HAR6030 Research Methods Marking - DRAFT 22/23

Total mark	Weighting	**0-39**	**40-49**	**50-59**	**60-69**	**70-100**
Summary comments		This assignment is a fail. You do not need to re-write the whole assignment. The sections where you have done well are... To achieve a higher grade, you will need to make changes to the … Restructure your assignment using the subheadings outlined in the assignment brief. To improve, check your current content against the marking criteria and consider what explicitly maps to each section. As a rough rule, divide your word count between these sections after allowing for a brief introduction and conclusion.. Please see the summary comments below on each section of the assignment as well as the in text comments	This assignment does not meet the pass criteria. To achieve a higher grade, please address the points highlighted in your feedback. You do not need to re-write the whole assignment. The sections where you have done well are… To achieve a higher grade, you will need to make changes to the … We suggest that you restructure your assignment using the headings outlined in the assignment brief. To improve, check your current content against the marking criteria and consider what explicitly maps to each section Please see the summary comments below on each	This is a reasonable research proposal. In order to reach a merit mark (60+) there are some key areas where you could improve detailed below... This proposal included a lot of important information but could have been improved if there was more structure through the use of subheadings. To improve, check your current content against the marking criteria and consider what explicitly maps to each section	This is a very good research proposal, well thought through subject and method(s). Well structured research proposal In order to reach a distinction level (70+) mark you need to … Please see the summary comments below on each section of the assignment as well as the in text comments for more specific feedback and development points.	Excellent and original research proposal supported with a clear understanding of the subject and method(s) selected. Considerable and effective use of literature, beyond that supplied as taught material. Excellent structure. In order to extend your mark further you would need to ... Please see the summary comments below on each section of the assignment as well as the in text comments for more specific feedback and development points.

		for more specific feedback and development points.	section of the assignment as well as the in text comments for more specific feedback and development points.	outlined in the assignment brief. Please see the summary comments below on each section of the assignment as well as the in text comments for more specific feedback and development points.		
Academic writing (optional comments)		Some parts of your assignment were difficult to read and would benefit from further support to improve your English language writing skills. Please contact your personal tutor to discuss options such as attending the department Language programme or 301 workshops.	Some parts of your proposal were difficult to read and would benefit from further support to improve your English language writing skills. Please contact your personal tutor to discuss options such as attending the department Language programme or 301 workshops.	Some parts of your assignment were difficult to read and would benefit from further support to improve your English language writing skills. Please contact your personal tutor to discuss options such as attending the department Language programme or 301 workshops.	Your academic writing was at a good standard throughout this assignment - well done.	Your academic writing was at an excellent standard throughout this assignment - well done.
Introduction & Background/ Research	25%	Your title is unclear and does not accurately summarise your research project and does not include your	Your title is unclear and does not fully summarise your research project	Your title reasonably attempts to summarise your	You have a good title which accurately summarises your research project as	You have a clear and concise title which very accurately

question / Aims and objectives:		proposed research method(s). Your literature review is very weak. It is unclear what the main problem is and what the gap in literature is that your research intends to fill. You have provided some interesting points but you have not supported them with any evidence. No critical appraisal skills have been demonstrated. Very limited range of literature has been included. The research question you present would have been improved by… Your aims and objectives could have been improved by... Your aim is what you hope to achieve by the end of your project and the objectives are the research activities that will be undertaken in order to	topic or your proposed method(s). You have provided some interesting points in your introduction but it is unclear from the end of this section, what the problem is, what the gap in literature is or what population is of interest. Very limited critical appraisal skills have been demonstrated. You have included a very limited range of literature to support your choice of research area. The research question you present would have been improved by… Your aims and objectives could have been improved by… Your aim is what you hope to achieve by the end of your project and the objectives are the research activities that	research project and your proposed research method(s). Your literature review provides good general context to the issues. Your mark would have been higher if you had critically appraised the literature more. You have provided a clearly defined research question although this would have been improved by... Your research aims and objectives are clear, but to get a higher mark you could ...	well as your proposed method(s). Your literature review is comprehensive and provides good context to the issues. Overall, you have used a good range of literature to support your arguments. Some good critical appraisal skills of the included literature is evident.. You have provided a clearly defined research question. Your research aims and objectives are clear. To improve this section ...	summarises your research project as well as your proposed method(s). You provide a clear introduction that introduces your topic well and you've shown excellent use of appropriate and varied range of literature to support your arguments with excellent critical appraisal throughout Your literature review is comprehensive and provides good context to the issues. You present a clearly defined research question with appropriate research aims and objectives.

