

Extended Project Qualification

Examination Board: AQA (7993)

Requirements: Good Progress Check Reports
Skills: Enquiring, critical & reflective

Further details to be found by scanning this QR code:



Or visit: <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-W-7993-SP-19.PDF>

The Extended Project qualification allows you to develop your interests in a particular topic, experience or skill. It is for students who are interested in problem-solving, designing, managing and realising projects. You should enjoy taking responsibility for your own learning showing initiative, creativity and enterprise. To succeed in the EPQ you will have to display the following qualities:

- ✓ You are able to manage your time effectively to complete a project to a high standard.
- ✓ You are self-motivated, determined and committed to extending your skills.
- ✓ You enjoy working independently and with others demonstrating self-reliance and teamwork where necessary.
- ✓ Above all, you have a passion for learning, a desire to develop your skills and enjoy a challenge!

What will I learn?

There will be taught sessions to help you develop the range of skills needed for the Extended Project. These include:

- ✓ Research methods
- ✓ Presentation skills
- ✓ Project management skills
- ✓ Dealing with ethical issues
- ✓ Action planning
- ✓ Self- and peer-evaluation skills to aid reflection on learning and personal development

The following are a list of titles that have been used. These show the breadth and diversity that can be achieved with the EPQ:

1. Current laws of hunting in the UK and should they change?
2. The changing roles of women through Disney
3. All in the mind? - An exploration of the perceptions of mental health & learning disability disorders
4. How effective is the gender transition system in the UK?
5. Is love a chemical?
6. Re-writing Dickens as a modern version
7. An analysis of Birmingham's architecture
8. Is quantum mechanics real?
9. Should Obesity be treated by the NHS?
10. Building a go-kart - can this be done for under £250 (go-kart was actually built!)
11. What makes a psychopath?
12. Was Shakespeare a feminist?

How will the subject be taught:

- You also need to complete a report showing your initial planning, a project outline, a mid-project review, and an end of project review, a summary of your project, a record of your presentation and your reflections on the project.
- The project involves 120 learning hours, 30 of which are guided. You will be expected to complete at least 90 hours of independent learning including research, critical analysis, problem solving, essay writing and self-reflection.

What opportunities come with this subject:

- Employers like the skills it develops especially apprenticeship providers.
- It enables you to develop the higher level of research skills you will need in the world of work or as an undergraduate.
- It can be used to enhance your UCAS application i.e. If you are interested in a degree in Physics, you can do your project based on a specific hypothesis.
- It is worth up to 28 UCAS points (50% of A-Level).

Higher Education/Career Implications:

- The Extended Project carries up to 28 UCAS points, depending on what grade you achieve. This can be used towards a points offer from a university
- The Extended Project cannot be used against a grade offer (for example, AAA), but some universities may offer an alternative for candidates studying the Extended Project
- Universities are also recognising the Extended Project as a valuable part of a student's profile on their UCAS application.

What universities are saying:

Bristol

"We welcome applicants offering an Extended Project Qualification either as a standalone qualification or as part of a Diploma/Baccalaureate programme. Where applicants choose to offer the Extended Project alongside A-levels, we may make two alternative offers, one of which involves success in the Extended Project."

Cambridge

"We welcome the Extended Project and would encourage applicants to undertake one as it will help to develop independent study and research skills valuable for higher education. However, we recognise that not all students have equal access to them and so completion of an Extended Project won't normally be a requirement of any offer made."

Newcastle

"We value the skills of research and independent learning that the Extended Project is designed to develop. We welcome applications from students offering an Extended Project alongside A levels."

Oxford

"Where applicants have undertaken the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), this will not be a condition of any offer but the University recognises that the EPQ will provide an applicant with the opportunity to develop research and academic skills relevant for study at Oxford. Candidates are encouraged to draw upon relevant EPQ experience when writing their personal statement."

UCL

"UCL continues to recognise its value as preparation for independent study, which is key to university-level study."