

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EPQ

The EPQ represents a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate passion for a chosen subject or topic, alongside development of advanced learning skills.

WHAT IS THE EPQ?

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a standalone qualification from the exam board AQA, designed to extend and develop skills in independent research and project management. The EPQ requires students to carry out research on a topic that they have chosen and is not covered by their other qualifications. They will use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production. Students can take inspiration from something studied in class or something completely unrelated to their studies, and it encourages them to extend and develop beyond the material being covered in class and explore their passion for a topic.



COURSE OUTLINE

The project consists of two elements, the taught element and independent work. Approximately 90 hours will be spent on independent work producing, recording and presenting the EPQ. Students can make a choice between producing a written report of 5,000 words, or an artefact and a shorter written report of approximately 2,000 words. The taught element, 30 hours, includes instruction on the skills necessary to complete the project. Students are allocated a supervisor to oversee the project, and are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest, draft a title and decide on the aims of the project
- Plan and carry out the project, practising research, ICT and project management skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or development of the project
- Deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment, including the referencing and evaluation of sources.



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE EPQ?

The EPQ allows students to demonstrate to both universities and future employers that they are able to work independently. It will also help them to develop essential skills that are required for study at a higher level:

- Working to deadlines
- Working with others
- Planning and management of a project
- Decision making and problem solving
- Presentation skills
- Communication skills

The qualification is completed in Year 12 allowing students to focus on other A Level subjects in Year 13 leading up to public examinations. The EPQ is awarded UCAS points worth half an A Level (28 points) and is recognized by universities and employers; many leading universities make alternative offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

