

LSFS20 9.6.1989

Aisha

Q: Maybe you could tell me a bit more about your family -

A: My family?

Q: Yeah. Like you say you live with your parents and a brother and two sisters -

A: Yeah.

Q: How old are your brother and sisters?

A: My brother's sixteen, I've got an older sister and she's twenty and a younger sister and she's fifteen.

Q: So you're in the middle of your two sisters.

A: Yeah. Well my brother and sister - my brother comes up to sixteen -

Q: Oh, right, and you're seventeen -

A: I'm seventeen.

Q: Yeah. And is that - do you get treated as an older sister or..

A: Well I do sort of but I mean it's mainly like my little sister and brother just treat me like their age. They don't like - 'cos we've only got one year difference, we all like - we don't act as if, you know, who's older than the other, we just - together the same. But I mean we act like - my older sister because like she's got three years' difference, so we treat her like she's an older sister.

Q: What does she do?

A: She works in [REDACTED], she just does...

Q: And I notice that you wanted to do accountancy -

A: Yeah, I've just got this interest in like numbers and figures, I've got an interest in it so I like it.

Q: Is that what you've been doing exams in, or will do exams in?

A: Hopefully I want to do A-level maths -

Q: What, and then do an accountancy course?

A: Yeah.

Q: That's good. In terms of - like this research is centred around relationships - what would you say is the most important relationship to you at the moment in your life?

A: Relationship? What, you mean my family or -

Q: Your family or girlfriends, boyfriends, or any relationship at all.

A: Well it's my family, I suppose, and like my best friends in school. Because I mean like they're all the same, like they're going through the same thing as me, so I feel as if like I can talk to them, I can't talk to them as like I can to my parents, but like with my friends it's alright, 'cos I mean like they're going through the same like exams, like the same stress, so I can talk to them, I don't talk about that to my parents, I don't think they'd be interested. Well they would, but I mean...

Q: Do you talk to them much -

A: My parents?

Q: - in general?

A: Yeah, I do. But I don't really go into like my schoolwork, my personal life outside school... I don't really tell them anything.

Q: Why is that?

A: I don't know, it's like, I suppose my dad's the more traditional type, he's still like... sort of thing, ...he would wanna know but he wouldn't really... sort of thing.

Q: What, he wouldn't see it as particularly important?

A: No.

Q: What about your mum, what does she feel?

A: My mum, well she, she'd listen but I mean - I don't know - she'd keep it in mind, she'd listen to me, but... my dad... I talk to my sister, my younger sister, and my brother, about...

Q: So you can share things that you're feeling with them?

A: Yeah I can, with my younger sister I can. I don't tell anything to my brother.

Q: What about your older sister?

A: She's a bit - I can't really tell her from... I don't know, she's a bit - I don't know, she just doesn't like - she'll want to know, but then she wouldn't be really interested after I'd told her, she's just one of those people that would wanna know what I'm talking about but couldn't be bothered. But I mean she's like, she takes after my dad, she's more traditional. Like my younger sister like I was saying, I can talk to her about anything.

Q: And would you say that you were a close family?

A: Yeah, I think we are... because... talk... we sit together, like many families don't eat together but like we do, you know, we watch telly together,...

Q: Do you go out together as well?

A: Yeah, like weddings or celebrate birthdays, going out somewhere, the seaside or something, outings, we all go together.

Q: And everyone gets on?

A: Yeah.

Q: That's quite unusual. And where did your parents come from, were they born here or -

A: No, my dad was born in EUROPEAN COUNTRY, my mum was born in... in EAST AFRICA, there's two opposite things. There was like - there was like sort of arranged, I mean like how they met, because my - my dad's sister's husband, so my dad's brother in law, he had a sister... cousin's sister, so that's how they met and they got married.

Q: So it wasn't an arranged marriage? or was it?

A: Well they didn't really - I don't think they'd seen each other or something, and then they met about a month or two and then they got married and everything.

Q: But it was something that their parents -

A: No, it wasn't the parents, it was like his brother in law that said like I got like there's this cousin who's like they're looking for someone to get married... set up. Because like my dad was - when he was seven he got married -

Q: Seven?

