

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** Hello, and welcome back. I hope you enjoyed that. It's always nice to see around the library.

Right. We're here for a philosophical boxing match, which is the way that we like to settle things and assess our understanding and knowledge at the Student Hub Live. Sophie, how is everybody doing?

**SOPHIE:** OK, so they're coming down - so I would say, 8 to 1? Yeah, he's coming into the favorite, so, uh -

**KAREN FOLEY:** Sophie!

**SOPHIE:** Sorry! Sorry.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Stop taking bets! How much money have you made so far?

**SOPHIE:** A lot.

[LAUGHING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** You'll be off on holiday again soon, won't you?

[LAUGHING]

Anyway. Something good's got to come out of all of this. How's everybody doing?

**SOPHIE:** Yeah, everybody's doing really well. I think they're excited for the boxing match. We've had loads and loads of selfies and pictures in study spaces.

Cute little cats. I do like it. I do like me a cat. This is from Holly.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Let's see the selfies, quickly.

**SOPHIE:** So we've got this one here. This is from Kate Withers. She's ready for her start on October the 1st.

And we've got some drawings as well. These are amazing. And these are to go with the hunt booklet, which Angie Robinson's looking to get.

So there's quite a few little things going. A couple more study buddies. We've got, where have I gone, there he is.

He looks so cute and cuddled up in bed. I'd love to be somewhere like that. That's Deborah Jane.

So yeah, loads of nice little study spaces coming in. Everyone's really excited for the boxing match. So we'll see how well I've done in a bit now.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Good! Excellent! OK, so this is how it's going to work, right?

We have HJ and Sean Cordell from the philosophy department. Right. You have both been watching the Student Hub Live.

And now what we're going to do is we're going to, in turn, ask questions to each other, which I'm going to time. And the audience are going to say, at the end of each round, who has answered the questions best, OK? So how well did people answer the questions, on a scale of 1 to 10, all right?

And then somehow, we're going to find out who the winner was. It's probably not going to be the most scientific process. But this is a boxing match.

Right. So without further ado, we're going to set up for studies. So HJ is going to first ask Sean some questions. We're going to go through as many as we can within the time limit.

I will call the shots. Clean fighting, gentlemen, please. Right.

Round one. Navigating the virtual learning environment. Go.

**HJ:** OK, so what was Georgina's top tip to remember getting to know the online learning environment?

**SEAN CORDELL:** You can't break anything. You go online, you're not going to crash it or anything like that. And it's a place to explore and look around.

**HJ:** And what are the main resources you can find on a virtual learning environment?

**SEAN CORDELL:** Student homepage, module information. Any forums that might be up there. Access to OU Live. Next question.

[LAUGHING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** You'll get scored down for that. Quick, quickly. You've got your time.

**HJ:** Name any good things you can do before you start your module on the VLE.

**SEAN CORDELL:** You can say hello to your tutor there or other students you can get to know. A good thing to do is actually submit a dummy TMA so you're familiar with the system. So you're not panicking when it actually gets to the real TMA, and you think you're missing a deadline. So have a bit of practise.

You can access your module materials, of course. Nowadays, usually it's PDFs, books. Even if you do get them hard copy, they're usually on there too.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Next! Quickly, get one more!

**HJ:** Oh! One more then. Like I am now, is it normal to feel nervous, anxious, and some panic?

**SEAN CORDELL:** In here, or on the?

[LAUGHING]

**HJ:** Well, perhaps as a student, maybe more here.

**SEAN CORDELL:** Yeah. It's totally normal.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Stop! Right. OK. That was Sean's round.

How well do you think Sean did in answering those questions? So we would like you to fill in on your widget, if you're in the watch-only, how well you think he did, OK? And then we'll find out the answers to that.

It is quite difficult, isn't it? Having a boxing match. And our students are worried about a TMA. I mean, you guys, fair play. This is a lot more stressful, I think we'll agree.

[LAUGHING]

**SEAN CORDELL:** I don't know about that.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Right. Let's see what Sophie's doing. How are the bets going, Sophie?

**SOPHIE:** They're going quite well. Everyone seems to be very involved. We're having some nice conversations, a lot about the artwork and things I showed as well. People are happy with the, the big cats and things.

