What is a PhD?

"Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy are required to show ability to conduct original investigations, to test ideas, whether their own or others', and to understand the relationship of their work and its themes to a wider field of knowledge"

"A doctoral thesis should be a piece of work which a capable, well-qualified and diligent student, who is properly supported and supervised, can produce in three years of full-time study. It should exhibit substantial evidence of original scholarship and contain material worthy of publication"