**Structure for dissertations：**

Your dissertation is likely to be structured along the following lines. It is helpful to have brief introductory and concluding paragraphs for each chapter to introduce its content and draw findings together and link to the next chapter.

* ***introduction*** to the study, outlining: (a) ***background*** to the topic, in terms of key policy and/or research questions, issues and debates; (b) the ***shape and scope*** of the dissertation, outlining for the reader the broad purpose of the study; (c) an outline of the ***structure*** of the dissertation. (This should broadly follow the lines of any Dissertation Proposal you may have submitted.)

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

Background  
The dissertation should begin by outlining the background to your topic. This could include the broad policy, sectoral or organisational context (where relevant), and details of other research studies which have looked at the area of study.

You must remember that this section should act as a general introduction to the study, and should therefore be short and snappy, avoiding too much detail. A common problem with dissertations is too much contextual, background material, and insufficient analytical detail or synthesis of source documents and interviews. You should merely introduce the topic, and flesh out some of these ideas later on in the work, particularly in the literature review, which will involve a much more detailed exploration of key research issues and questions, based on current findings.

Shape and scope of the study  
The second section of chapter 1 should build on the background context you have outlined, and explain in brief the purpose of the study and the broad questions and issues you will be addressing. You would also include here some mention of your research methods, though these will be explained in greater detail in your methods chapter. You may also – in that later chapter and on the basis of the earlier literature review, state the formal aims and objectives of the study and outline specific research questions to be addressed or hypotheses to be tested.

Structure  
The third section in the chapter 1 is normally an outline of the structure of the dissertation. The progression of chapters must be logical, with each building upon material covered in the preceding chapter. This will help focus your mind on the material required for the final report, and in planning your time. The precise structure adopted will be dependent on the particular topic chosen, and should be devised in consultation with your supervisor.

**My Lecture notes:**

Dissertation Outline:

* Cover page
  + Provides the proposed topic, details of the candidate, institution, date etc.
  + Good project titles identify the field(s) of research and indicate the kind of results to be obtained
  + Should avoid
    - Too long titles
    - Too general or vague titles
    - Live demonstrations with our topic
* Preliminary pages
  + Numbered using Roman Numerals
  + Declaration
  + dedication
  + Acknowledgements
  + Abstract – summary of the entire dissertation (on more than one page)
  + Table of Contents
  + List of Tables
  + List of Figures
* Chapter one: introduction 1.0
  + Very important – it sets the tone and direction of the dissertation
  + Should include:
    - Overview 1.1
    - Research context/Background of the Study 1.2
    - Research Problem 1.3
    - Aims (broad) and Objectives (one objective should form three or more Research questions) of the study 1.4
    - Research questions 1.5
    - Significance of the study 1.6 – signification to future research / to organization
    - Organization of the study 1.7 – how is your study going to be organized, if it’s based on 5 chapters, what you are going to do/write in each chapter, kind of a summary to each chapter
    - Chapter summary/conclusion – connection between two chapters
* Chapter two: literature review (should be the longest, 20%-40%)
  + Present state -of-the-art review of current knowledge and understanding on the subject matter or business issue
  + Should include
    - Overview
    - Conceptual literature review
    - Theoretical literature (at least one and not more than three)
    - Empirical literature – review of similar works (Name of authors, the topic, methodology and finding)
    - Conceptual framework (if applicable)
    - Chapter summary/conclusion
* Chapter three: methodology (10%)
* Chapter four: results and discussion (30%)
* Chapter five: conclusion and recommendations (10%)
* References
* Appendix