

Area	1 st (80-100)	1 st (70-79)	2.1 (60-69)	2.2 (50-59)	3 rd (40-49)	Fail (25-39)	Fail (0-24)
Identification of research area and formulation of research question	Excellent introduction identifies an important and original research area and formulates a well-defined research question	Introduction identifies an important research area and formulates a well-defined research question	Introduction identifies research area and formulates a well-defined research question	Introduction may either identify a research area without necessarily formulating a clear research question, or may formulate a research question without making much attempt to explain its importance	Weak introduction, which fails to justify the research area or identify a clearly-defined question	Very weak introduction, which fails to justify the research area or identify a clearly-defined question	Exceptionally poor introduction, which fails to justify the research area and fails to identify a clearly-defined question
Strategy for addressing question	Develops very well-defined and imaginative research strategy. Method may have an original contribution	Develops well-defined and imaginative research strategy	Identifies clear strategy for addressing question	Identifies research strategy	Research strategy is poorly-identified although is coherent	Little evidence of a coherent research strategy	No evidence of a coherent research strategy
Research methodology	Provides an excellent statement of methods used to obtain information, and shows an excellent understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of chosen methodology supported by research literature	Provides clear statement of methods used to obtain information, and shows a very good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of chosen methodology supported by research literature	Identifies methods used to obtain information and makes a good attempt to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses with some reference to the research literature	Identifies methods used to obtain information, but may apply these uncritically and with little reference to research literature	Some aspects of method used is referred to but with little attempt to explain methods used to obtain information, with little discussion of their strengths or weaknesses	Some aspects of method used is referred to but with little or no attempt to explain methods used to obtain information, and little or no attempt to evaluate them	Although some aspects of method used is referred to, there is no attempt to explain or evaluate them
Information sources	Identifies appropriate sources for addressing research question; shows excellent understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of these sources	Identifies appropriate sources for addressing research question; shows very good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of these sources	Identifies sources for addressing research question, and makes good attempt to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses	Identifies relevant sources, makes some attempt to evaluate their strengths or weaknesses	Little attempt to justify sources used to obtain information, or to evaluate their strengths or weaknesses	Little or no attempt to justify sources used to obtain information, or to evaluate their strengths or weaknesses	Almost no attempt to justify sources used to obtain information, or to evaluate their strengths or weaknesses
Ability to derive information from sources	Demonstrates excellent ability to obtain relevant information from sources; shows particular imagination in way sources are used.	Demonstrates very good ability to obtain relevant information from sources; shows particular imagination in way sources are used.	Obtains relevant information from sources	Derives some information from sources, but not to the same extent as dissertations receiving 2.1 or first-class marks. The information obtained may be limited, either because the sources themselves are limited, or because only a limited amount of use has been made of them.	Derives a limited amount of information	Derives very little relevant information	Derives almost no relevant information.

Analysis of information	Exceptional analysis of information obtained from sources. This might also include an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used to obtain information and the quality of the information obtained.	High-quality analysis of information obtained from sources. This might also include an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the methods used to obtain information and the quality of the information obtained.	Makes a good attempt to analyse information	Makes a reasonable attempt to analyse information.	Some attempt at analysis of relevant information obtained from research. May also be too much analysis of irrelevant information	Very limited analysis of relevant information as has been obtained and/ or too much analysis of irrelevant information	Almost no analysis of relevant information as has been obtained and/ or too much analysis of irrelevant information
Knowledge and understanding of relevant literature	Shows excellent knowledge and understanding of relevant literature, including, where appropriate, a critical evaluation of the sources and methods on which the literature is based.	Shows very good knowledge and understanding of relevant literature, including, where appropriate, a critical evaluation of the sources and methods on which the literature is based.	Shows good knowledge and understanding of relevant literature. Good evaluation of the sources and methods on which the literature is based.	Demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of relevant literature. Some attempt to evaluate the sources and methods on which the literature is based.	Some knowledge or understanding of relevant literature, with little attempt to evaluate the sources and methods on which the literature is based.	Very limited knowledge or understanding of relevant literature; very little attempt to evaluate the sources and methods on which the literature is based.	Almost no knowledge or understanding of relevant literature; almost no attempt to evaluate the sources and methods on which the literature is based.
Presentation of material	Presents material in a very clear and logical manner with an excellent integration of chapters. The dissertation should include a full bibliography and all items should be properly referenced.	Presents material in a clear and logical manner with a very good integration of chapters. The dissertation should include a full bibliography and all items should be properly referenced.	Material is generally well-organised and clearly-presented with a good integration of chapters. Includes a full bibliography with appropriate referencing.	Material may not always be clearly-presented or well-organised with an acceptable integration of chapters. Referencing is generally accurate. Some items may be lacking from the bibliography, and references may not always be cited appropriately.	Material may be poorly-presented and badly-organised with a weak integration of chapters. The bibliography is generally accurate but may be limited or incomplete and some references not cited appropriately.	Material is poorly-presented and badly-organised with a poor integration of chapters. The bibliography may be limited or incomplete, and references not cited appropriately.	Material is very poorly-presented and very badly-organised with a very poor integration of chapters. The bibliography may be limited or incomplete, and references not cited appropriately.
Presentation of findings	Exceptionally clear and accessible presentation of findings	Very clear and accessible presentation of findings	Findings are generally clear and accessible	Generally competent but findings may not always be presented in a clear or accessible manner	Acceptable but sometimes findings may be poorly-presented and sometimes difficult to understand	Findings are poorly-presented and difficult to understand	Findings are very poorly-presented and difficult to understand
Quality of discussion and clarity of conclusions	Very clear and logical argument with faultless reinforcement and integration of evidence and referenced material, leading to appropriate and relevant conclusions. Will also show an awareness of ways in which the topic or investigation may be	Very clear and logical argument which is very well reinforced by evidence and referenced material, leading to appropriate and relevant conclusions. May also show an awareness of ways in which the topic or investigation may be	Clear and logical argument which is well reinforced by evidence and referenced material, leading to appropriate and relevant conclusions	Generally competent but argument may not always be clearly and logically presented; conclusions may not always be supported by evidence on which they are supposed to be based.	Acceptable, but argument may sometimes be difficult to identify or follow	Failure to develop a clear argument. Discussion may be irrelevant to the research carried out	Failure to develop any argument or conclusion. Discussion may be irrelevant to the research carried out