

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 <u>the fishing industry</u> .	Q21
TUTOR:	Oh yes, that was one of the areas you mentioned. Now, what aspects of the course are you good at?	
CAROLINE:	Well, <u>I think I'm coping well with statistics</u> , and I'm never bored by it.	Q22
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:	<u>I'm very weak at note-taking</u> . My teachers always used to say that.	Q23
TUTOR:	Well, I think you really need to work on these weaknesses before you go any further.	
CAROLINE:	What do you suggest?	
<hr/>		
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:	<u>It really helps build confidence</u> , you know, having to present something to others.	Q24
CAROLINE:	I can see that.	
TUTOR:	<u>The drawback is that everyone in the group seems to share the same ideas ... they keep being repeated in all the dissertations.</u>	Q25
CAROLINE:	Okay.	
TUTOR:	<u>You could also try a service called 'Student Support'</u> . It's designed to give you a structured programme over a number of weeks to develop your skills.	Q26
CAROLINE:	Sounds good.	
TUTOR:	Yes, <u>unfortunately there are only a few places</u> . But it's worth looking into.	Q27
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.	

Test 3

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 – that'll really fix them in your mind. Q29

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 25th then. Q30

CAROLINE: That's great, thanks.