Barbara Asieduah

Feedback on coursework provided by Professor Paul Dowling

Review of Bolton
This is an excellent review that evidences a sophisticated understanding of methodological issues germane to the reviewed research and wide reading of methodological literature. Little more could have been achieved in the word length allowed.

Review of Smith & Topping
Again, this a good review that raises some important questions about the reviewed research. On a number of occasions the author notes that the particular methodological decisions made call into question the validity of the findings; I would have liked to see this claim opened up a little. Labelling the possibility of interviewees giving the answers that they think the interviewers want to hear as the Hawthorne effect is not quite right (and I don't think Dowling & Brown actually said this), though it does, I guess, fit broadly into the same category.

Research Proposal
The research proposed is viable and the proposal marks out the key issues that are involved. There are some issues to note. I think the use of the term 'evaluate' in the 'overall research aim' (p. 1) is a little odd. The literature review is a bit of an annotated bibliography and does not really establish a clear argument. The reference to the use of pilot interviews to facilitate changes to the interview questions suggests that rather too much structure may be being contemplated for the interviews. I am disturbed that gender and age are being discounted as variables from the outset; I would be inclined to keep an open mind as is encouraged in most approaches to the production of grounded theory. I think the section on analysis is rather unduly pedagogic. The production of a research proposal is, nevertheless, a challenging task to which the candidate here responded admirably.

General
There are a few typographical and grammatical errors in the work, but it is generally very well presented and clear. An wide range of reading and careful consideration are displayed throughout the three items.