So yes. Fingers crossed. We're hoping for a good little match.

But lots of people have been very happy with the Student Hub Live this week. They're really happy that they've all happened. You know, they're good for getting back into the OU mindset and back into study, and things like that. It seems like we've done a really good job, and people are feeling a little bit more at ease at the moment, which is nice.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Excellent, Sophie. Thank you. Don't worry, Sean.

I'm sorry. We had some problems with your microphone, and I'm really sorry about that. I think it was HJ tampering with the thing.

And I think that could have impacted on your score, Sean. (LAUGHING) I think it's foul play, and don't do it again! Right. Don't worry. Your turn next. OK.

Managing your digital material. Round two, Sean to HJ.

**SEAN CORDELL:** All right first question, did you -

**KAREN FOLEY:** Go!

**SEAN CORDELL:** Did you nobble my microphone? No that's a good one.

**HJ:** No comment.

**SEAN CORDELL:** Actual question, OK. So what are some of the benefits of using social networking sites while studying?

**HJ:** Interacting with other students, like we are now and keeping up to date with what's happening with your subject area.

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK, good. What do we mean by digital presence or digital footprint?

**HJ:** Digital presence is like where you are online. So what other people see of you online.

Digital footprint is what you leave online. So blog posts, pictures of nights out that you'd rather not be on there. [LAUGHING] Perhaps.

**SEAN CORDELL:** Yes. How can you keep up-to-date with your subject via social media? How do you benefit from that?

**HJ:** Oh! So keeping up with Facebook pages, so social sciences Facebook pages. A lot of OU groups do.

Twitter's a good one, following some of the OU academics, and Student Hub Live as well.

[LAUGHING]

So there's lots of different ways you can follow different groups and different blogs and things like that.

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK. And Helen had some top online employability tips. What were they?

**HJ:** Oh! I think she said you need to watch what you're putting online, so employers don't see those nights out. So you've got to, like, curate your profile, I think the word she used.

And kind of separate out your personal and professional. So you might have a personal and professional Twitter and LinkedIn, and all those sorts of things.

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK, good. OK, Helen thought you should keep certain things in mind when deciding to use online social tools while studying. What are they? Certain things to keep in mind.

**HJ:** Oh! Oh, I don't know!

**KAREN FOLEY:** You're out of time! Aw!

[LAUGHING]

**SEAN CORDELL:** Saved.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Well done. We've covered a lot!

**SEAN CORDELL:** Yeah.

[LAUGHING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** I didn't realise it was all so sensible. In between all of the microwaving, the popcorn, the tea, the cakes.

**HJ:** We actually learnt something.

**KAREN FOLEY:** We did, we did. How well, Sophie, did people think that HJ did?

**SOPHIE:** Very well.

**KAREN FOLEY:** And do they think he tampered with the microphones?

**SOPHIE:** They're very impressed. I think there was a little bit of ambiguity about what happened with the microphones there. I'm not sure they're so trusting anymore. But yeah, no, they're very impressed with how HJ did. Definitely.

**KAREN FOLEY:** And does that impact, then, on your betting?

**SOPHIE:** I've done very well. I don't care to say how well, but - [LAUGHING]

If I'm not here next week, it'll be cardboard cut out Sophie.

[LAUGHING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** Yes. We - cardboard cut out was quite fun. OK. So that's good.

So can we see in terms of what people are saying in terms of their votes for how well HJ did?  
Is the widget's help there that they can vote on?

**SOPHIE:** Oh, no. No. Or I don't have access to it.

**KAREN FOLEY:** It's probably HJ. Removing it! He's got all sorts of technical capabilities.

Although you can fix my computer, so I won't be too difficult. Right. OK, let's go now to session three.

OK. HJ is going to talk to Sean. And this time, we're going to ask you to vote, and we'll feed that in. Because

I think the first one was a warm-up, all right? Now we're going to score. From now on in. OK?  
Don't look so scared.

[LAUGHING]

**SEAN CORDELL:** Terrified.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Right, OK. Round three. Time management.

This is Susanne Schwenzer's session. Yes, time management. OK, I've got to do the start thing. Otherwise, it doesn't work. Right, ready, go!

