

# Some questions for the viva

## CHOICE OF TOPIC/MOTIVATION

1. Why did you choose this topic for your doctorate?
2. How did you get into this area?
3. What are you most proud of?

## UNDERSTANDING THE FIELD

4. How would you compare your work to that done by x?
5. How do you characterise your approach to research?
6. How would you justify your choice of methodology?
7. How did you arrive at your conceptual framework?

## RESEARCH METHODS

8. How did you design your research?
9. How do you compare your chosen methods with others available?
10. Why did you decide to use XYZ as your main instrument(s)?
11. How did you select your respondents/material/area?
12. How did you arrive at your conceptual conclusions?

## IMPLICATIONS

13. How generalisable are your findings and why?
14. Public perception, impact: what use can this work be put to?
15. How will you take your findings back to your sample?
16. What is your main contribution to knowledge?
17. We would like you to critique your thesis for us

## FUTURE PLANS

18. What are you going to do after you gain your doctorate?

## FEEDBACK FOR THE UNIVERSITY

19. When supervisor is not present, or has withdrawn: this is your chance to comment on the supervision you received? Your comments will be fed back to the university.

## FINALLY

20. Is there anything else you could tell us about your thesis which you have not had the opportunity to tell us during the viva?

## References

- Jackson C & Tinkler P (2007) *A Guide for Internal and External Doctoral Examiners*. London: Society for Research into Higher Education
- Tinkler P and Jackson C (2004) *The Doctoral Examination Process: a handbook for student, examiners and supervisors*. Maidenhead. SRHE/OU Press
- Trafford V and Leshem S (2008) *Stepping Stones to Achieving your Doctorate: by focussing on your viva from the start*. Maidenhead. McGraw Hill/Open University Press

See also: video of a mock viva at Cardiff University: <http://vimeo.com/29731605>