

# Viva Examination – Reflection

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If you have undertaken learning around teaching in higher education it is likely that you will have been introduced to the concept of reflective practice where you actively reflect on your practice to enable you to identify how to improve how you approach learning and teaching activities. This activity contains a series of questions for you to reflect on your experiences of vivas – both from the perspective of the examiner and that of the student.

Complete the reflection, taking about 15 minutes to work through the questions.

## Your own viva:

- How did you prepare for your viva?
- How did you feel entering the examination?
- What did your examiners do which enabled you to perform effectively in terms of:
  - Communicating the structure of the viva?
  - Setting you at ease?
  - Enabling the viva to flow?
  - Making you feel supported whilst ensuring the viva was rigorous?
- What could they have done differently to enable you to perform effectively?
  - Communicating the structure of the viva?
  - Setting you at ease?
  - Enabling the viva to flow?
  - Making you feel supported whilst ensuring the viva was rigorous?

## As an examiner:

- When you have examined what have you found worked well when examining in terms of:
  - Communicating with the other examiner?
  - Ensuring you were both aware of the host institution's regulations?
  - Structuring the viva?
  - Settling the student?
  - Informing the student of the outcome of the viva?

What would be your key learning from this reflective process?

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