

## **Major Study**

We thought it would be useful to share with you what we are looking for when we summatively assess your Major Study assignment, as this will help you to continue working on your assignment whilst you wait for feedback on your draft. These characteristics are presented under four headings or themes, and we have indicated in the brackets the weighting we are attaching to each of the themes, for example, 30% of the marks are available for the methodology, 25% for your analysis of the data and so on. If you have any initial questions about how this will work, please raise this with your centre tutor.

### **Contextualisation (25%)**

Your ability to introduce your study, locate yourself within it, provide a critical evaluation of the literature that connects your work to the existing research and material and how from this you have derived a research question or set of questions.

### **Methodology (30%)**

Your ability to explain and justify your selection of a research approach in relation to your research topic and research question(s), then how you choose appropriate data collection instruments to answer your question. You should also be doing two other things: provide a reflexive account of how you obtained informed consent from your institution and participants; and a critical and reflexive account of how you collected your data.

### **Analysis (25%)**

Your ability to provide a reflexive account of how you analysed the data you collected and then critically discuss the main findings arising from your study. More specifically, your ability to do two things: break down the data and then synthesise it under headings; and your ability to locate your findings within existing literature and research. Also important in this theme is your ability to draw reasonable conclusions from your findings and then suggest relevant recommendations, where appropriate.

### **Quality of Academic Writing (20%)**

Your ability to present your work to the highest possible standard will determine your marks here. Thus, the readability and fluency of your work – grammar, punctuation, syntax and expression - are important; the study's structure and coherence; the standard of the abstract; the application of Harvard referencing; the level of argumentation, criticality and reflexivity in your writing.