
Viva Preparation Worksheet

All vivas are different, but in spite of that there are many questions that come up time and time again. As you prepare for your viva, it's a good idea to familiarise yourself with these common questions, safe in the knowledge that some or all of them will come up. Below we've compiled typical questions you can expect to get asked. You can type your answers directly onto this worksheet, and use it as a crib sheet going into your viva.

Opening questions

The examiners will quite often start a viva with an opening question to get you warmed up. Questions like this give you an opportunity to explain your work up front, breaks the ice, settles you in and gets you talking. Making a contribution is the most important element of the PhD thesis. It is very likely that you will be questioned about this.

Spend five or ten minutes telling us about your work, what you have done, and what the contribution is (list talking points here).

Summarise your work, in a single sentence.