**HJ:** OK, so what's one thing Susanne thinks we should remember about time management?

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK, that it seems obvious and we'll be able to do it. And it's not obvious, and it's not easy. And you should plan it and think about what's going to work best for you, very important.

**HJ:** And what were Susanne's main strategies for time management?

**SEAN CORDELL:** Prioritize the tasks. Get some of the boring ones and some of the sort of, you know, technical ones and mundane ones out of the way first. And then look at what needs doing. And put them in order.

**HJ:** And Susanne suggested some tools we might use to time manage. Can you name some of them?

**SEAN CORDELL:** There's the obvious, there's the old-school ones, which I use. The wall planners, there's diaries, there's bits of paper, and there's post-it notes. But of course, nowadays, there's all sorts of apps that will remind you when things need doing. There's even slightly old-school Outlook calendar on your -

[LAUGHING]

Oh, that thing -

**KAREN FOLEY:** On the computer!

**SEAN CORDELL:** Yeah! [LAUGHING] On the screen. And again, whatever works for you. There may be different ways of doing it or not. I'm making this bit up. I've run out of things.

**HJ:** OK. Is there anything extra Susanne thinks we should keep in mind while trying to time manage?

**SEAN CORDELL:** Yeah. Always allow a little bit longer than you think, if that makes sense. So the initial task, you might think it's going to take an hour. Allow at least an hour and a half, because contingencies.

Things go wrong, things happen. People get interrupted. And you need space to think as well,

especially you. Think things might take longer than you think to actually work out. You might have new ideas, and so on. So allow some flexibility with your time.

**HJ:** So finally, what does Susanne suggest we do to help motivate us while planning and managing our time?

**SEAN CORDELL:** Keep a record of your achievements and what you've done. What's been successful and what's been not so successful.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Right. Out of time. Thank you. OK, how well did you think Sean did at answering those questions?

I thought you did very well. Susanne is very organised, though. She always puts me to shame. She comes in, and she's got all these lovely lists. And it all seems so sensible.

But let's see what everybody said then, in terms of things. OK! You are doing well, Sean.

You are mainly on the excellent side. A couple of people saying poor. I think that might be Julia.

She's a big fan of HJ's. She said he didn't tamper with the microphones. He's too sweet. He's not, Julia. He may come across like that, but you should have seen the cake he managed to get off the table the other day.

[LAUGHING]

Oops! My spittoon. Right. Yeah, exactly.

**SEAN CORDELL:** Kick the bucket, don't you.

[LAUGHING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** I know, it's all going downhill from here. Right. OK. So that was good.

Next, we've got Sean asking HJ, right? We're doing now round four, Task Planning and What to do First. This was a session with Sharon Davis.

**SEAN CORDELL:** It was. Before starting study, what are some things about ourselves that Sharon thinks we should think about?



**HJ:** So one of the main things is whether you're an owl or lark. So she was saying about finding the best time to study. Just because sometimes we may think we're better, but we're actually not. So it's working that one out.

What skills we may need to work on. I think that was another one. And how we can improve those.

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK. What does Sharon think about when we're deciding where to set up to study?

**HJ:** So uh - what - I'm struggling here. What type of studier we are. So things like do you like ambient noise? Or do you like it dead silent? Do you work better in an area where there's lots of people around, or are you better on your own?

**SEAN CORDELL:** Good. It's good to know where you can find help while you're studying. So at the OU where - give some examples of where you'd look for help and for different kinds of help.

**HJ:** Oh, there's lots of help! So Student Hub is where we answer all your questions, hopefully. Your tutor is one of the main points of calls, Student support team can answer questions about finance and other things you might be struggling with.

You have things like OUSU group, so Disabled Student groups. Study groups. OUSU meetups may help. Talking to other students, that's the main thing. That's going to be my main answer.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Right, you're out of time and across the library and computing help desk. Perfect! All right! Excellent.

Let's see what you thought how well, HJ, I'm going to have to reduce the time, guys. Because we're never going to get through all of this otherwise. Right. How do you think HJ did at answering those questions? Oh! Lots of people think -

[LAUGHING]

Ooh! All right. OK. So now we're going to go to making the most of the online learning environment. Right?

Round five, HJ to Sean. Time starts now.

