PM600: Assessment Task Information

Key Information:

Assessment title:	Research Questions and Literature Review
Assessment set in:	Week 6, Cycle 2
Assessment deadline:	23:59, 8th December 2019
Assessment feedback:	00:01, 23rd December 2019
Assessment weighting:	30%

Assessment Instructions:

Core Task:

In your previous assessment, you produced a research project proposal on which you have received feedback from your tutor. Use this feedback to improve your proposal by re-writing two sections of the proposal:

1. **Research Questions**
2. **Literature review**

The aim of these two sections is to provide appropriate focus for your research project and to persuade your supervisor of the importance and need for this research project.

Structure:

Your assignment should follow the structure outlined below:

Cover page (excluded from the word count)
The cover page should include the working title for your research project (15 – 20 words).

Section 1: Research Questions (200 – 300 words)
This section should include a description of the key questions (maximum three) that this project aims to answer. You must also provide a justification for these questions and relate them to the existing literature on your chosen topic.

Section 2: Literature Review (1,000 – 1,200 words)
In this section, you should review the available academic literature on your chosen topic (minimum 10 sources). You should compare and contrast existing research findings in order to identify gaps which your research aims to fill. You should also critically evaluate the quality of existing literature on your chosen topic.

References (excluded from the word count)
In this section, you should include a list of all sources you have used to complete this assignment.

Referencing style:

The college's Harvard referencing guide must be followed.
https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmp/sonet/rlos/studyskills/harvard/

Word count:

1,500 words (+/- 10%)
The cover page, working title and references are excluded from the word count.

Presentation:

The following requirements must be followed:
- o Arial, font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing
- o Text should be aligned to the left
- o Each page of the assignment should have a header containing your student ID number, module code (PM600) and the name of your class tutor. **Do not include your name**.
- o All pages should be numbered.

Submission:

You should submit an electronic copy of your Research Project Proposal (as a Word document) via TurnItIn on the VLE. (Note: Assessments submitted after the submission deadline may not be accepted.)

The cover page should contain the following information:
- o Module Code: PM600
- o Module Title: Research Project
- o Group: (e.g. Sep A)
- o Assessment Title: Research Project Proposal
- o Project Title: (15 – 20 words)
- o Tutor's Name
- o Student ID Number: (please use your Kaplan ID number only and **NOT your name**)
- o Date of Submission
- o Word count: (not the word limit)

Theory and/or task resources required for the assessment:

This is a secondary research task which requires you to draw on sources to evaluate your research design and the topic you wish to research.

You should draw on knowledge provided in lectures and seminars. A range of sources is appropriate for this assignment: you may wish to use informal sources for background research on your topic (e.g. newspapers and reputable websites) in addition to a diverse range of academic sources (including journals, textbooks and chapters in edited volumes). Databases are a rich source for datasets. A minimum of 10 academic, English language sources is required for this assessment.

Learning Outcomes Assessed:

The following learning outcomes are assessed in this task:

- Conduct and produce a critically evaluative academic literature review appropriate to the proposed research question(s) following accepted conventions.

- Critically reflect on academic skills and performance, responding appropriately to feedback to improve aspects of academic work.

Assessment and feedback:

<u>**Assessment:**</u>

You will receive a mark and feedback for this assessment. The following criteria will be used to evaluate your performance in this assessment:

1. Coverage and content:
- How well you cover available sources and identify key content.

2. Critical appraisal:
- How well you consider the value of the sources to your own research

3. Organising ideas:
- How well you organise your ideas into themes which will help reach your research objectives

4. Academic expression:
- How well you present your ideas using academic language
- How accurate your referencing is

<u>**Feedback:**</u>

Your tutor will mark the assessment and provide you with online feedback via TurnItIn. You can use this feedback to guide your further learning on the module.