**Assessment Component 2: Dissertation - Marking Criteria (80% of Module Mark)**

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|  | **Distinction ( 70%+)** | **Merit (60-69%)** | **Pass (40-59%)** | **Fail (less than 40%)** |
| **Overall and Introduction** | The problem addressed in the Dissertation is a significant technical or academic one, and has been shown to be so by the student. The Dissertation could form the basis for published work (very high academic quality piece of written work). | The problem addressed in the Dissertation is a significant technical or academic one, and has been shown to be so by the student. The work would need substantial development were it to form the basis for published work. | The problem addressed in the Dissertation is a significant technical or academic one, and has been shown to be so by the student. The work would need major revision were it to form the basis for published work. | Does not address a sufficiently challenging problem. The work is not publishable material. |
| **Aim, Objectives, and Rationale** | The aim and research objectives (questions or hypotheses) are very clear. Has provided an excellent rationale for the research. | The aim and research objectives (questions or hypotheses) are very clear. Has provided a very good rationale for the research. | The aim and research objectives (questions or hypotheses) are clear. Has provided a sufficiently good rationale for the research. | The aim and research objectives (questions or hypotheses) are very vague. Has provided a very weak rationale for the research. |
| **Literature Survey** | In addressing the problem the student has evidenced a critical understanding of the relevant research literature. Have extensively conducted critical analysis and synthesis for the literature review. Most literature surveyed is up to date. | In addressing the problem the student has evidenced an understanding of the relevant research literature, albeit with limited critique. Have conducted some critical analysis and synthesis for your literature review. Some literature survey is up to date. | In addressing the problem the student has evidenced some understanding of relevant literature, albeit largely descriptive. Has conducted very little critical analysis and synthesis for your literature review. Most literature surveyed is dated. | In addressing the problem the student has evidenced very limited understanding of relevant literature. Has conducted no critical analysis and synthesis for your literature review. All literature surveyed is dated. |
| **Methodology** | The student has demonstrated a sound justification for the methodology adopted and has carried out the methodology in an insightful and professional manner, demonstrating originality and a self-critical evaluation of effectiveness. | The student has demonstrated a sound justification for the methodology adopted and has carried out the methodology effectively. | The student has demonstrated some justification for the methodology adopted and has carried out the methodology effectively. | Adopts an inappropriate and poorly justified methodology. |
| **Research Outcome and Discussion** | All the results from the research have been mapped precisely to the research objectives (questions, hypotheses or prototype/product).The student relates the results to the literature and makes innovative suggestions regarding how the work could be developed. | Almost all of the results from the research have been mapped to the research objectives (questions, hypotheses or prototype/product). The student relates the results to the literature and makes some suggestions regarding how the work could be developed. | Some of the results from the research have been mapped to the research objectives (questions, hypotheses or prototype/product). The student relates the results to the literature and makes very few suggestions regarding how the work could be developed. | The results from the research have not been mapped to the research objectives (questions, hypotheses or prototype/product). The student does not relate any results found to existing theory and fails to make reasoned suggestions for further development. |
| **Conclusion** | The student has provided an excellent summary of the research accompanied by an excellent critique & evaluation of the work conducted (methods and/or prototype/product). It also includes excellent recommendations for further research. | The student has provided a very good summary of the research accompanied by some critique & evaluation of the work conducted (methods and/or prototype/product). It also includes good recommendations for further research. | The student has provided a summary of the research accompanied by limited critique & evaluation of the work conducted (methods and/or prototype/product). It also includes weak recommendations for further research. | The student has not provided a summary of the research and is not accompanied by a critique or evaluation of the work conducted (methods and/or prototype/product). It does not include any recommendation for further research. |
| **References** | All the references are in Harvard Style Referencing Style | Almost all the references are in Harvard Style Referencing Style | Some the references are in Harvard Style Referencing Style | None of the references is in Harvard Style Referencing Style |