A: Yeah, and that broke off -

Q: I'm not surprised. Except I suppose if it's arranged -

A: Yeah, that was arranged by my grandad - my grandad -

Q: So did he break it off? Or did -

A: Yeah, I think they broke - they just couldn't live together, they argued all the time, they just...

Q: Did they actually get married?

A: Yeah, it was like - but it was only the Indian ceremony, though.

Q: So your father's Indian as well although he's born in EUROPEAN.

A: Yeah, and he's Hindu. He doesn't - he can't speak any LANGUAGE or anything, he was just born there.

Q: Have you been over to India or -

A: Yeah, I have, I've been twice to India.

Q: Did you like it?

A: Yeah, it was alright. It was a bit dirty...

Q: Do your parents think that you should have any kind of arrangement like going...

A: I suppose - I reckon that my dad and my mum are thinking about it that I should, but I mean it's changed because now you can say yes or no. Before like, if they set it up, you had to get married to him. Like with me I'll say yes or no, it depends whether I like the person or not, there's a difference.

Q: So does that worry you at all, or -

A: No, 'cos I can say no as many times as I want to. I'm sure like if I like somebody else and kind of told my dad, I'm sure he'd understand about it.

Q: And - and if you met somebody that you liked, that was nothing to do with your parents, what would happen then?

A: I think, well it would take a bit of time for my dad to like come to terms with it, but then... accept it for my sake.

Q: 'Cos your older sister, has that come up with her at all?

A: Well she's getting married.

Q: Is she?

A: Yeah, she just got engaged two weeks ago, it's like somebody that she met up with... and they've known each other for such a long time as well, she writes to him and he writes to her as well... get married.

Q: And that was alright with your parents.

A: Yeah...

Q: And - in the questionnaire under the question talking about health and sex education, I mean it seems that you knew quite a lot of things before ... school.

A: Yeah, I mean you learn from your friends and, I mean you - like because like before you're in the fourth year like friends, I mean we all used to sit together in break, and like the subject used to come up, we just used to talk about it, I mean you wouldn't expect it but we just used to talk about quite sensible things like abortion...

Q: What, have discussions?

A: Yeah, at lunchtime, we used to just sit there and talk about it.

Q: Was that interesting?

A: We did find it interesting 'cos like we really used to get into it, I mean like talk and we used to get like two people who were against it and with it.

Q: No, it sounds like... productive... And did that happen a lot, I mean on lots of different issues?

A: It did. Something used to crop up and everyone used to join in. There were about seven or eight of us that used to like sit together, something used to come up and we used to talk about it. People used to find like... talking about things like...

Q: So how many of you were there?

A: Between seven and...

Q: All girls?

A: Yeah.

Q: Yeah.

A: We used to just like talk about things like whether we'd get married early and... things like that.

Q: And did they ever talk about - or did you ever talk about sort of more aspects of sex in general?

A: Not really - well... not really about sex, but we did talk about like marriage and things, abortion, but we didn't really talk about sex.

Q: So did you learn those sort of things at school?

A: At school, yeah.

Q: And was that useful in terms of, you know, you understood it and it was -

A: Yeah, I suppose it was.

Q: What sort of lessons did they do?

A: Science, biology, that was like... the end of the first year, beginning of the second year. Well I learnt a bit from my fourth year from junior school, about periods because like some girl started and it was the first time, and she wanted like to know about it -

Q: - she didn't -

A: - she didn't know, so I mean they drew diagrams and told everyone about it and like I knew that...

Q: Mm. Had your family talked to you about periods or whatever?

A: My mum and my sister, my older sister,... like they would talk to us about it... (?) if anything happened... things like that, but...

Q: And what about more kind of intimate things about sexual intercourse or -

A: No.

Q: - masturbation or -

A: No.

Q: - anything like this -

A: I haven't really talked...

Q: Do you talk to anyone about it?

A: Masturbation, things like that?

Q: Yeah.

A: Not really.

