

Possible viva questions for you to adapt

GENERAL

- What is your thesis about?
- Why did you choose this research question?
- What were your major findings or conclusions?
- Why is your research important?
- What did you enjoy most about your project?

MORE SPECIFIC

- What are the key strengths of your thesis?
- What are the major achievements?
- What would you identify as your major contribution to knowledge?
- What do you see as the most original element of your thesis, and why?
- Can you summarise your key findings in a few sentences?

STRUCTURE/METHODOLOGY

- What was your methodology and why was this appropriate?
- Does your overall argument make sense and how does it address your research questions?
- What assumptions have you made, and have they worked?
- Were there any surprises in the course of your research?
- How has your thinking developed or changed throughout this research?
- How did you establish the limits or scope of your study?
- Explain the structure of your project and your thesis.

RESEARCH CONTEXT

- How does your thesis relate to the wider field?
- How does your thesis relate to your discipline?
- What has happened in your research field since you submitted your thesis?
- If you have adapted an established methodology, why were those changes necessary?
- What are the implications of your research for the wider field?
- How would you continue your research?

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Summarise an influential concept or thinker and explain why this was so significant for your work.
- Explain why certain literature is missing from your review.
- Comment on how you selected your key literature. What decisions did you have to make?

LIMITATIONS/WEAKNESSES

- What would you do differently, and why?
- What are the potential weaknesses of your project?
- Could you have interpreted your results in a different way?
- Were there any issues around your selection and collection of data?
- Was there any other material you wanted to use but couldn't or didn't?
- What are the limitations of this study? How could you address them?
- Were there any ethical concerns with your project? How have you addressed them?
- What counter-arguments are there to your main argument?