The structure of a dissertation (1) The ‘science’ model

Your research question:
This will become your title

Introduction
- The context / issue / problem
- Research territory - overview
- Specific research area – focus on methods of other research in the area
- The gap in existing research – and justification for your research
- Aim

Literature review
1 What is known already ie the research literature in fields related to your question
2 How it is known (ie look for methods)
   - organised by topic / research areas
   - See Referencing; Research

Methods
- What you did
- Why you did it the way you did

Results / findings from your primary research
Explain what you found. Think about how best to communicate it: eg
- charts / tables
- quoted comments
- boxed mini case studies
- diagrams/ flowcharts
and always text to explain

Discussion
How what you found relates to the aims of your project, and the literature you read. Critical assessment of your methods (how what you did may have affected outcomes, what improvements to suggest)

Conclusions – take-away points from your research
Implications . . . and suggestions for future research

Appendix
- working tools (eg questionnaire)
- raw data (eg summary tables)

And finally ….
A summary of all this in 200-300 (max) words, roughly in this order, for your abstract

The latest version of this guide is always available at http://www.brookes.ac.uk/services/upgrade/
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