

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)



Course content

For the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), students undertake a piece of research on a topic and question of their own choosing. The project will result in a final product, which can be either an 'essay' on a question of their choosing or an 'artefact', e.g. a machine, a piece of art, a play, a piece of music, dance, etc. The projects must not overlap too much with modules they are studying in their other A levels. The EPQ is worth half an A level and is awarded 28 UCAS points.

Skills

Students do not need any prior experience of research in order to study this qualification. In completing the EPQ, students will:

- make a significant contribution to the choice and design of an extended project and take responsibility either for an individual task or for a defined task within a group project.
- develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students.
- develop and apply decision-making and problem solving skills.
- extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.
- develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise.
- use their learning experiences to support their aspirations for higher education and/or career development.
- transfer skills developed as part of their extended project to other areas of study.

Complementary subjects

The EPQ goes well with any subject since it develops research skills in any field in which students are particularly interested. All of the skills gained in an Extended Project Qualification are transferable.

Syllabus

There are three elements that the students are marked on:

- The Production Log, in which the students evidence the whole process of their research and completion of their product
- The product itself, which may take the form of an 'essay' or an 'artefact'
- The Presentation, where the students give a ten-minute presentation on their project and take questions from audience members

Evidence of the assessment objectives can be found in all three of these elements to make up the total mark.

What next?

Students with an EPQ gain an excellent grounding in the research skills necessary for university study and for that reason it is a valuable addition to any CV. Indeed, some leading universities will make alternative offers to students undertaking an EPQ. It is not geared towards any specific career but it is recognised by employers who value the commitment and considerable skills required to undertake and complete a piece of extended research.

Extension

The EPQ offers valuable opportunities to gain presentation skills, which are an increasingly frequent feature of university education and certain careers such as medicine, law, education and academia, marketing and banking.

71% of EPQ students gained an A-A in 2021*

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