

Extended Project Qualification

Examination Board: AQA

GCSE Required: English Grade 5
Skills: Enquiring, critical & reflective

Further details to be found by scanning this QR code:



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. What 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:

- Birmingham and Warwick state that it is their preferred 4th AS.
- Employers like the skills it develops especially JLR, JCB, MIRA
- 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

"The University recognises that some A level students may also choose to offer the Extended Project. In such cases, some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (for example, either AAA at A level or AAB at A level plus Extended Project)."

Cambridge

"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."

Newcastle

"We value the skills of research and independent learning that the Extended Project is designed to develop. We welcome applications from students offering the Extended Project alongside A levels. As the Extended Project is optional it is not a requirement for application. If you offer an Extended Project, it will be taken into account. Your offer may be varied as a result, in recognition of the level of study skills you will have developed."

Oxford

"Where applicants have undertaken the Extended Project (EP), the University will not make this a condition for an offer (as the EP is not a compulsory element of post-16 study) but recognises that the EP will provide an applicant with the opportunity to develop research and academic skills relevant for study at Oxford. Candidates are encouraged to draw upon their experience of undertaking the project when writing their personal statement, particularly if the topic is allied to their chosen degree course."

UCL

"UCL welcomes the introduction of the Extended Project into the curriculum, recognising that it will develop many of the skills necessary for successful study at university. For students presenting A levels, UCL will be accepting a pass in the Extended Project as an alternative to the need to offer a pass in a fourth subject at AS level."