**HJ:** OK. So what are the key elements of the study planner?

**SEAN CORDELL:** It's a time scale. It's when you need to do what. It's got all its resources you should need on it.

It's got the forums and your module materials, and any podcasts or accompanying materials, too.

**HJ:** So the modules have forums that you can use to collaborate and speak with other students. What are some things that Georgina said we should keep in mind when using them?

**SEAN CORDELL:** That there's always a time lag. They're asynchronous, as we call them. So there's just a gap between when somebody may respond.

Introduce yourself towards the students. There's no such thing as a kind of silly question. I mean, there probably is. But, I know -

[LAUGHING]

**KAREN FOLEY:** No!

**SEAN CORDELL:** But, yes.

**HJ:** I think he's philosophising again!

**KAREN FOLEY:** Oh, don't start! Now, quickly go on to the next one.

**HJ:** OK. So before we think too deeply, Georgina also talked about OU Live tutorials and online tutorials. What are things that we need to remember about those?

**SEAN CORDELL:** OU Live, be aware that you need time to set it up. You need time to get used to the software, the interface, generally. You will get there.

But there's always a bit of, particularly on the first one, there's going to be a bit of time where you're getting used to it. But you can meet other students, just as you would -

**KAREN FOLEY:** Right, and thank you. OK. Lovely.

How did we feel Sean did? That was a good round. Lots to cover in Georgina's session. How well did you think Sean did at home?

Let's see what you had to say. OK, you're still going well. A lot of people thought you were excellent. More people thought you were excellent than just good.

So that's very good on our continuum. That's the most deep you're going to get in terms of

data interpretation, right here, right now. OK.

So next. Sean to HJ -

Making the Most of an Online Environment with Mark Nichols.

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK, so what did Mark mean by online and digital?

**HJ:** Oh, OK. So digital is like the tools you use to get online. So it's an extension of it. And I think, like I'm finding it hard now, he said it's hard to separate them both.

[LAUGHING]

**SEAN CORDELL:** Yeah, that sounds right. OK. What are the three main ways online and digital tools can assist us in learning?

**HJ:** So it's about access to information, processing information, and discussing information.

[LAUGHING]

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK. What tips did Mark have for improving technology skills?

**HJ:** So he said if you are a beginner, try and get the basics set up. So how to use your module websites, and maybe some word processing for getting your assignments.

If you're more advanced, he said play around with the tools you already have for more advanced features. And try out some new stuff as well.

**SEAN CORDELL:** Excellent. What tips did Mark have - sorry. Mark had two sets of skills he thinks everyone needs to study online. So what are they?

**HJ:** Uh, ooh -

**KAREN FOLEY:** End of time! Right, sorry. I have to stop now.

OK. How well did we think HJ did? This was the last question, because we're out of time now, you'll both be very pleased to know.

SO how well did you think HJ did at answering that question? OK. Good. Lots of people saying excellent.

**HJ:** Oh, I didn't even think I did that well.

**KAREN FOLEY:** No, you did. You did very well. This is very difficult.

So now I'd like to ask you at home who you thought the winner was. All right? We need to decide on a winner, and I'm not doing that.

So I think you can have a vote, those of you who are in watch and engage. So let us know who you thought the winner was. And then we can announce them.

I'd also like to know what you thought about our session this week. So do you think a metaphorical boxing match with a philosopher is a better way of doing things than a TMA? I mean, I can tell you right now, it's not going to happen.

But, just as an idea, do you think it's better? Or would you rather go into a TMA? I'd like to know what you - yeah, I know. I've tried.

I'd like to know what you most enjoyed about the boot camp. To what extent you feel ready for studying. And three words to describe your experience of this session.

And while you're doing that, I just want to go to Sophie. How are you doing? Did you win?

**SOPHIE:** Yes. I've done very well. Cleared up, so I'll be off soon! [LAUGHING] But no, yeah.

So everyone's actually been talking about their study space at the moment. And whether they like to study in sort of a quiet environment, or with some music, or things like that. And actually, nobody's mentioned that they'd like the boxing in, on the background, I'm afraid. So it's more of a music, or a quiet - boxing doesn't really work.

But it does look like from the little widget that HJ's done quite well with the boxing. I'll say it that way. It's off in his favour.

