You are required to produce a critical review of the literature which 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 which 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 havemet 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 issueand 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.

***Uses of a wide range of relevant literature***

*An indication of what is being looked for:*The student uses a wide range of relevant literature to effectively support arguments and which provides a clear framework for exploring the topic area. This literature is assessed in a way which demonstrates an awareness of ‘accepted’ thinking in addition to current problems and new insights in the subject area.

***The extent to which the review is coherent with a clear ‘voice’ and sense of direction***

*An indication of what is being looked for:* The review is very readable; professionally written with a consistent, coherent structure and a balanced and clear line of argument. There is no repetition or source of confusion.

***Presentation and referencing***

*An indication of what is being looked for:* The work is consistently and clearly formatted and it ties together tightly as one complete document. Harvard referencing is accurate throughout.

For this assessment we require you to drop-box a copy and submit a hard copy of your report.

Weighting: 30%

Word Length: 3,000 words

# Reading List

You will need to undertake a wide range of research to support your project and the content of this will vary according to the nature of your project. The following general sources may be useful reference sources, to support the project and your writing:

BOLTON, G. (2014) Reflective Practice: Writing and Professional Development, 4th. Edition, London: Sage Publications

MAYLOR, H. (2011) Project Management, 4th Edition, Edinburgh: FT Prentice Hall

FISHER, C.M. (2010) Writing and Researching a Dissertation for Business Students. 3rd. Edition, Harlow: FT Prentice Hall.

QUINLAN, C. (2015) Business Research methods, Cengage, Hampshire, Uk.

REISS, G. (2007) Project Management Demystified, 3rd ed, Taylor and Francis Ltd

Newton, R. (2012) The Management Consultant: Mastering the Art of Consultancy Edinburgh: Pearson Education

SLACK, N. and BRANDON-JONES, A. (2013) Operations Management, Edinburgh: Pearson Education