

How do I see things?

I was born in England and went to a Catholic primary school and a Catholic boarding school but I left in what we used to call the fourth year what is now called the tenth grade. I then left the local school a year later with no formal qualifications and started working in a supermarket. I can honestly say that the four years I spent working in the supermarket were some of the happiest of my life although as I got to nineteen I felt very strongly that it was time to move on.

I have always struggled academically especially when I was at school and especially with things like maths and science however, when I reached the age of 23 I got a strong inclination to return to study and just by chance I saw a newspaper advert for an Open University course, I enquired and did a preliminary test which I didn't do that well in but I enrolled on the course and started T102 Living with technology in January 1992. It was full of maths and science and I really struggled but I did pass it. In a large part because of the IT. I think that should have been the end of my academic story and from there I got a reasonably good job and I grew in that job, but nothing could have been further from the truth, I had a first try at university but couldn't cope with the maths, and computer science so I dropped out, a year later I went back to a much easier HND (but still a lot of work). While I was there I did a test at home IQ test with mensa as I was curious what my IQ was but didn't expect it to be especially high but did always think the questions seemed very easy, I took the test and got the result a few weeks later it said 155 percentile 1.

I passed my HND, topped up to a BSc but not with (Hons) I really didn't want to do a ten thousand word essay I didn't think that I could manage it so I left with what was and still is called an ordinary degree, it is the same level as an honours degree but less research and fewer modules. My next academic course was a distance learning MBA with Heriot Watt University which I started in 1998 and passed six of the nine modules but unfortunately failed another three modules however, in 2002 they brought in a scheme retrospectively that gave credit towards either a postgraduate certificate or postgraduate diploma with three or six modules so I was retrospectively awarded a postgraduate diploma for January 2001 when actually only about 4% of the adult population had a postgraduate qualification. My next academic course was a postgraduate certificate in education (post compulsory education and training this was 2002/03 where 5% of the adult population was qualified to this level or above.

You may notice that I have concentrated on my academic study but you may also remember what I said at the beginning that T102 was probably the only course I should have taken and even then it was really too difficult for me at the time and taught quite advanced leadership scenarios even at that early stage of education, every course I've taken since basically synthesized leadership and managerial responsibilities and tested for them which is all very well but no one has ever offered me a job worthy of all that study even the jobs I've had I don't think really needed them. 'Unfortunately aggravated' I was checking the spelling of these two words by chance but in a way it best describes how I've felt for a long time.

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