

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



AQA Specification

General information:

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 qualification that is aimed at developing and a student's study and/or area of personal interest or activity whilst developing key independent study skills. Students will choose to produce a 5000 word dissertation or an artefact (non-written project) about any area they enjoy and will then need to research, design, plan and complete and evaluate their project during Year 12. This will enable students to develop a wide range of independent learning skills ready for university (more detail below). Research by the University of Southampton has shown that development of these skills means that EPQ students have higher first year pass rates across all subjects taken at degree level. In addition, they show that students are significantly more likely to achieve a 1st or 2:1 in their degree if they have taken an EPQ. Universities can and have made alternative, lower, offers to EPQ students.

Course content:

The EPQ is divided into two parts

1. The taught element - over 30 hours of teacher-led lessons aimed at developing the skills necessary to complete the project successfully. These include project and time management skills; developing an using primary and secondary research; ICT skills; the format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report; referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism; presentation skills.
2. A further 90+ hours of study are dedicated to independent work, where students, guided by a Supervisor, will need to choose an area of interest, draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre, plan, research and carry out the project, deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience and provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

How is the course assessed?

Students will use software, ProjectQ, to keep a log of their progress. This will be evaluated at different stages by their Supervisor, and submitted with their project at the end of the course. Students will also need to take part in a presentation evening towards the end of Year 12. Projects are internally marked in school, and then a sample is sent to the exam board for moderation.

Entry requirements:	Results information:	Universities who have considered reduced offers for EPQ students:
General entry requirements to Sixth Form apply: 48 points across your best 8 GCSEs, and Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics.	EPQs are marked internally then moderated by the exam board. All students will be given an indication of their mark by the start of Year 13.	Bath, Southampton, Bristol, Birmingham and many others