		complete the research and achieve the study aims.	will be undertaken in order to complete the research and achieve the study aims.			To improve this section ...
Outline and justification of research design/methodology.	10%	You have included little information and theory to justify your research approach and your selected research design and failed to demonstrate an understanding of why your selected research design is appropriate to explore this research question To improve this section….	You have started to demonstrate some understanding of research design by describing some theory, however you have not applied this theory to your research area. You have not provided sufficient justification as to why your research question is best explored using this methodology. To improve this section….	You have demonstrated an adequate understanding of your selected research approach and study design, this could have been improved by including more theory to support/evidence this choice. You could further develop this section by applying this theory to your research question. 'Why is the methodology you are suggesting appropriate for answering your specific research question?. '	You demonstrate a clear understanding of your selected research approach and study design which is well referenced and underpinned with key theory from the course materials. You have made a good attempt to relate this theory to your research question to justify why your design and method selected are best suited to explore your research question. To improve this section more detail is needed…..	You demonstrate an excellent and thorough understanding of your selected research approach and study design and have provided a clear justification for its use. You have shown excellent use of appropriate theory, beyond the supplied course materials, to theoretically underpin and justify your choice of research design for your specific research question To improve this section ...

Plan of investigation (sampling strategy; Procedure including recruitment; specific methods used; proposed measures, approaches to analysis)	25%	Your plan of investigation is very weak. You have not included a Sampling strategy/Recruitment plan/Data collection plan/Analysis plan. For this assignment you need to consider the Sampling strategy/Recruitment plan/Data collection plan/Analysis plan. You should be including key references to help justify your choices (e.g. in the use of particular outcome measures or methods of analysis). To improve this section ...	Your plan of investigation is weak and in places difficult to follow what you intend to do. Such as ……. You could have provided more information about the **(quantitative or qualitative)** data such as... Your plan of investigation needs to be clearer. You should be including any key references required to help justify your choices (e.g. in the use of particular outcome measures or methods of analysis). To improve this section ...	You have made a good attempt describing your plan of investigation.. You could have provided more information about the such as... To improve this section ...	Your plan of investigation is well written and follows a logical path. You could have provided more information about the such as... To improve this section ...	You have provided a detailed description for the plan of your investigation. Well done. To improve this section ...
Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)	5%	You have not described or justified how your proposed research will actively involve patients and the public (e.g. service users and carers) in the design/plan where appropriate, and how including PPI will benefit your research. Where no PPI is	You have not fully described, or justified, how your proposed research will actively involve patients and the public (e.g. service users and carers) in the design/plan where appropriate, and how	You have reasonably described how your proposed research will actively involve PPI in the design/plan where appropriate, with some justification included.	You have described well how your proposed research will actively involve PPI in the design/plan where appropriate, with some good	You have included an excellent description and justification of how your proposed research will actively involve PPI in the design/plan where appropriate

		proposed, a rationale for this decision must be given. This could include PPI in refining research questions, designing research instruments, advising on approaches to recruitment, assisting in the collection and analysis of data, participation or chairing advisory and steering groups, and in the dissemination of research findings).	including PPI will benefit your research design/outcomes/dissemination. This could include PPI in refining research questions, designing research instruments, advising on approaches to recruitment, assisting in the collection and analysis of data, participation or chairing advisory and steering groups, and in the dissemination of research findings).	To improve this section you need more detail on how including PPI will benefit your research design/outcomes/dissemination.	justification included. Some good detail has been included on how PPI will benefit your research design/outcomes/dissemination. To improve this section...	and how this will benefit your research design/outcomes/dissemination.
Ethical concerns; Potential difficulties;	15%	Your ethics section is inadequate. You have failed to demonstrate a clear understanding of the main ethical concerns for this study. In this section I would expect to see mention of: confidentiality, anonymity, data protection, informed consent, data management and where you'd need to seek ethics approval from. I would also expect to see how you might deal with these potential ethical concerns.	You have covered some ethical issues that relate to your study such as …. However there are many key ethical issues missing. In this section I would expect to see mention of: confidentiality, anonymity, data protection, informed consent, data management and where you'd need to seek ethics approval from.	You have shown some understanding of the main ethical issues but a number of ethical considerations haven't been mentioned in this study such as … e.g. confidentiality, anonymity, data protection, informed consent, data management and where you'd	You show a good general understanding of the ethical issues and have highlighted a good range of potential difficulties with the research as well as describing how you might manage these. To improve this section...	Excellent section covering the relevant ethical considerations and potential difficulties and how you would manage these. To improve this section ...

