1. **Thesis?**
Writing a thesis is a very difficult task, but so is examining it. Our job is then to make it easier for the examiners to understand our work, its implications and our understanding of the area, so it is for our own benefit that we should produce a clear, concise and good quality thesis.

2. **Start by Writing Smaller Parts**
Writing a doctoral thesis is a major challenge, which can be made more approachable if you start by aiming small, writing a few paragraphs or chapters on results that you have already produced. If you set yourself small challenges, the odds of failing are lower. This way you can help yourself progressively to boost your confidence, and build the contents of your thesis.

3. **Get Feedback and use it**
Ask your supervisor and friends for their feedback. Often you will not notice small typos or even significant gaps in your writing. The more revisions you produce, the better the final version will be. It can be very painstaking work, but it will help produce a thesis that reads much better.

4. **Back up!**
You may have heard this a number of times, but it is so important that you can never hear it enough. Do regular back-ups of your thesis. It is not uncommon to hear of people losing days or weeks of work. Using a system of version control or online storage services may help you retrieve information that could have been mistakenly deleted in the editing process.

5. **Use a Reference Manager**
Make your life easier by using a reference manager (Zotero, EndNote, Mendeley, etc.) and use the references to back up your claims. To make sure you have cited correctly you can use a plagiarism software (such as Turnitin). Find out which format for references is allowed and be consistent with the abbreviations and style.

6. **Preparing for the Viva**
This advice comes from real Oxford examiners: 1. Read your thesis!! 2. Read some review papers in your topic and be up-to-date with the literature. 3. Prepare a list of any corrections you may find in your thesis (do not necessarily volunteer them at the beginning, but you will be forewarned if they come up during the examination). 4. Read some of your examiners’ work. 5. Prepare answers to questions likely to come up, such as to summarise your work, point out the milestones and what you would do differently if you had to start again.

7. **Get Enough Sleep**
Throughout the writeup and especially before the viva, getting enough sleep is highly recommended. Not sleeping enough may impair your concentration and productivity.

8. **At the Viva**
Make yourself comfortable from the start, take time to understand and answer the questions. Feel free to use your thesis; after all most of the answers are there already (post-it to navigate it more easily). Be prepared to defend your work, and don’t be afraid to disagree with the examiners if you can back up your argument. Don’t be afraid to admit that you don’t know something—this is far better than trying to bluff your way through. The examiners want to have a scientific discussion, not an inquisition, so be open and confident. Finally, try to enjoy the chance of sharing and discussing your thesis with top researchers who are likely to be interested in your work.

9. **Examiners’ Viewpoint on the Thesis**
The examiners will be assessing the significance and soundness of the content of the thesis and whether it is complete and well presented. So while writing, ask yourself these questions: Does my thesis describe new results, insights or methods, or does it provide new ways of looking at previously published work? Is the subject interesting and the arguments correct? Is the concept developed enough to be worth reporting, and does it relate to questions other researchers have asked? Are the examples and/or data described sufficient? Does the thesis provide adequate background for the major questions that are addressed? Is the approach suitable and are the results explained clearly? Does the title reflect the content of the thesis? Is the abstract informative? Are references used properly? Is credit given for borrowed results, concepts or data? Are diagrams, illustrations and tables used effectively? Is the thesis well organised, clear and concise? Are technical terms, calculations, notation and other details in the thesis accurate and consistent?

10. **Don’t despair**
One day, after weeks or months of not seeing the whole picture, you will notice that your thesis is looking like a more solid piece of work. This feeling may disappear and then return, which is normal, but the important thing is to remember that if you persevere, you can really do it.