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Trawsnewid Addysg, Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education, Transforming Lives



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BMHP6020_BIRM – Independent Project

Chapter 2 - Background Information & Analysis

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Welcome to Chapter 2 – Background Information & Analysis

- Welcome, in this PowerPoint we will go over Chapter 2: Background Information and Analysis, an essential part of building a solid foundation for any research. Let's dive into how historical, theoretical, and contextual backgrounds provide insight into our topic and prepare us for methodology and further analysis.
- This PowerPoint highlights key information regarding Chapter 2 of your dissertation.
- Each heading which has been provided in the '**Dissertation Template**' will be broken down.
- You will be expected to highlight any section you do not understand and speak with your lecturer about this at an appropriate point.



Importance of Background Information

Foundation for Understanding

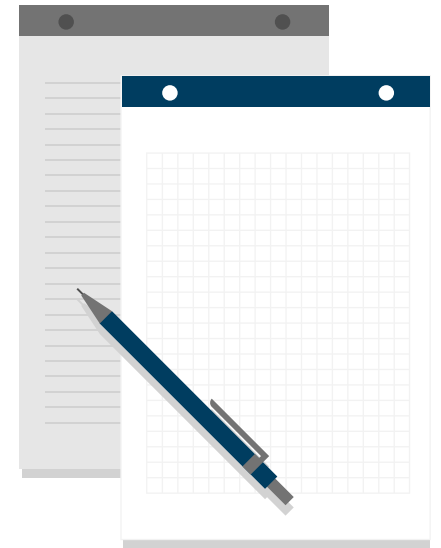
Background information offers a clear context, helping readers understand why the topic is relevant and how it has evolved. It ensures that readers, regardless of their expertise, have a solid grasp of the topic's essentials before delving into detailed analyses.

Justifies the Research

Shows the necessity of the research by highlighting gaps, historical significance, and current trends.
Demonstrates a well-informed basis for the research, reinforcing the importance and relevance of the study.

Links Theory and Practice

Introduces key theories and concepts, setting up a framework to support your methodology and analysis.
Connects historical insights with contemporary applications, illustrating how past developments influence current practices.





Importance of Background Information Continued...

Supports Research Methodology

Background insights help in choosing appropriate methods, by aligning the research approach with established knowledge. Provides benchmarks and references that shape the analysis and interpretation of findings.

Prepares for Deeper Analysis

Sets the stage for later chapters, such as methodology and discussion, ensuring a logical flow. Offers a structured overview, making it easier to explore complex themes and findings with a well-established base.

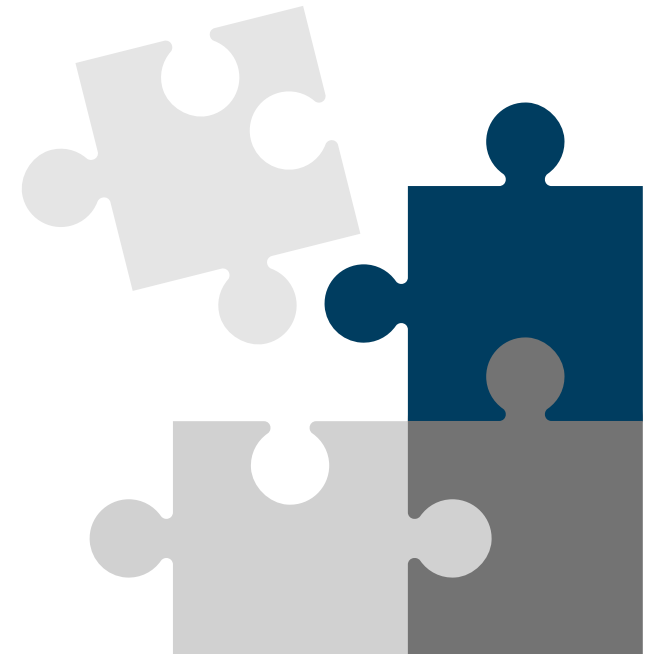


Formatting and Headings for Chapter 2

- All information regarding the layout of the chapter can be found in the **Independent Project Template** on **Moodle**.

Below are examples of headings which can be used to help structure this chapter.

- 2.1 - Introduction
- 2.2 - Historical Background
- 2.3 – Theoretical Background
- 2.4 – International Context
- 2.5 – National/Local UK Context
- 2.6 – Conclusion



2.1 – Introduction (150 words approx.)