		In this section you should also include a summary explaining any potential risks/difficulties to delivering your research project, and what contingencies you will need to put in place to deal with them. This may include a discussion about any limitations with the design/methods selected and any mitigating factors. *A risk is defined as any factor which may delay, disrupt or prevent the full achievement of a project objective. Typical areas of risk might include ethical approval, site variation in data gathering, staffing, resource constraints, technical constraints, data access and quality, timing, management and operational issues; however, please note this is not an exhaustive list. To improve this section ...	Some potential risks/difficulties to delivering your research project have been described but you need to include what contingencies you will need to put in place to deal with them. Typical areas of risk might include ethical approval, site variation in data gathering, staffing, resource constraints, technical constraints, data access and quality, timing, management and operational issues; however, please note this is not an exhaustive list. To improve this section ...	need to seek ethics approval from). You need to describe the ethical issues in more detail such as how will you ensure your consent is 'fully informed' You have reasonably identified and described a number of potential risks/difficulties to delivering your research project. But more detail on what contingencies you will need to put in place to deal with them would strengthen this section. To improve this section...		

Anticipated impact	5%	You have provided an inadequate consideration for the impact of your research To improve this section you need to consider the potential impacts of your research. Research impacts can be varied and wide ranging and you may want to think about the effects your research may have on health and well being, on society, on policy changes, or on clinical practices. You could consider benefits to audiences such as; research participants, patients, staff, government (local and national), the research site, the researcher.	The potential impact of your findings are not clear. To improve this section you could consider benefits to a wider audience such as; research participants, clients, service users, staff, government (local and national), the research site, the researcher.	Some anticipated impacts considered. To improve this section you could consider benefits to a wider audience such as; research participants, clients, service users, staff, government (local and national), the research site, the researcher.	A clear outline of the anticipated benefits of conducting the research. You could make more of the impact of your research. To improve this section you could consider how you will encourage policy makers to consider and then implement your findings	Very clear and detailed description of the anticipated benefits of conducting the research. To improve this section ...
Dissemination plan	5%	You have not included a dissemination section. This section should consider which 'groups' of people may benefit from your intended research and why. Who is it important to disseminate your findings to and what platform/s is most effective to do this. This should include a consideration for how you	You have not clearly shown how you would disseminate your research and who the main audiences would be. To improve you could consider who the main audiences for your research would be and how you would disseminate to these	You have included some standard methods of dissemination. To improve you could consider which Journal/Conference would be most appropriate. As well as considering how to engage the	A clear outline of your planned methods of dissemination. You've included a dissemination strategy covering the standard methods of dissemination as well as some more creative ones. To improve…	You included an excellent, clear and comprehensive dissemination strategy covering a range of methods and their targeted audiences. To improve this section ...

		plan to communicate your research to the different audiences who would be interested in the findings.	audiences. You may consider a particular Journal/Conference to present your findings. You may also consider how you would best engage the general public or how you would best disseminate your results to your study participants.	general public, perhaps via social media. You could also consider how you would disseminate your results to your study participants.		
Research Management	5%	You have not included a timetable or demonstrated a realistic understanding of the time your intended research activities will take.	In your study timetable you've covered some project activities although a number of important project activities have not been adequately presented such as...	Your timeline is over ambitious for this scale of project. In your study timetable you've covered most of the important project activities although some of the timelines that you've given may be unrealistic.	Your timetable is detailed but a bit ambitious for this type of research.	Your timetable is realistic. In your study timetable you've covered most of the important project activities and have shown a good appreciation for the time some of these activities may take.
Style, references and appendices	5%	Your style and presentation is poor. Using subheadings from the marking criteria would have helped structure your assignment.	There are weaknesses in your style and presentation of your assignment. Using subheadings from the marking criteria would	Your style and presentation is reasonable throughout. Better use of subheadings would have improved your	Overall your style and presentation are good throughout this assignment. Some inconsistencies in referencing.	Excellent style and presentation throughout the assignment. References are consistent throughout. Good

		There are many missing references and errors in your referencing within text and in your appendices. Please revisit the university library online guidance on referencing to access support with this. You have not included any appendices, you could have considered including ………	have helped structure your assignment. There are some missing references and errors in your referencing within text and in your appendices. Please revisit the university library online guidance on referencing to access support with this. You have included minimal additional supporting evidence appendices, you could have considered including ……..	assignments. Some errors in your referencing. Your appendices include relevant information to your research proposal.	Good use of appendices for additional supporting evidence.	use of appendices for additional supporting evidence. Well done.