

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Exam Board: AQA

An EPQ is the equivalent of an AS grade, but has the added advantage of being able to obtain the A* grade. It is a fairly new qualification that has been developed and is offered across various schools and colleges. It is worth up to 70 UCAS points.

The EPQ gives students the opportunity to research a topic of their interest; this does not have to be based on an academic subject that the student is studying. However, it is important that students show the project to be relevant to their educational aspirations. So someone who wants to study English literature could examine the way poverty is portrayed in Victorian novels, for example, or prospective lawyers could look at the relationship between the press and police.

Once research has been undertaken, students must submit their work, which usually takes form of a dissertation but can also include compositions, an investigative report or an artefact supported with a written piece. The minimum guideline is 5,000 words. A formal presentation is given to a panel about the chosen topic and the individual EPQ journey. A question and answer session forms part of this. A 15 page log also has to be filled in to record plans/decisions/reflections.

SKILLS REQUIRED:

An EPQ is assessed on the following basis:

- Manage: Identify and plan the project
- Use resources: Undertake research and select relevant information
- Develop and realise: Interpret evidence and write up results
- Review: Present finding/evaluation to an audience

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:

According to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), '(An) extended project can help students to develop and demonstrate a range of valuable skills through pursuing their interests and investigating topics in more depth'

The EPQ holds numerous benefits such as:

- Giving you a wide range of transferable skills
- Preparation for higher education, for example, life at university
- Demonstrating creativity, initiative, motivation and commitment
- It can add something extra to your application, your CV or personal statement.