

SAMPLE VIVA VOCE QUESTIONS

1. Summarize your project/thesis/research in 3 minutes?

To answer this question correctly, you need to be well versed with the entire project. Start with an answer by explaining why did you select the topic of your project/thesis/research and close your explanation by providing an optimum solution to the problem.

2. What is the strength and weakness of your research?

Carefully analyze the strength and weakness of your research and while answering, make sure you talk about your weaknesses also and not only your strengths.

3. What makes your thesis work original?

While answering, keep in mind what was known before and what you have added as part of being awarded your PhD is to contribute novel knowledge.

4. Elaborate on how your findings relate to literature in your field?

Explain how your findings connect with the literature review of your project and what its contributions are in terms of the field of your research. Does it further expand the literature? Does it highlight some new observations? Does it add to the literature in this field? Answer these main questions.

5. Tell me about yourself.

Talk about yourself and your areas of interest. Focus on the areas you are extremely positive about.

Talk about your past achievements and what brings you to this position. Keep it professional.

6. Summarise your key findings.

For this common viva question, focus on what you observed and found through your research project, how it connects with your hypothesis as well as what concluded through this research.

7. Highlight the strong and weak areas of your research.

Mention the strengths first and elaborate on how they connect with the key findings. Then, you can underline the weak areas and the factors that could have been transformed into strengths.

8. What were the major motivations behind this research?

Focus on what inspired you to carry out this research, and cite certain instances which helped you select this topic as well as field for your project.

9. Elucidate the process of evaluation.

Elaborate on how you evaluated the key findings in your research, what were the key factors involved, whether the evaluation process faced some obstacles, how it could have been better and what was the reason you choose a particular process of evaluation.

10. What is the key focus of this research?

While answering this, keep a summarised version of your research in your mind and then talk about the area of the primary focus of research. In order to demonstrate that your research is viable, it is essential to identify some of the key questions that it addresses.