

PSE – How it all started

This is the first clip involving Steve and the Professor but it can be watched at any time as it makes no specific reference to any of the following interactive DVD material.

The clip introduces the characters and their current situations. Steve is an unemployed actor. This could briefly set an introduction to a look at the welfare system, unemployment benefit and problems of high unemployment.

The professor has a job offer for Steve and in the questions about the job he uses going to “are the video clips going to have romance /action /comedy / drama?” While the professor (who is thinking quickly and wants to attract Steve to the Czech Republic) replies using will “yes they will have action /comedy /drama etc. and this is a useful section to focus the student’s attention on this area of use English language. The professor wants Steve to come and work in the Czech Republic but as Steve doesn’t know much about the country the professor has to give an overview of the location of the Czech Republic, it’s history, political background and current membership of global organisations such as the EU and NATO. This covers a number of issues contained in the PSE syllabus including concept of homeland, perceptions of the Czech Republic from abroad and feeling of patriotism and being a European Citizen.

For language focused activities promoting and talking about the student’s hometown, village or region, describing its key attractions and attributes.

Suggested pauses

00:39

- What is social benefit?
Money /financial support from the government when you are looking for work.

01:16

- Why does Steve use “going to” when he says “Are they (the video clips) going to have drama?”
- Are they going to be romantic?
- But the professor replies using will. “Yes they’ll (they will) have drama.”
“Yes they’ll (they will) be romantic.”

Steve uses “going to” because he wants to think it is all planned but the professor doesn’t really know and is thinking at the time of speaking, so he uses “will”.

02:16

- What tourist attractions can you think of outside of Prague?

Record the student's suggestions on the board.

02:59

- When did communism end in the Czech Republic?
1989"

- After 1989 the Czech Republic joined several important international organisations, ask the students if they can name any. "What international organisations is the Czech Republic a member of, can you name them?"

Record the student's suggestions on the board and tick them off if you hear them when you resume watching.

04:47

Record the question on the board "How would you advertise or market the Czech Republic or your region, if you want to continue watching to hear the professor set another task debating the European Union or stop the DVD here if you want to do the task now.

End

Split the class into two groups and ask one group to focus on the advantages of the EU and the other on the disadvantages. Then use their ideas to debate the issue (the language used is at your discretion).