

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Having an EPQ will show universities that you have the independent writing and study skills needed to study their courses. If you take the EPQ alongside A levels and apply to university, you could get an offer from some university courses that is one or more grades below a typical A level offer.

Current Teaching Staff:

Mrs M Wills – Head of the Extended Project

Examination board and syllabus: AQA

Assessment

The completed project is the production log and review of one of two things: Either a 5000-word style dissertation or an artefact with an accompanying short written report. It is marked internally by the project supervisor and a sample of projects are selected to be moderated by the exam board.

What is the Extended Project?

The extended project qualification is a truly independent student-led qualification which offers students the opportunity to develop and implement a project of their own choosing. Pursuing this qualification allows the student to take real ownership of their project, choosing both the area researched and the mode in which this research is conveyed. It is high-level work requiring students to invest approximately 90 hours in total and it is carried out independently; there is no checking of rough drafts but there is consultative guidance. Some students choose to study an area related to their chosen H.E. course or future pathway, whilst others pursue an interest that they are passionate about. Projects are varied and students can choose to write essays, scientific reports, or produce their own artefact. Some of the topics chosen in recent years include: the politics of Eurovision, the reasons for the demise of Polari, the publication of a vegan cookbook and hosting a murder-mystery event. One student even built a children's playground for a hospital in Sri Lanka!

How is it taught?

The extended project qualification is delivered as a taught course in Y12 during a dedicated EPQ lesson each week. The sessions will focus upon key skills such as devising an appropriate question, independent research, evaluating resource credibility, formulating arguments and substantiating judgments as well as delivering effective presentations.

Support provided:

Each student is designated an experienced supervisor who will guide and support them throughout the process. The students also have access to Project Q, an online portal which will allow them to log their planning and communicate instantaneously with their supervisors. There is designated time in the curriculum to undertake independent research and realise their project. Students in year 12 also have an opportunity to watch year 13 students present their finished extended projects.

How the project helps with future pathways

The extended project not only allows students to produce something that it is highly personalised to them, but it is also recognised as an externally accredited qualification. It is worth half an A level and with regards to points-based universities this can help students to obtain places on their chosen courses. The project itself is highly valued by universities as the skills required often mirror the requirements of many undergraduate courses for example academic research and referencing. Many universities are prepared to lower the entrance requirements for even the most competitive courses if students achieve highly in their projects.

"The skills that students develop through the Extended Project are excellent preparation for university level study." – *University of Manchester*

"We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education." - *University of Cambridge*