Q: But is that something that they talked to you about at all in school?

A: Don't - I don't think they talked about masturbation in school really, you hear it off friends... but I mean they haven't talked about it in school.

Q: So did they cover other kind of things about feelings or -

A: In school? They used to have this course... emotions and stuff and things like that, about your careers, they used to talk about a wide range, about your rights and women's rights, things like that. But I mean they've stopped it now...

Q: Really? Why...?

A: No, there was this girl that wrote to the papers and was interviewed about this course and said that the headmistress forced her to kind of talk about... what was it, cut out Margaret Thatcher's picture and put on this naked woman or something she said something or other and it was on the paper and then after that they abolished the course and they didn't do it after.

Q: That seems rather a shame.

A: I know. And then the girl left the school and then it was all on the papers... but so much of it was wrong, misleading.

Q: What, the story was wrong -

A: Yeah.

Q: - rather than the lessons were wrong. Was that when you were here having the lessons?

A: Yeah, but I think we started the course when I was in the fourth year... or the third year and finished at the end of the fourth year or the fifth year. Because of... many people didn't like the course and they started to bunk the lessons, not go to that particular one, they didn't used to find it interesting.

Q: Was that because it could have been interesting but they didn't make it interesting

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A: Mm, I suppose -

Q: - or because people just weren't interested in those subjects?

A: I don't think they - I don't think they made it interesting. It wasn't very good, I mean it was just like you have a sheet and then they'd just talk about it slightly and then you were just supposed to fill it in... I didn't really like it.

Q: Did they get any kind of outside speakers or anyone talking about things that were going on...?

A: I think career-wise I think they did, they got people like from different places, from different jobs, and they talked about their jobs.

Q: But not to do with say, if it was an issue about your feelings during relationships, marriage, abortion, -

A: No.

Q: - things like that, 'cos some people come and talk about that from the outside.

A: I don't think they did. But they only like - they were teaching... come along and talk about contraceptives and showed you different things... out of school...

Q: And what about things like AIDS, did they teach you about that?

A: AIDS. I don't know, I don't think they did, not AIDS. I don't think - I mean, well, we must have learnt from like we used to talk about it like amongst us, or hear it from the telly or leaflets that were given...

Q: So how much do you know about AIDS now?

A: AIDS, well, the usual, I suppose, the main thing, that like wear a condom and... in sexual relationships, cut down on your partners.

Q: How do you feel about that?

A: I mean I suppose it's valid...

Q: And what do your friends think, when you talk about it?

A: I think they think the same as me really, I think they find it quite disgusting if people have got so many partners and they haven't got a like steady relationship, that's what they -

Q: Have they got steady relationships?

A: No, none of them, I don't think they have.

Q: Do they have relationships at all or -

A: I suppose... about, about a month or two and that's it, finished, things like that.

Q: So do you have a relationship?

A: No.

Q: No. Have you had any?

A: ...

Q: Is that because you haven't met anyone or because you don't want to?

A: I don't know, I've seen - I've met a lot - I don't know, I just don't find them like interesting I suppose, I mean I like them but then I just, you know, I can't be bothered.

Q: Are you more interested in other things or is it that no one's sort of asked you that you like?

A: No, I think - I don't know, I - I do like them but I just - I don't think I'm ready I suppose, I think I'd rather concentrate on my work first and my career and my work at school, and then I'd think about it. I think I'm more a career person.

Q: If you did meet somebody, would it be alright for you to kind of go out with them and things like that, or would your family feel that that wasn't quite right?

A: I think my family, well my mum and dad, they wouldn't - they wouldn't want me to, but I suppose if I wanted to I might just be ... have to get around them.

Q: Could you do it?

A: I think I can get round my dad. Not my mum so easily. My brother can get round my mum but I can get round my dad.

Q: So how do you spend most of your time like social time?

A: Friends, like we go out in the evenings, or like in the evening sometimes might go to my uncle's, go out for a walk or something; do my homework.

Q: Do you go out much during the week in general?

A: Not really. It's mainly spent on homework.

Q: ...