**KAREN FOLEY:** Aw. Well, we'll go with the audience consensus and announce HJ the winner. Well done.

I think, you know, just because you've been here, everyone's very fond of you. Don't worry, Sean.

[LAUGHING]

You can come back again next time.

[LAUGHING]

**SEAN CORDELL:** OK.

**KAREN FOLEY:** So thank you very much for watching. I hope you found this session useful. And today, we've had Jonquil Lowe talking about finding, reading, and planning your TMA. We've had Jayne Horne from the computing help desk talk about formatting and submitting your TMA.

Peter Taylor was talking about expectations and feedback. And then we had Katherine Moore from the library about where to go for help. And our very, very good sport Sean Cordell from the philosophy department and HJ involved in our boxing match.

So thank you for coming. We've got some resources on the website that you might find useful. That feedback button as well - as we know, feedback is very, very important. And we like ours, too. So please spend a minute to fill that in and let us know what you thought about this session.

There's also a count-me-in button on the website. So you can give us your email address. And then we'll tell you when our next event is on.

I'm going to tell you right now, though, it's on at 7 o'clock tonight. Because tonight, we are starting the Freshers Fair. And we're going to have our Wheel of Ologies Quiz, which is fabulous. And you can play along with our studio panels here. So that'll be really, really good fun.

And then I'm going to talk to Hazel Rymer, who's doing our Be an Ologist session, being an ologist. And she's going to tell us about being a volcanologist. Which is really, really exciting. Volcanoes.

Right. Let's see who the final winner was in terms of the votes that we've had counted. OK - 65%.

OK. Let's have a drum roll please. 65% to HJ! Excellent. Well done.

Sorry, Sean. That means 35% to you. But as we know, these numerical figures don't really mean much.

And it's all about the feedback that really matters. And taking that all on board. So thank you.

[LAUGHING]

Thank you both for being such good sports. OK. So is there anything else, Sophie, that you'd like to feed in before we go off air temporarily for the next few hours?

**SOPHIE:**

Um, not really. Just look at the widgets already. People have got some really positive feedback on these sessions.

And everyone seems to have really enjoyed them, and they've really helped. And obviously, it's been lovely being here. It's been a really good couple of hour sessions. We've really liked it.

All the catch-up is obviously on the website. And if we haven't managed to answer any of your questions, please do drop us an email - [studenthub@open.ac.uk](mailto:studenthub@open.ac.uk). And we'll try and get those answered as soon as possible. So thank you very much.

**KAREN FOLEY:**

Aw. And thank you, Sophie and HJ on the hot desk. You've been absolutely brilliant.

Well, 68% of you said that a metaphorical boxing match was better than TMA. And I'm afraid -

[LAUGHING]

Maybe watching it was, but I'm afraid, as I said, we cannot organise that. You're all going to have to do your assignment.

But at least you know now how to do them and where to find them. And I hope you feel a lot more geared up for getting ready for your study.

We've asked some questions as well to see how you feel about that. So I'd like to know whether you feel a little bit more ready for that, and some words to describe your experience of the session. If you can't think of three, then just put an x there as well, so that we can at least get the few words that you are able to add in there.

But it's been a really, really good session. Like I say, we'll be back this evening for our Freshers Fair. And then for the next couple of days, where we have a whole range of activities, we'll also be playing some of the catch-up from this boot camp. So you can look at the writing and note-taking, if you missed it.

But what will be nice about that, is that we'll have the chat open. And chatting is a really

important part of coming to the Student Hub Live. So you can chat with others as you watch those sessions in the afternoon.

So check out the website and see the programme that we've got lined up this whole week, pretty much, except for Friday. So there's something on every day in the daytime and the evening. We hope you can come.

If you've enjoyed it, please tell people on your forums, if you're set up for those. There are various welcome forums that are around at the moment. So tell everybody, get your friends along. Anybody can join, and everybody is welcome.

So please do come along and join us. I hope you've enjoyed it. As I say, do leave your feedback.

I'll be here tonight, so I hope to see a lot of you then. And if you have missed the session, then I hope you can watch it on the catch-up as well.

Anyway, that's all for us here at the Student Hub Live. We will see you very, very soon. And thank you to everybody for watching and for being involved. Bye for now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]