The purpose of this background chapter is to give you a broad, foundational understanding of the topic we're researching.

Think of it as setting the scene for the research – we're not yet analysing specific themes (that will come later), but rather we're exploring the historical, theoretical, and contextual framework around the topic.

As you did before, you will introduce the chapter and what you will be talking about within it. You do not need to provide lots of details, just the main concepts you will be covering.

In this chapter, we will look at the topic's origins, theories that underpin it, how different countries view it, and how it's seen within the UK specifically. This background will give you the necessary context to understand and design the research methods we'll discuss in the next chapter.





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2.2 Historical Background

(450 words approx.)





2.2 – Topic Development

- **Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.**
 - **Development of the Topic:**
 - Discuss the origins and historical development of the topic.
 - Highlight key milestones and events that have shaped the current state of the topic.
-
- To understand the present, we need to look at the past. We'll start with the origins of your topic – where it began, how it became recognised as significant, and the major developments along the way.
 - Think of the key milestones or breakthroughs within your topic. For example, if our topic is public health, we might discuss pivotal moments like the introduction of sanitation practices in the 19th century or the development of vaccines. These events help us see how our current understanding has evolved and what issues have historically been prioritised.





2.2 – Significant Historical Figures and Contributions

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Significant Historical Figures and Contributions:**
 - Identify and describe the contributions of significant figures or organisations related to the topic.
 - Explain how their work has influenced the development and understanding of the topic.
-
- Certain figures, organisations, or institutions have played vital roles in advancing our topic. These could be groundbreaking scientists, policy-makers, or institutions who've contributed to its growth.
 - We'll look at their specific contributions and discuss how their work influenced current practices or ideas. For instance, if we're discussing psychology, Sigmund Freud's theories, while controversial, laid groundwork that shaped the field even to this day. Recognising these contributors helps us appreciate the foundational work that has allowed the topic to progress.





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2.3 Theoretical Background

(500 words approx.)





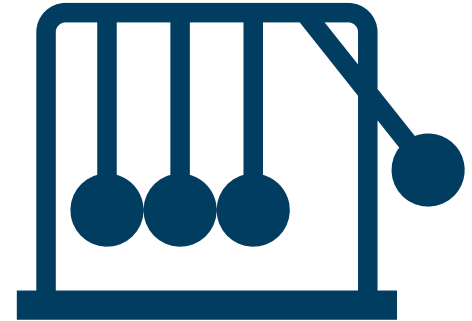
2.3 – Key Theories and Concepts

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.

- **Key Theories and Concepts:**

- Introduce and explain the key theories and concepts relevant to your topic.
- Discuss the foundational theories that underpin your research area.

-
- Theories provide a structured way of understanding our topic. They give us frameworks to analyse and explain phenomena. In this section, we'll introduce some of the main theories relevant to our topic.
 - Each theory you discuss will be foundational, meaning it's widely accepted or heavily referenced in research. For example, if we're exploring learning, behaviourism and constructivism are two critical theories that offer different perspectives on how we learn. Understanding these theories will help us evaluate our topic more comprehensively.





2.3 – Application of Theories

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Application of Theories:**
 - Explain how these theories have been applied in previous research.
 - Provide examples of studies or works that have utilised these theories.
-
- Here, you will take those theories you just covered and explore how they've been used in actual research or practice. Application means looking at examples where these theories have guided research studies, informed policies, or shaped practical approaches.
 - Let's say one of our theories is social learning theory. We might find it applied in educational settings, where teachers use observational learning to help students learn new behaviours. Seeing these applications helps us connect theory to practice, showing how concepts are actively used in the field.





2.3 – Critical Evaluation

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Critical Evaluation:**
 - Critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of these theories.
 - Discuss any debates or controversies surrounding these theories.
-
- No theory is perfect, and every theory has its critics. In this section, we'll critically evaluate the theories, looking at what they do well and where they fall short.
 - For example, behaviourism, while useful in many ways, doesn't fully account for the complexity of human motivation or free will. Discussing these limitations helps us understand where additional theories or adaptations might be needed, and it sets us up for a balanced, well-rounded view of our topic.





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2.4 International Context

(400 words approx.)