A: I know.

Q: And when you do go out with your friends and things, is that girlfriends or -

A: Yeah, girlfriends. Like if they want to bring their like boyfriends or anyone, we just let them come. It's mainly girlfriends.

Q: And what do you go and do - 'cos... quite a large group.

A: Oh, we just - Yeah. Like sometimes we used to go like just to eat in Wimpy... like at Christmas we went to Garfunkel's and ate there... alright.

Q: What, so you sort of sit around?

A: Yeah. Sometimes we go to Oxford Street and just walk around there and go in the shops.

Q: Do you go to people's houses at all?

A: What, for friends or -

Q: With friends.

A: Well if it's like somebody that hadn't (?) come with us, one of our friends then we go to their house, just talk to them.

Q: And so do you meet new people through that or is it that you've got the same group of friends -

A: It's the same group of friends really that we... I don't think anybody new comes, it's like maybe, what, two in every ten I suppose.

Q: Do you ever go to the like cinema, things like that?

A: Yeah, cinema, yeah.

Q: Is that with a group or -

A: With a group...

Q: So did you say that you've got a special girlfriend that you go out with?

A: Well there's - special one, (name), she was out there, you saw her, with short hair -

Q: Right, yes.

A: Yeah, well, she's my best friend, but like the others, they, they are close but not as close as (name). I mean like (name)'s the same age as me, I treat her like a sister - I don't know, ... sister... I mean I always talk to her about things that I wouldn't talk to my - my little sister either.

Q: So if you have any problems -

A: I do talk to (name), I think I've told her everything.

Q: And do you feel you have many problems, up till now?

A: Not really. There was one time that - it was just... when my mum was pregnant and for about two weeks... but then like the baby had died and that affected me, I didn't tell anyone, and then I told (name) about that... just talked to me. There was another time that my dad had a heart attack and in the morning we went to school and then - he nearly died but I couldn't tell anyone about that, I was so upset I didn't know what to do, and then I told (name). And then I went on an outing, we went out for a week to (?) OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTRE, it was with the course. I didn't wanna go but my dad told me to go, he was in hospital, and then he had three heart attacks in one and he nearly died, I mean I didn't even know about that... I really

didn't wanna go, my dad told me to go, 'cos it was part of the course. And then when I came back I found out then.

Q: Was he a bit better by then?

A: Yeah, he was much better. I think it's been about two years now.

Q: You must have been really upset. But could you not talk to anyone except your best friend?

A: About my mum, I wasn't too sure whether to tell anyone, 'cos I was - I think I was fifteen, fourteen,... a younger brother or sister, but I was like fifteen, fourteen... really young,... and I wasn't sure whether to tell anyone. I was going to but then...

Q: Yeah. Yeah. You really need someone close that you can talk about things like that to. Does she talk to you about her problems too?

A: (name) - I don't think she - maybe... - I don't think she's -sort of like what I - things that I've gone and said to her... If I say something to her she might just turn round and say yeah,... like I don't get on with my uncle and she turns round and says, it's the same with me, I don't like mine either. And we talk about that and the way they are...

Q: But you couldn't say these sorts of things to your family, or could you?

A: I do.

Q: You do.

A: My mum and my sister. I mean we all feel the same, so - we usually say it when my dad's out because it's mainly his side that we don't like. We all sit down and say...

Q: And have a bit of a moan. What do you think about the future in terms of - of marriage and children?

A: Marriage, God. My mum and dad want me to get married when I'm about twenty but I don't really want to. I'd rather get married when I'm about twenty-five. My friends all come round and say, oh, twenty-five's too old to have kids. They're always turning round and saying things like that and you think, oh, God.

Q: But some people don't have kids til they're forty.

A: They think it's too late 'cos by the time the kid's about two, three, you'll be about twenty-six, twenty-eight.

Q: And will your parents find you someone when you're twenty, have they talked to you about it?

A: No, I think they'll keep a look-out but then I mean if somebody turns up I could always say yes or no.

Q: So is that something you feel aware of at all, or conscious of?

