

Extended Project Qualification

What is it?

EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop a student's abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career.

In addition:

- it's worth half an A-level (28 UCAS points)
- it's recognised by universities and employers
- many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

How it works:

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report. By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project, students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Undertaking an EPQ can also deliver other benefits for students, such as:

- improved A Level/BTEC performance.
- An enhanced student profile by making applications more attractive
- increased motivation by allowing students to study topics of personal interest
- the development of transferable independent study skills.

How is it taught?

EPQ is taught in small supervisor groups which are timetabled weekly in IT rooms and led by the supervisor. Project Production pages at each stage are completed on Project Q, a web-based Project Log. The course consists of 120 hours of learning: 30 guided and 90 independent. Students will have 4-5 meetings with their supervisor.

Students will research their project from November of Y12 to September of Y13. They will write their product from September of Y13 to January of Y13 and this will be marked in February/March of Y13. Results will be issued in August alongside their A levels.

Students apply for a place on the EPQ in September-October of Year 12. They will be notified if they have been successful after October Half Term.

