**GUIDANCE NOTES: STRUCTURING YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW CHAPTER:**

**What does the marker expect to read in a critical literature review?**

* In a dissertation of 12,000 words the literature review is typically 3,500 to 4000 words.
* To be critical, literature reviews have a clearly signposted and logical structure
* A logically structured literature review chapter is typically broken down and organised in sections. Each section focuses on a key theme/issue and the discussion of this draws from a range of academic sources;
* It often takes some time to identify and develop the thematic structure of the literature review chapter. You may therefore find it to be a work-in-progress to which you will be making several changes in the structure over the course of the research process.

**TITLE:**A critical analysis of the increased use of food banks

**2.0 The Literature Review**

**2.1 Introduction to chapter**

**2.2 Macro Economic Theory**

**2.2.1 Income**

**2.2.3 Unemployment**

**2.2.4 Benefits**

**2.3 Usage patterns for food banks**

**2.4 Reasons for usage of food banks**

**2.5 Public perceptions of food banks**

**2.6 Main themes for primary investigation**

**TITLE:** An exploration of internationalisation within the materials handling market: a case study of NMHG into Russia

**2: Literature review**

**2.1 Overview of the chapter**

**2.2 Models for analysing internationalisation**

**2.2.1 Upsala International Model**

**2.2.2 Transaction Cost Economics (TCE***)*

**2.2.3****The Network Perspective**

**2.3 Motivation and knowledge for internationalisation**

**2.4 Internationalisation strategies**

**2.5 Screening for a potential market...**

**2.6 The barriers to entry**

**2.7 Issue in exporting**

**2.8 Russia as a BRIC country...**

**2.9 Summary of the review: research gap**

**Examples of literature review structure**

**TITLE:** **The Challenge of Managing Educational Change: Teachers’ Perspectives on Managing the Process of Change in Scotland towards Curriculum for Excellence**

**Chapter 2: Literature review**

**2.1 Introduction**

**2.2 Managing Change in Organisations**

**2.3 Managing Curriculum Change**

**2.4 Managing Curriculum Change in Scotland**

**2.5 Implementing Curriculum for Excellence (CfE): Arising Issues**

**2.6 Summary and implications for further research**

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| **GUIDANCE NOTES: STRUCTURING YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW CHAPTER:**  A basic template for structuring the literature review chapter:  **Overview of chapter**  States what the literature review aims to do;  Identify the key themes it explores  **Section on key theme**  **Introduce the key theme/issue and relevance for your study**  **Paragraph by paragraph build discussion of this theme**  **At the end of the section you can summarise/comment briefly on the importance /relevance of this key theme/issue for your investigation**  **Section on next key theme**  **Theme**  **Theme**  **Theme**  **Theme**  **Summary of the literature review**  *Briefly conclude on the key themes/issues you have identified from the review of literature*  ***Explicitly link the literature review to the next chapter*** | **NOTES:**  **Examples of signpost/topic sentences to introduce the theme/key issue reviewed in the section:**  The views discussed in this section are important to this study.  A major theme for this study is X. This is because...  The following discussion of X is particularly important in meeting the present study’s aim.  The following review of studies on X is particularly relevant to the present study’s aim of...  To address this study’s research question it is necessary to consider the following research which examined A, B and C.  Several studies have identified another issue of particular relevance to this study, that of X.  Of significance to this research is the question/issue/challenge of X, as identified by several authors...  Literature on the value of X is informative of the present study...  **Examples of wording to summarise/comment on importance relevance of this key theme/issue for your investigation:**  From the definitions compared the one which has greatest relevance to this study is... . This is because it ...  Thus Smith’s theory of Y may help explain the key issues this study seeks to explore.  The suitability of this model for current practice is measured in the primary research investigation of this study...  The contrasting views explored here have implications for this study because...  The studies discussed so far assist in understanding the impact of A on B.  As will be discussed, this conclusion is relevant in terms of this research  Examples such as these hold a particular relevance to this investigation, as they show how...  Given their importance these issues/views/findings are explored in the primary research investigation...  **This review of literature highlights several key themes... *How the primary research investigation critically explores these is explained in the next chapter...***  **A major question raised by the review of current evidence is ....? *This question drives the research design as explained and justified in the next chapter..***  **Of these several questions this literature review raises, the most relevant to this study is... *The following methodology chapter proposes how this question will be investigated...***  ***The next chapter the methodology, offers theoretical and practical justification for how*** **this gap in the literature** is investigated...  **These key themes to emerge from this review *shape and direct the research design, as explained in the methodology chapter...***  **This review of relevant literature identifies a gap. Little research has been undertaken on the impact of X on Y**. ***Chapter 3 therefore explains and justifies the research design that will explore this gap...*** |