A: From my sister I've learnt a lot because I mean it's just happened to my sister, so I know what's going on and what's happened to her. I mean at the moment, because she's just got engaged, mum and dad like really treat her like an older woman now, a married person, yeah, and like they still treat us like kids - if they talk about marriage they sort of say like, go and sit somewhere else 'cos you lot'll muck about, we want to talk (?) sense. I know what it's like, I mean my brother and sister, we always moan together and then my brother and sister turn round and say, you'll be getting the same treatment, don't worry about it.

Q: Do you feel that you could sort of handle a relationship yourself?

A: I suppose I could, yeah.

Q: 'Cos do you ever think about that - kind of what it would be like, a boyfriend?

A: It does make you think... maybe it might be different, you might act different.

Q: What about things like sex, what do you think of that?

A: I don't think - I don't know, going out with somebody, but I mean having sex with them, I think I would need to be really close to make a decision like that. I think I would need to be really close...

Q: And would you have sex with somebody before you got married or -

A: If I thought that I was that close to them, yeah.

Q: Would that upset your family?

A: It might. I think it would actually.

Q: And do they ever talk about things like that or -

A: No.

Q: No.

A: I don't think they would expect it before you get married anyway.

Q: And has that happened to your sister or does she not speak about it?

A: She goes out with him but I mean I don't think they'd expect her to have sex, well, not yet. I don't think -

Q: And do you know if she does, does she ever talk to you about it?

A: No, she doesn't.

Q: So have any of your friends actually had sexual relations?

A: ...

Q: So it's not something that's actually come up, that people have discussed and said, oh, or whatever -

A: No.

Q: - it was like this. So what - are your expectations of it, do you ever think what it might be like or what you might feel?

A: I do think but - it does make me think that I might change, I suppose, and have a sexual relationship or something. I don't really think about it that much, I mean it does cross my mind.

Q: 'Cos like some girls are either curious to lose their virginity, to see what it's like sort of thing, or others see it as some kind of chore kind of thing they've got to do...

A: I don't - I don't really think about losing my virginity, at the moment I think I'm just concentrating on work at the moment, I don't want any sexual relationship...

Q: But if you had one, would you see it - I mean would you expect to have some kind of pleasure out of it or does it seem a bit like something -

A: I suppose I would expect pleasure from it.

Q: But is that something that you - you would actually expect or demand from it or -

A: I would expect it.

Q: And if you had a boyfriend would you be kind of aware of things like contraception -

A: Yeah. I suppose. If I wanted a sexual relationship I suppose I would use contraception.

Q: Do you know what you'd use?

A: I think I'd rather use the pill, I can't think about using anything else. I don't really - I mean we've seen them and... use the pill.

Q: What about things like AIDS, does that come into it at all?

A: I suppose it does, but then I suppose like the idea of to use a condom, I suppose.

Q: But it doesn't sound like you'd really want to.

A: I don't know. I don't know.

Q: Is that because you don't like the sound of it or -

A: What, AIDS?

Q: No, a condom.

A: Condom. I don't know, it just makes - I don't know. I don't mind if a person uses it...

Q: No, I'm just interested to see how people anticipate kind of what they might do and how they might feel about sort of different aspects - I mean some girls are very kind of open about all the aspects, how they...

A: Oh no, I don't.

Q: And others sort of just think about it as an afterthought.

A: I think I think of it as an afterthought... I think I've got a friend who just kicks it round for a joke, just to show everybody she's got... I don't think I will...

Q: Do you think AIDS would be anything you would think about if you were having a sexual relationship?

A: I suppose - I think I would, I'd be like, you know, scared, think oh God, he's probably got AIDS or something, I would think about it.

Q: 'Cos you - do you think that there are people who are most at risk?

A: Who do I think is most at risk?

Q: Yes.

A: People that I mean have got so many partners I suppose...

Q: There's no one that you sort of know of who you think... at risk?

A: No. I don't think so...

Q: And did you learn at all about the actual kind of biology of it, did they teach you that or -

A: No, they never taught us about... they just told us about AIDS and said, right, cut down your partners.... I don't think - they never talked about AIDS...

