



EPQ

An Introduction to the course (Student booklet)



What is an EPQ?

EPQ refers to a level 3 Extended Project Qualification. An EPQ is a level 3 extended project, which equates to one AS level and is completed during year 12.

It is a qualification which develops transferable skills which will be useful for all of your other A level subjects as well as for future further education courses and careers.

It is a holistic process meaning that it is not just the quality of the end product that you are assessed on but how you arrive there.

The idea is to independently produce a research-based project, logging details of the whole journey, from initial ideas to final product.

The end product

By the end of the course you will need to submit

- A 5000-word dissertation on a suitable topic of your choice or an artefact accompanied by a 1000-3000 word research-based essay.
- A production log, detailing all the ideas, planning, research and developments made during the whole project.
- A presentation, showing your whole EPQ journey and your findings

What is an artefact?

Examples of artefacts could be a set of short stories, a short film, an event, a new product, a piece of art, a play.

Structure of the course

- You have 2 compulsory taught periods a fortnight
- Your assigned teacher is your **supervisor**
- We are following the AQA specification for examination from May 2021
- The finished products are completed, **by mid April** for internal moderation and assessment.

In addition, there will be:

- Whole EPQ cohort sessions focusing on elements of the production log **and new skills required**
- Regular drop in sessions
- Two sessions with the librarian focusing on research and Harvard referencing

Expectations

- You will be expected to **meet all of your supervisor's deadlines**. These may vary between supervisors – do not compare groups.
- As a taught part of your curriculum, you will be expected to put in an additional **minimum of 2 hrs a week** personal study time in order to complete your project **NOT** just the 1hr taught time.
- From experience the more efficient and organised the student, the better the quality of the project
- Most importantly you need to be aware that this is an **independent project**, and you will be expected to demonstrate that independence. Your supervisor can guide and offer

support but they cannot provide you with specific subject material nor can they “tell” you what to write.

Level of work expected

- The quality of research and the level of English used during the log, essay and presentation should demonstrate the same extensive academic rigour expected at A level.

How to get started

Whilst the official start date of the course is **September 2024**, we are asking year **11s who have opted to do an EPQ in year 12**, to start **documenting** ideas over the summer holidays, as part of their bridging work, **which will form the first few lessons of the course.**

Summer Holiday Tasks

Using the attached log sheet, complete the following tasks (all of this information will be transferred at a later date to online logs as part of a digital platform called Project Q).

1. Think of any topic ideas you have in mind for an EPQ. It can be related to one of your subjects you are studying for A level (although the content **must not be part of the A level course itself – check the specification if you are not sure**) or could be a completely different topic area. It could be related to a course you plan to study at university like Dentistry for example. **Try to avoid topics which may negatively impact on your own mental health or that of others, and “dark” topics such as serial killers. etc.**
2. Write down in detail why you are considering these ideas? For example, did you read an article which sparked your interest? Have you always wanted to write a set of short stories in a particular style, for example?

3. Are you considering an artefact and essay or a longer essay?
Why? If an artefact what form will it take?
4. Now do some research both online and in libraries if possible, on your topic ideas. Can you find sufficient information which is relevant and up-to-date? Are you able to find more scholarly resources?
5. Make sure you write down every resource you look at and the dates you looked at it. All of this will be required at a later date.
6. Come ready with all of the above information typed up for your first EPQ lesson in September.

EPQ log sheet

Initial ideas – State all of your ideas and detailed reasons as to what interests you about these topics?
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Initial resources and initial findings from resources (Title, author, source (e.g. website details) and date of publication)	Date of research
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