



Extended Project Qualification. (EPQ)

Worth half of an A level.

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Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

The beauty of the EPQ is that you, the student can choose the subject!

What will you study?

Most students choose a topic that they are interested in studying at university, or a subject linked to their chosen career, because that is what you are likely to be passionate about.

The EPQ can take different forms:

1. A 5000 word essay, OR
2. An artefact, OR
3. Organising a major event.

Whichever pathway is chosen, you will also need to fill in a Production Log, write an evaluation, and present your findings in front of a small group. You do need to be able to work independently, because you will need to research your topic by yourself. You will have three timetabled sessions a fortnight with a supervisor, who will guide you and help you set targets and who will explain deadlines. So, you would need to commit an extra two or three hours a week in your own time.

Some examples of successful past EPQs are:

1. To design and build a boat;
2. An essay looking at different factors which govern personality formation;
3. An essay looking at antibiotics and bacterial resistance to them;
4. Designing and evaluating a website for an organisation;
5. An essay looking at the ethics involved with animal experimentation;
6. An essay looking at the effect of mindfulness on those suffering with chronic pain.

Assessment

There are four assessment objectives:

1. Managing your project;
2. Researching in order to inform your essay or artefact;
3. Realising your project (writing the essay or creating the artefact.)
4. Review, reflection and evaluation.

Possible career path?

The EPQ will help you with whichever career path you have chosen. Universities love this qualification, as it proves that you can independently research a topic in depth, which is exactly what you will be doing at university. It also demonstrates your commitment and interest in your chosen area.

Entry requirements:

- At least five GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, with preferably a Grade 6 or above in your linked subject;
- A passion and a commitment to the topic you have chosen;
- A good work ethic;
- To be self-motivated;
- To be able to read around a subject independently.