Q: So they haven't said exactly how it's passed on and how it kind of develops and -

A: They might have - they haven't said how it develops, they might have said how it's passed on.

Q: Well, like, you know, what sort of symptoms people might show or how... develop into a full blown disease.

A: Not in school, they didn't talk about it at all.

Q: I'm quite surprised 'cos there were quite a few campaigns over the last few -

A: ... unless I might not have been in, I'm sure...

Q: Do you think you're the sort of person who takes risks at all?

A: No. No.

Q: Not at all?

A: No.

Q: Is that because you - you sort of want to be kind of safe in general?

A: Something to do with it. I wouldn't wanna... because I mean...

Q: What about taking risks in other sorts of ways -

A: Pregnancy or -

Q: Well, kind of pregnancy or - or simply things like bunking off school or -

A: I've bunked a lot of times. I've got caught as well, it was -

Q: So you didn't mind bunking off school -

A: No. It was Miss (name) that caught me out as well.

Q: Was it?

A: She was my form teacher. That was like, it was alright ... it was just like at the final... it was like one or two lessons... four weeks left after the exams... it was like after the mocks I hadn't been going and then I started to go... very strict on myself that I have to go.

Q: And do you take risks in any other way like smoking or drinking or -

A: I do drink and I do smoke but I don't think - like my mum or dad doesn't know that I - they'd be shocked if they know, if they did find out.

Q: Where do you drink?

A: It's just like us, like friends, I drink with them.

Q: And what do you drink?

A: Well we mix up things like (?) thunderbird, Martini...

Q: Have you ever been drunk?

A: Not really. I haven't drunk as much as...

Q: And how often does that happen?

A: Well, it happens like - I don't know, once every two months I suppose, once every - maybe like, if we've got the money.

Q: Yeah, you've got to have a bit of...

A: Smoking, I mean I used to smoke really a lot but then I thought I'd stop. 'Cos the thought came to my head that I mean, say if I got pregnant and I couldn't stop myself from smoking, it just came to me, I just thought about it, and I thought to myself that it would damage the baby if I - so then I started - I cut down. I mean I hardly ever smoke now, I mean it was just like - it came into my mind and I thought, my God, and I hardly ever smoke.

Q: So you couldn't have got really addicted to it before -

A: No.

Q: - otherwise you wouldn't have been able to stop.

A: No.

Q: How many did you smoke before you stopped?

A: Before it used to be something like ten a week, ten to twelve a week.

Q: Do your friends smoke?

A: PRIYA does... she does. Most of them don't.

Q: And do you know anyone of your friends who has anything to do with drugs.

A: Mm. Yeah, I'm just shocked about one of my friends - I mean I knew she drank and she smoked, but then I mean I just found out that she started to take drugs and it was just like - a joint, just smoking. I found out. I mean you see it quite a lot in the sixth form... but personally myself I don't think I'd ever - I think drinking and smoking is the limit with me, I don't think I'd ever deal with drugs.

Q: Have you ever been offered drugs?

A: I couldn't. I just couldn't face it. Because for me I think drinking and smoking's the limit with me. That's what many of us think out of my friends. There's one that's tried it once... I don't think she's ever done it again.

Q: So it doesn't sort of attract you at all?

A: No. It makes me think what it might feel like, but then I wouldn't try it.

Q: And do people go round here... in the sixth form smoking drugs, do they actually sort of go out in the grounds and...?

A: Yeah, they're all out there. I've seen them smoking in school.

Q: What, smoking joints?

A: Yeah, in school, I've seen them. I wouldn't go round and tell the teacher, I mean it's up to them if they wanna do it, they do it, if they get caught it's their problem. 'Cos I mean they know what the risks are, smoking in school.

Q: And do you think - I mean you sound like someone who's - who's fairly in control of - of what you want to do, I mean like, if you decide you don't want to smoke any more you stop smoking, and maybe, you know, drinking's alright but you don't do it every week -

A: Drinking, I think I drink more than I smoke, I do drink more.