2.4 – Global Perspective

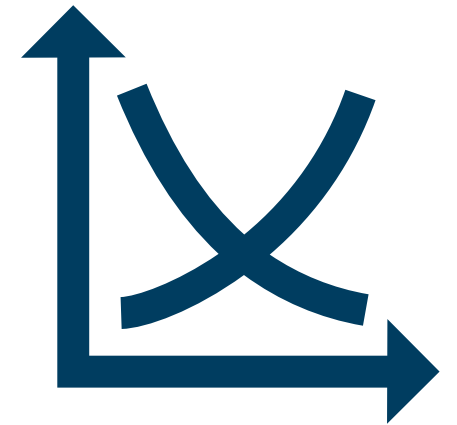
- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Global Perspective:**
 - Discuss how the topic is viewed and addressed in different parts of the world.
 - Highlight key international trends, policies, and practices related to the topic.
-
- Topics often look very different when we zoom out to a global scale. In this section, you will examine how different parts of the world approach our topic, noting trends, policies, and cultural influences.
 - For instance, if our topic is healthcare policy, countries like the US, UK, and Canada each have distinct healthcare systems shaped by cultural values and historical context. Recognising these differences allows us to see how practices vary globally and what factors contribute to these variations.





2.4 – Comparative Analysis

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Comparative Analysis:**
 - Compare and contrast the approaches taken by different countries or regions.
 - Discuss any global initiatives or collaborations relevant to the topic.
-
- Now that we understand the global perspective, let's compare the different approaches. What similarities do we see across countries? What's unique to each region? This comparative analysis helps us identify patterns and recognize areas for possible improvement.
 - We might find that certain practices, like universal healthcare, have benefits that could apply across countries, while other practices may not transfer well. Comparisons help us see both shared and unique strategies and may highlight areas for international collaboration.



2.4 – Case Studies

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.

- **Case Studies:**

- Provide brief case studies or examples of how the topic is handled in various international contexts.
- Highlight successes and challenges encountered in these contexts.

-
- To make this more concrete, we'll look at specific case studies from around the world. Case studies are real-life examples that show us how a topic is handled in practice. Each case study will highlight both successes and challenges.
 - “For example, if discussing public health, we might examine how a country handled a recent epidemic. What strategies worked, and what issues did they face? These case studies provide practical insights and sometimes offer lessons that other regions can adopt or adapt.

