**Answer the following questions**

* **What is the area in which you wish to be examined?**
* **In one sentence, what is your thesis?**
* **What have you done that merits a PhD?**
* **Summarise your key findings.**
* **What are you most proud of, and why?** **What's original about your work? Where is the novelty?**
* **What are the contributions (to knowledge) of your thesis?**
* **What are the strongest/weakest parts of your work?**
* **Where did you go wrong?**
* **What are the alternatives to your approach?**
* **Looking back, what might you have done differently?**
* **How have you evaluated your work?**
  + *intrinsic evaluation*: how have you demonstrated that it works, and how well it performs?
  + *extrinsic evaluation*: how have you demonstrated its usefulness for a specific application context?
* **What do your results mean?**
* **How would your system cope with bigger examples? Does it scale up?**
* **How do you know that your algorithm/rules are correct?**
* **How could you improve your work?**
* **What are the motivations for your research? Why is the problem you have tackled worth tackling?**
* **What is the relevance of your contributions?**
  + to other researchers?
  + to industry?
* **What is the implication of your work in your area?** What does it change?
* **How do/would you cope with known problems in your field?** (e.g. combinatorial explosion)
* **Have you solved the field's problem that you claim to have solved?** For example,
* **How do your contributions generalise?**  
  To what extent would they generalise to systems other than the one you've worked on?  
  Under what circumstances would your approach be useable? (Again, does it scale up?)
* **Where will you publish your work?** Think about which journals and conferences your research would best suit. Just as popular musicians promote their latest albums by releasing singles and going on tour, you should promote your thesis by publishing papers in journals and presenting them at conferences. This takes your work to a much wider audience; this is how academics establish themselves.
* **Which aspects of your thesis could be published?**
* **What have you learned from the process of doing your PhD?** Remember that the aim of the PhD process is to train you to be a fully professional researcher - passing your PhD means that you know the state of the art in your area and the directions in which it could be extended, and that you have proved you are capable of making such extensions.
* **Where did your research-project come from? How did your research-questions emerge?** You can't just say "my supervisor told me to do it" - if this is the case, you need to talk it over with your supervisor before the viva. Think out a succinct answer (2 to 5 minutes).
* **Has your view of your research topic changed during the course of the research?**