Q: But do you think if you decided to stop drinking you could do that?

A: I could, yeah. Because I mean, I mean just - I read in a book I mean, once you have the craving for drinking you become addicted. I mean I'm not addicted to it, you know, I just socialise with my friends, that's all. I mean if I wanted to stop I think I could. It gets to me sometimes...

Q: And do you - when you go out with your friends and there's boys around, do you - I mean do you all sort of drink together?

A: ... like as a friend...

Q: 'Cos what do you do when there's a whole group of you and there's boys...

A: Well when we drink, no, it's just girls.

Q: And when you do have a boyfriend, how do you think the relationship will be? Will it sort of... decisions...

A: If I was with my friends I think he'd feel left out because I'd be there with my friends and he'd feel left out. I think that's how they all feel with my friends because they'll just feel left out, 'cos like you know that you're - you're the only person like, like you're with their friends... it would be alright but he'd still feel left out, out of everything. I think he would anyway.

Q: But would that mean that you'd then go off on your own with him?

A: It's unfair both ways, like if I stayed with my friends it would be unfair on him, if I went with him it would be unfair on my friends.

Q: It's awkward, isn't it.

A: It is, yeah.

Q: But it hasn't come up yet?

A: No.

Q: What do you think you might do if it did?

A: I don't know. I don't know. I really haven't thought about that 'cos I mean... have to think about.

Q: And do you think, like whoever it is who you go out with, would you expect him to make most of the decisions about what you do, how you organise -

A: Well, like I'm the type of person I mean where I don't mind what happens, so I suppose I wouldn't mind if he did. Or if he asked me I wouldn't mind making some decisions, like fifty-fifty sort of thing... decisions...

Q: But then if you - say he wanted to have a sexual relationship or anything like that -

A: If I - I - if I wasn't up to that, if I didn't think it was that close, I'd just say no.

Q: You - you'd feel alright about that?

A: If it comes to like sexual relationships and I don't feel like that then I'd say, I wouldn't sort of stand by and say, alright, I don't mind. It depends how the relationship's going.

Q: Yes, it's really difficult to say until you're in it.

A: Yeah.

Q: But presumably you've got some -

A: - Yeah -

Q: - fairly good ideas of what you'd do.

A: Yeah.

Q: And is that how - do you talk about that amongst your friends as well?

A: No.

Q: So those sort of things don't really come up -

A: They don't really come up.

Q: Yeah, 'cos it sounds like more issues come up with your friends like kind of abortion -

A: - yeah -

Q: - or marriage, rather than actually what you personally each do. Or might do.

A: Yeah.

Q: Would you like to talk about that?

A: I wouldn't mind.

Q: But nobody suggests it -

A: No... as a group... wouldn't like expect a big group, like we didn't know... I suppose it's alright between us like, because we've known each other about six years so we can tell that... if it was a big group... I don't think most of us would say the things that we do amongst ourselves.

Q: And do you actually learn things from each other at all, you know, if a subject comes up and someone's been doing - 'cos I'm wondering about, you know, other things on the list like sexually transmitted diseases and homosexual relationships and things like that.

A: We do talk about homosexuals like - like one of my friends believe that like there shouldn't be, he's a boy this friend, he believes that there shouldn't be any homosexuals and they should stick - like everyone should be heterosexual and stick to the opposite kind. But he - I mean I don't mind if there are homosexuals or lesbians, it doesn't really bother me. And I mean this boy turned round, he said like ... one of my friends believed about AIDS, to stop AIDS going around they should keep them in a room and just shoot them down.

Q: What, homosexuals? - or -

A: Well, people with AIDS. Shoot them down, I mean - I wouldn't do that. I mean I wouldn't think that -

Q: What, this is one of your friends or -

A: Yeah. I think she just came out with it. She's - well I think she said her brother thought that, that's what her brother thought, that they should be kept in a room and shot down.

Q: Did she say why?

A: No.

Q: Did people argue against her?

A: I don't think they did. They just thought, she's saying stupid things, and that was the end of it...

