



EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

THE COURSE

It is a 1 year course full A-level qualification that has been designed to develop and assess a student's independent study skills.

The EP is a single year level 3 subject meaning it is pitched at students studying A levels. You cannot take the subject for a second year. The project itself allows a student to choose his/her topic that is of interest. This freedom to choose means that a student can either focus on a topic which is very familiar to him/her and simply develop new study skills or a student can use the project to explore a topic area that will be useful to a chosen career.

What will I learn in the EP?

- ☑ A range of organisational skills and strategies to meet agreed objectives
- ☑ Information handling skills to obtain, critically select and use information: analyse data, apply it and compare it with other sources
- ☑ Problem solving and decision making skills
- ☑ Communication skills through a range of media

What value is there to the EP?

The EP carries UCAS tariff points except that it can only be completed as an AS.

The EP can provide in-depth research evidence; this is important for students applying to universities as all universities like to see evidence of interest in your chosen topic beyond the classroom. If interviewed for university, this is likely to be a topic of conversation.

The independent study skills are very useful to your other subjects and to further study – for example how to set out a report correctly in Word or how to use time management and organisation tools. Both of these examples are used in the world of work.

The EP can be used as part of an umbrella qualification (a qualification that recognises a suite of qualifications) called the AQA Baccaalaureate. To achieve the AQA Baccaalaureate a student must complete a minimum of 3 in-depth level 3 courses (i.e. 3 A levels and the EP to show study skills).

ASSESSMENT

There is no end of year exam but students submit a Portfolio.

What does learning look like in the EP?

Students submit a portfolio of evidence. The portfolio should demonstrate the process that the student went through in carrying out the in-depth project and also learning about the topic chosen. The student's grade is assessed solely on the contents of this portfolio. Therefore the portfolio should reflect 120 hours work – it will be quite substantial. It should also be clear in the portfolio what students have learned about independent study – there has to be a lot of student self-reflection evident.

SUPPORTING SUBJECTS

Extended Projects supports all subjects.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Extended Project enables you to choose the relevant project to support your career choice.