I have highlighted the most important part

Dissertation (10,000 words + 5,000 in Appendices if needed)

MSc Clinical Psychology Dissertation determines an important part of your final mark for the MSc. Marks for the dissertation are based on competence at the Master’s level in:

 Identifying research question(s) and critically reviewing the relevant literature that sets those questions in context,

 Deriving meaningful research questions from the relevant literature,

 selecting an appropriate research strategy (experimental, survey-based, and qualitative) and design, including the organization of data collection with attention to scientific, practical, ethical, and legal considerations,

 carrying out appropriate data-analysis and explaining how your results speak to your research questions, and

 managing references using computerized search of databases/internet.

Your dissertation should include answers to questions such as: How do your research findings advance knowledge in your specific area of interest? How does your research add to the existing literature? Some of the questions that markers may have foremost in mind are: Is the author aware of the inherent relation between the research questions at hand, the selected research strategy and design, and the appropriate statistical analyses? Does this research make an important and new contribution to a specific area of psychology? Does this report read and look like a professional manuscript that one would see published in psychology journals? If I funded this research, would I feel the money was well-spent?

The format of the dissertation should resemble that of a journal article reporting original data. Consequently, unlike some of your previous assignments, it is not necessary to include a lengthy literature review in the introductory section that covers all research in an area. Instead, try to produce a more streamlined manuscript that includes only discussion of previous research most relevant to your current research question(s). In other words, prepare a review that will allow your reader to understand the problem you are tackling and why it is important.

The dissertation should not exceed 10,000 words. An Appendix should be included, containing materials like: risk assessment, ethics application, study materials, paper trail, codebooks, details of questionnaire construction / selection, and details of data preparation. Transcripts of interviews, focus-group discussions, and similar materials need not be included in the word count. It is also not necessary to include SPSS output in the Appendix because the relevant statistics (e.g., F or t values from ANOVAs or t-tests, respectively) can be reported more succinctly in the text and/or tables included with your dissertation. The Appendix should not exceed 5000 words.