

# EPQ Summer Task

**Please write a 500 word summary of your proposed research question and area for research.**

**In your EPQ proposal you should consider the following things:**

- What is your key/central research question? That is what do you want to have found out by the end of your project?
- Why it is of interest to you?
- How does it fit with your other A levels or university or career choice? (N.B it does not **have** to fit with any of these 3 things)
- Is your question feasible and practical given the time limits on your EPQ?
- Does your proposed project have a clear focus on a clearly identifiable theme or topic rather than a general question?
- Are there enough resources to sustain writing a 5,000 word essay on your proposed subject e.g. newspaper articles, blogs, websites, YouTube videos, TV programmes, radio programmes, academic journal articles, books.
- If you are considering undertaking primary research like interviews, questionnaires, observation what are the ethical considerations? For example, is your research likely to cause distress? How will you obtain permission from participants to take part in the research? Have you made it clear that they can withdraw at any time? What steps have you taken to ensure that any data you collect either textual or numerical is anonymised?
- If you are proposing to create an artefact, what safety implications are there? Do you need to consider a risk assessment? Do you need to consider the costs of the creation of your artefact, as with other proposals are there any ethical considerations that you might have to consider

**Below is an example of what a good proposal looks like:**

My first idea for an EPQ would be writing and staging my own play, with research at its core. Since Year 9 I have been interested in writing for the stage, having written fourteen of my own plays to date. A while ago I was drawn to the Surrealist and Dadaist movements of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century through Luis Buñel's short film, *Un Chien Andalou*. I then went on to read Andre Breton's *Surrealist Manifesto*. More recently, I read Albert Camus' *L'Etranger* and watched Claude Miller's *Juliet dans Paris* and Pavel Jurácek's *Case for a Rookie Hangman*, all under the umbrella of Surrealism.

I would be interested in researching the Surrealist and Dadaist movements more in-depth, before producing a body of research centred around the aforementioned sources, as well as Tristan Tzara's *Seven Dada Manifestoes and Lampisteries*. My research would look into the question "To what extent is Surrealist art a product of the artists subconscious, and thereby a reflection of the artist themselves?" Subsequently, I would write a play in line with my conducted research, that contains Surrealist, Absurdist and Dadaist ideology and themes. I would then recruit and direct a small cast for a final performance. The final performance would be my "artefact", with the body of research leaning more into the normal EPQ process.

Playwriting is not a part of the Drama course, and the closest I have come to Surrealism elsewhere in my A-Levels is shooting my own semi-surrealist short films in Photography. This was a self-led idea not prescribed by the course, I did not conduct research into Surrealism for them, and nowhere in my coursework do I call them Surrealist or else reference Surrealism.

Alternatively, if my first idea is too unorthodox, I would happily follow the normal EPQ route, producing a five thousand word essay which would answer the question "To what extent is Film Noir an offspring of German Expressionism?" I would take several films of both genres as a basis for investigation. For German Expressionism, I would turn to *Nosferatu*, *Das Cabinet des Dr Caligari* and *Der Golem*, all considered lynchpins of the genre. For Film Noir, I would use *The Third Man*, *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Night of the Hunter*.

I would also trace Film Noir into a more contemporary setting, that of the Neo Noir genre, looking at *Heat*, *Blade Runner* and *Memento*, asking how strong a link they have to German Expressionism, being in essence, the grandchildren of German Expressionism. The closest I have come to either of these topics in my own A-Levels is referencing Film Noir in passing in Photography. My first idea would fall more into line with my plans for higher education, I am looking into going to the University of York to study playwriting. However, I have no problems following through with my second idea, should that seem a better project than the first.

**Any questions, please contact Dr Carter: [jcarter@ccs.northants.sch.uk](mailto:jcarter@ccs.northants.sch.uk)**