolute power then or not?

JACK:

No, of course not. We don't live in an authoritarian state, thankfully. Parliament is supposed to be the

supreme decision-making body, not one person. Britain is what's called a centralised, unitary political state.

DAVE:

Britain? What about Scotland and Wales then?

JACK:

Well, obviously things have changed a bit. But the principle is that in countries like Britain you, as a citizen, have as much right to choose your government as the next person. That's because although power is largely centralised, it's not absolute.

DAVE:

(Sounds of snoring)

JACK:

Oh, right. So I take it you don't want to know the answer to my TMA then. Perhaps I should just go back to writing it.

Keyboard and snoring sounds. Fade out.

Music – duration: 00:06