

# Generalised Viva Voce Questions. V1 7/3/22

<https://sophtalksscience.com/2020/01/24/67-example-questions-to-prepare-for-your-phd-viva/>

## 1. Thesis & Field of Study Overview

1. Can you start by summarising your thesis?
2. What were your recommendations?
3. Summarise it in one sentence.
4. Can you explain your thesis to your grandmother?
5. What motivated you to pursue this research?
6. What are the main issues in this field?
7. What are the main challenges and debates in this subject area?
8. Which of those issues does your research tackle? All of them.
9. Why have you studied this research area? What was the point?
10. How is your work different to what is already published in the field?
11. What are the three most influential papers in your thesis and why?
12. What are the most recent developments in this area?
13. How did your research question emerge?
14. How did your research focus change over time?
15. How did you define your thesis title?
16. What were the difficulties you faced during the research and how did it change your research question?
17. How is your thesis original?
18. What are you most proud of from this work and why?
19. Who are your closest competitors?

## 2. Materials & Methods

1. What methods did you use and why?
2. What alternative methods could you have used?
3. What advantages would those other methods have brought your work?
4. Would you have gained extra insights using alternative methods?
5. How did you collect and manage all your data?
6. Talk us through how you analysed your data
7. Why did you use X statistical/analytical test?
8. In an ideal world, are there any different techniques or other forms of data you would have liked to have used?
9. What are the main ethical issues to consider in your research? (This question only applies to certain fields of study)

### 3. Results

1. What do your results mean?
2. Is your data really strong enough in terms of quantity and quality to sustain the conclusions you draw?
3. How do your findings agree or contradict with the rest of the literature?
4. What are the strengths and weaknesses of your results?
5. How do you explain the differences in interpretation of the results between you and other literature?
6. What is your favourite result?
7. How would you do conduct your research differently next time?
8. Which sections of your thesis are the most publishable and which journals would you publish them in?
9. Given the rate of development in your research area, how long will your contribution be relevant?
10. How does your thesis compare with what you set out to do?

### 4. Discussion & Conclusions

1. Where will this research be in 10 years time?
2. What are the main implications of your research for future work?
3. How generalisable are your findings and why?
4. Does your data support or refute your hypothesis?
5. What are the potential problems that could arise from the future work you have proposed?
6. If funding were no object, describe how you would follow on from this project?
7. What is the idea that binds your thesis together?

### 5. General

1. Why did you want to undertake a PhD?
2. How has this research or your PhD going to affect your career?
3. What are your next steps for your career?
4. What have you learned from the process of doing a PhD?
5. Has your view on the research topic changed during the course of your research?
6. What have you found to be the most interesting aspect of your research?
7. Why should you be awarded a PhD?