

Extended Project Qualification (Supplementary Course)

Exam Board: AQA – AS Level

Subject Recommendations	
GCSE English Language & Literature	Grade 6 in English Language & Literature

Course Content and Methods of Assessment

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they have 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 and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group 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 performance for students taking EPQ
- increasing student motivation by allowing them to study topics of personal interest
- enabling students to apply their new skills to other areas of study.

Typically, students write a 5,000 word extended essay on a subject of their choice, that is not already covered by their existing A levels.

There are other routes to completing an EPQ including the creation of artefact, for example, a dress, a painting, a sculpture, a computer game or app, or a short story. Other ways in which students can complete an EPQ include directing a play, choreographing a dance or running a sports club within the school

In addition to the writing of the essay or the creation of the artefact students must document all of the steps taken to write, plan and execute their EPQ to show how they have developed a range of academic skills. Students must also complete a presentation to their peers that summarises their project and the skills they have developed. There are, therefore, three key elements to the EPQ; 1) the essay or artefact, 2) the production log (which details all of the steps taken to create the essay or artefact) and 3) the presentation.

- The EPQ is worth half an A level (28 UCAS points).
- It is recognised by universities and employers.
- Many universities make lower A level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

Students are supported by a supervisor who will guide them through the process of the EPQ and will receive a taught element at the start of the course outlining key research skills including bibliographic and referencing skills, presentation skills and evaluation skills.