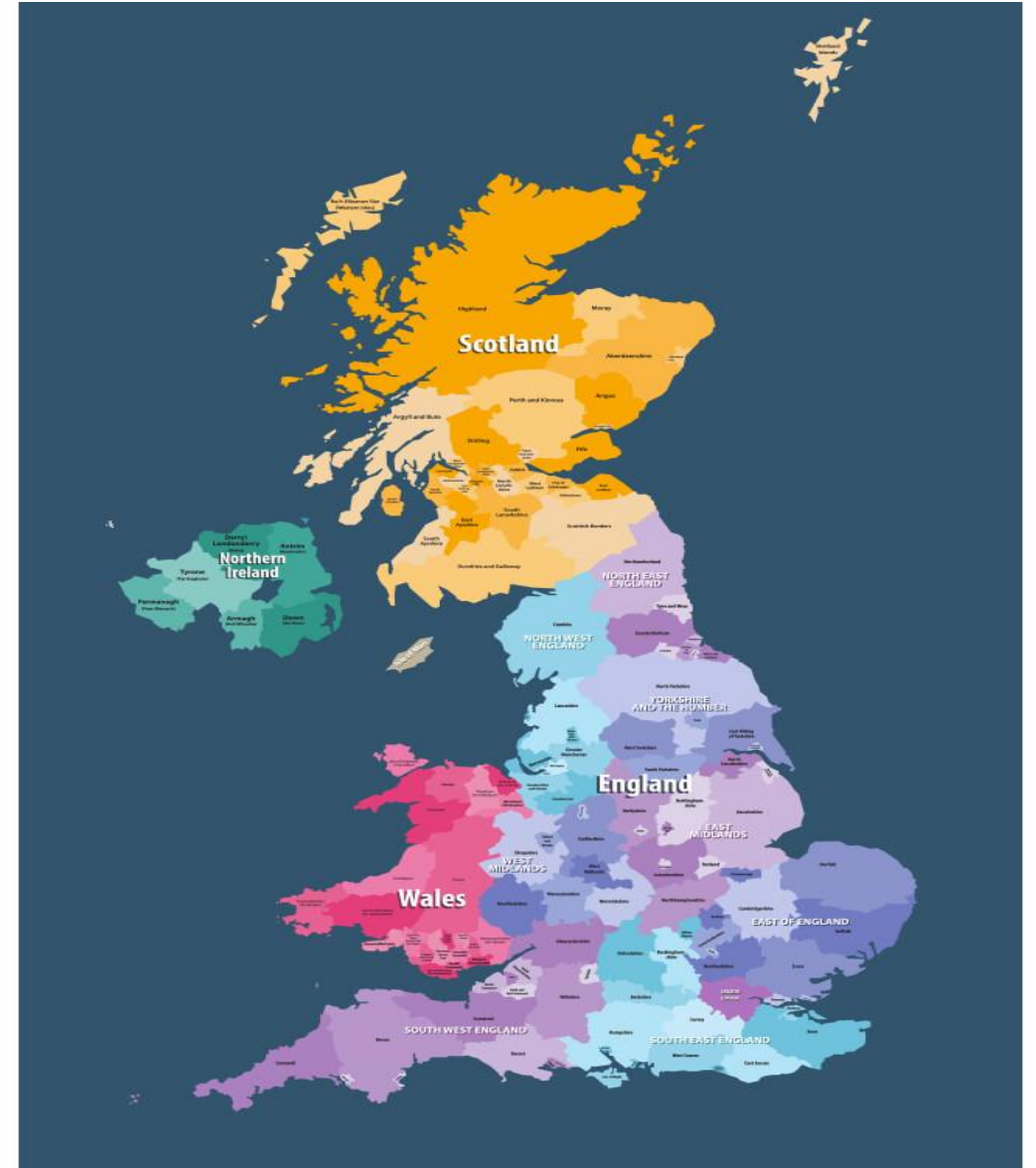




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2.5 National/Local UK Context

(450 words approx.)





2.5 – UK Perspective

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **UK Perspective:**
 - Describe how the topic is viewed and addressed within the UK.
 - Highlight key national trends, policies, and practices related to the topic.
-
- We’ve looked at the international context; now, let’s narrow it down to the UK. You will discuss how the UK views and manages this topic, including specific policies and trends.”
 - This might involve examining national health policies, educational frameworks, or regulatory measures. For example, if our topic is climate change, we might look at the UK’s carbon reduction targets and initiatives to promote green energy. This localized view will help us see what’s unique about the UK approach and how it compares with the global context.





2.5 – Policy and Regulation

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Policy and Regulation:**
 - Discuss relevant national policies, regulations, and legislative frameworks.
 - Explain how these policies impact the topic.
-
- Policies and regulations are essential because they shape how the topic is managed and developed within the UK. In this section, we'll cover relevant laws or guidelines and discuss their impact.
 - For instance, if the topic is technology, we might discuss the UK's data protection laws and how they effect tech companies operating here. Recognising these policies helps us see how regulations can drive or limit certain developments and address specific challenges."





2.5 – Local Context

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Local Context:**
 - Provide insights into how the topic is addressed at the local level within the UK.
 - Highlight any regional variations or specific local initiatives.
-
- While national policies set the broader framework, individual regions or cities within the UK may have unique approaches. Here, you will explore any local initiatives or strategies that stand out.
 - Local initiatives are often tailored to meet specific needs or capitalise on regional strengths. For instance, if our topic is sustainable agriculture, we might see certain areas with programs promoting organic farming. Understanding these local variations shows us how flexibility can be essential in addressing specific needs within a country.





2.6 – Conclusion

- Below are some things which you can consider when it comes to writing this section. These are just examples, and you are free to explore different options if it is appropriate for your topic area.
 - **Summary of Key Points:**
 - Summarise the main points covered in the background chapter.
 - Emphasise the historical, theoretical, international, and national/local contexts of the topic.
 - **Signpost to Next Chapter:**
 - Provide a transition to the next chapter, methodology.
 - Explain how the background information will inform and support the upcoming methods chapter.
-
- To wrap up, we've covered the historical background, theoretical framework, and both international and UK-specific contexts of our topic. This journey from global to local perspectives has provided us with a comprehensive foundation.
 - **Transition to Methodology:** Now that we have this background, we're ready to think about methodology. Our next chapter will focus on how we can use this information to guide the research methods we'll use to investigate our topic in detail. This background understanding will help us make informed choices as we plan our study.