

Individual Literature Review

This assessment tests learning outcomes a), e) l) and m).

Submission date: 2pm, 5 September 2017.

You are required to produce a critical review of the literature that will enable you to define and individually investigate a focused area that relates directly to your programme, route or pathway. Your choice of topic will generally be driven by either an issue encountered during the process of undertaking the consultancy, or an aspect of theory related to the sector or industry within which your project was located. You should discuss your initial ideas and agree your final choice with your supervisor.

It is expected that your literature review will broadly achieve the following:

- Establishing the context and structure of your chosen area and its significance
- A synthesis of current views and suggesting new perspectives
- Identifying relationships between ideas and practice
- Distinguishing the theory development that has been undertaken in your chosen area and highlighting gaps in knowledge or work that still needs to be done.

You may also wish to consider:

- Identifying the main methodologies and research techniques that have been used to research your area
- Placing the research in a historical context

Work should be structured as an 'academic paper', using section headings to organise main themes and ideas. You should include an introduction, the literature review itself, a concluding paragraph and a list of references. Include any diagrams or figures in the text if appropriate. Referencing must be to Harvard Standard.

Marking Criteria

The review will be marked according to how well you have met the following five criteria:

Demonstrates an understanding of appropriate theoretical concepts

An indication of what is being looked for: the student effectively establishes the context for and significance of the issue and clearly identifies and understands the body of theory that is relevant for the subject under study. It is not necessary to present all theories, concepts and models in full detail, rather the student should summarise the key areas and should assume that the reader is familiar with this material. The student should endeavour to present a reasoned case for why certain theories/models etc. are included/not included.

Demonstrates an ability to evaluate the literature and synthesise

An indication of what is being looked for: An analytical and evaluative review which compares and contrasts differing schools of thought and assesses them to develop and interrelate concepts, reflecting the student's own perspective. Arguments are well balanced and connections between concepts are demonstrated through the production of an appropriate conceptual framework.