

SECTION 3

TUTOR: Ah Caroline ... come on in. Sit down.

CAROLINE: Thanks.

TUTOR: So how's the dissertation planning going?

CAROLINE: Well Dr Schulmann, I'm still having a lot of trouble deciding on a title.

TUTOR: Well, that's perfectly normal at this stage. And this is what your tutorials will help you to do.

CAROLINE: Right.

TUTOR: What we'll do is jot down some points that might help you in your decision. First of all, you have chosen your general topic area, haven't you?

CAROLINE: Yes, it's **the fishing industry.** **Q21**

TUTOR: Oh yes, that was one of the areas you mentioned. Now, what aspects of the course are you good at?

CAROLINE: Well, **I think I'm coping well with statistics,** **Q22**
and I'm never bored by it.

TUTOR: Good. Anything else?

CAROLINE: Well, I found computer modelling fascinating - I have no problem following what's being taught, whereas quite a few of my classmates find it difficult.

TUTOR: Well, that's very good. Do you think these might be areas you could bring into your dissertation?

CAROLINE: Oh yes, if possible. It's just that I'm having difficulty thinking how I can do that. You see I feel I don't have sufficient background information.

TUTOR: I see. Well, do you take notes?

CAROLINE: **I'm very weak at note-taking.** **Q23**
My teachers always used to say that.

TUTOR: Well, I think you really need to work on these weaknesses before you go any further.

CAROLINE: What do you suggest?

TUTOR: Well, I can go through the possible strategies with you and let you decide where to go from there.

CAROLINE: Okay, thanks.

TUTOR: Well, some people find it helpful to organise peer-group discussions - you know, each week a different person studies a different topic and shares it with the group.

CAROLINE: Oh right.

TUTOR: **It really helps build confidence,** you know, having to present **Q24**
something to others.

CAROLINE: I can see that.

TUTOR: **The drawback is that everyone in the group seems to share the same ideas ...**

They keep being repeated in all the dissertations. **Q25**

CAROLINE: Okay.

TUTOR: **You could also try a service called 'Student Support'.** **Q26**
It's designed to give you a structured programme over a number of weeks to develop your skills.

CAROLINE: Sounds good.

TUTOR: Yes, **unfortunately there are only a few places.** **Q27**
But it's worth looking into.

CAROLINE: Yes, of course. I know I've got to work on my study skills.

TUTOR: And then there are several study skills books you can consult.

CAROLINE: Right.

TUTOR: They'll be a good source of reference but **the problem is they are sometimes too general.** **Q28**

CAROLINE: Yes, that's what I've found.

TUTOR: Other than that I would strongly advise quite simple ideas like using a card index.

CAROLINE: Well, yes, I've never done that before.

TUTOR: It's simple, but it really works because you have to get points down in a small space. Another thing I always advise is don't just take your notes and forget about them. **Read everything three times –** **Q29**
that'll really fix them in your mind.

CAROLINE: Yes, I can see it'd take discipline but...

TUTOR: Well, if you establish good study skills at this stage they'll be with you all your life.

CAROLINE: Oh yes, I completely agree. It's just that I don't seem to be able to discipline myself. I need to talk things over.

TUTOR: Well, we'll be continuing these tutorials of course. Let's arrange next month's now. Let's see, I can see you virtually any time during the week starting 22nd January.

CAROLINE: What about the 24th? I'm free in the afternoon.

TUTOR: Sorry, I'm booked then. What about the following day?

CAROLINE: Thursday? I can make the morning.

TUTOR: Fine, **we'll go for the 25 - then.** **Q30**

CAROLINE: That's great, thanks.