Q: 'Cos do you think there should be more discussed about things like that?

A: Yeah. I think there should. I mean if people have got AIDS, they've got AIDS, they eventually die anyway, but I mean I suppose you need to know someone really well - I mean many people nowadays are just - I mean they have sex with people I suppose they don't even know who they are, like go to parties and things like that.

Q: Do you think that happens nowadays quite a lot?

A: I don't know. I think it does, I - I think it does.

Q: What, amongst people that you know here?

A: Ah, no, I just - I just think it does.

Q: So you don't think it might have changed at all with the AIDS?

A: No. I think maybe people might have tried to be slightly safe, using condoms, things like that. I don't think they've cut down on partners really, just started to use condoms.

Q: And do you think you'll have many partners or - how do you see...

A: No, I think I've got to (?) find someone before I have a sexual relationship, I can't just go up and go off with anyone, you know.

Q: So you would like to say, meet somebody and that, that would be it...?

A: Mm. No. I mean if he wasn't that - if I didn't see - I mean if I liked him, you know, things will turn out the way I wanted them to, how they could have been, but I mean I wouldn't have a sexual relationship with...

Q: Is there any other way that you'd kind of describe yourself as a person?

A: I don't know. I suppose... I've got... (tape change)

Q: You were just saying that you were - you were a happy person.

A: Yeah. I suppose when I'm depressed I feel like really depressed, I just sit there, I don't talk to anyone, I can't... I don't know why I feel depressed, I just feel it. When I am... I think I am - I don't know. I don't know how to describe myself...

Q: Do you worry about things?

A: Well what kind of things?

Q: School, friendships, family?

A: Friendships, I don't really worry about friendships, family I don't, school like I do my homework...

Q: So what do you think at the moment is the most important thing in your life?

A: Exams. I'm doing them again. I mean I didn't get - I only got four or three, I got four. Sort of like I was hoping to start my A levels this year but now... I don't know that I could cope with it. But I think... revision...

Q: There's one more thing that I forgot to ask, in terms of - just getting back to the AIDS issue - do you know what is usually meant by safe sex?

A: What, just using a condom I suppose.

Q: Well, yes, but there are sort of other ways of having sex which don't involve intercourse -

A: - yeah -

Q: - which are also referred to as safe sex. I don't know if they taught you...

A: Hardly ever. Just the thing about biology, just like things like how babies develop, I suppose, something like... AIDS developed. I don't think they go into it. They might mention that it's a virus going around, and that's it...

Q: Are there things you feel that you should have been told about, that you'd like to know or -

A: Well, AIDS, they give you like leaflets and advertisements and people should be told... I mean the way the telly ads - you should be scared of having sex with someone. They put it like, it's a scary advert, you know, be aware.

Q: Do you find it scary?

A: I don't find it scary but I've heard my friends say they made it really scary, that it scares them to have sex with someone. I'm not really scared.

Q: Do you think the adverts worked at all?

A: No, I don't think they did.

Q: No, it seemed to me that they weren't really getting... really helpful. Can you think of anything that you'd have?

A: If they were visiting like the AIDS clinics, you know, see people with... That would like scare...

Q: Is there anything else that you've felt at all, kind of about those sorts of issues, that you've wanted to know and had nobody to talk to, in terms of relationships and feelings?

A: Well, relationships I suppose, with - kind of people... talk about friends... boyfriend... people like talk about that, see how they feel and what they do. Do they choose their boyfriends... discussion...

Q: No, 'cos that's, as you say, a real decision that - that girls must make.

A: Just see like what people do and why they do it, so it would help like some people to begin to think a bit more.

Q: Do you know what you might do...

A: I don't know. I really don't know. I suppose I'd have to cut it down, like maybe say like half the week... friends... just share it out, I suppose.

Q: Do you feel they... three or four?

A: Well I suppose, with a boyfriend I suppose the relation would develop and then you'd know from that. But... I've known my friends for quite a long time, so I think they'd be more important than a boyfriend, 'cos you know -

Q: It would be a shame to lose your friends... Yeah.