

The Extended Project

Examination Board: AQA

The Extended Project: 7993

What will I learn?

The EPQ requires a student to produce a single piece of work of their own choosing, showing evidence of planning, research and autonomous working.

Universities like students to have completed an EPQ because it teaches the student the independent learning skills and the research skills required for university study. The project can be independent or linked to an A-Level subject.

The topic is entirely chosen by the student and it can be:

- A written report with findings from an investigation or a study
- A dissertation presenting an argument
- An artefact - such as a painting, object, performance or event, which must be accompanied by a work book

Assessment

The final assessment covers the report, the production log and an accompanying presentation. The project is marked holistically, marks are awarded for description of the process of completing a project as well as the quality of work produced.

Who is the course suited to?

All students who are interested in going to university should consider completing an EPQ.

What is the structure of the course

There is no formal structure to the EPQ as it is an independent project. However, the course is split into various parts:

Independent Study

Students are expected to do in the region of 90 hours independent study. This period of time is guided by the supervisors who the students approach to help them with their project.

Study Skills

30 Hours of taught skills covering:

- Research Skills
- Referencing
- Presentation Skills
- Writing Skills
- Project Management

Completed Work

Students must complete a production log, deliver a formal presentation, and either a written report of 5000 words or an artefact and accompanying research report of 1000 words.

All students receive 2 periods per week of formal lessons and the remaining work is done independently.

Reasons to consider doing an EPQ at A Level:

- It will help to develop individual study and research skills.
 - It will help to develop decision making and problem-solving skills.
 - It will strengthen applications to university and Higher Level Apprenticeships.
 - Some universities will make a reduced offer if a student achieves an A or A* in the EPQ.
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