General UQ policy: https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/4.60.05-research-higher-degree-candidature-progression-and-development

See your School’s website for a more detailed statement of what is required of you.
Generic Mind Map of Focus Questions for a Literature Review

A map for when you have defined your research question.

A literature review is an exposition of the existing knowledge and reasoning which led you to believe that what you did was worth doing in the way that you did it, written so as to convince the reader of these things.

**Constructing the map**

1. Develop a clear and complete statement of your research question.
2. Underline each key term / concept / phrase.
3. Identify questions which flow from each of (2) and the research question as a whole. Generic questions to explore include:
   a. Motivations for research: (i) significance of area; (ii) gap / deficiency in existing knowledge
   b. Sources of new ideas / hypotheses
   c. Theory to guide where to look for answers.

These are methodological issues which may require their own lit review and mind map to address.

- **How test?**
  - Do any of these need testing?
  - How determine if better?
  - Are there possible barriers to implementing these “better” solutions?
  - Ideas on how to overcome?

- **What are the gaps in our understanding?**
  - What do we know about the causes of X?
  - In what ways are these potentially better?
  - Where might we look for “better” answers / solutions?

- **“Better” in what sense?**
  - What theories help us understand the issue of X?
  - What methods have been used to investigate X and current approaches to addressing?

- **How can the issue of X be better addressed?**
  - Why is the issue of X significant / important?
  - Who is it important to?
  - How is it currently being addressed? / has it been addressed?

- **Reason A**
  - Why is the issue of X significant / important?
  - Who is it important to?

- **Reason B**
  - Why is the issue of X significant / important?
  - Who is it important to?

- **Reason C**
  - Why is the issue of X significant / important?
  - Who is it important to?

- **Y**
  - Motivations?
  - Advantages / contributions?

- **Z**
  - Disadvantages / weaknesses / deficiencies?

4. Look for follow-on questions and links.
5. Questions and map can be developed in any order. Once map is complete, can add numbers indicating a logical order in which to write up the map. (Note that the placement of numbers on this map is indicative only, not necessarily an order which will work in all circumstances.)

D.R. Rowland, The Learning Hub, Student Services, The University of Queensland