

THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is popular with students and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. The EPQ is 100% coursework.

An EPQ is a research-based project undertaken on any topic of the student's choice: it can be further extension of a subject being studied at A-level, a subject area the student wishes to study at university but which is not part of their school curriculum (e.g. Medicine, Law, Politics) or simply an area of personal interest unrelated to their other studies. Thus an EPQ is a unique and exciting opportunity for students to manage their own learning. The project itself can take several forms. In most cases the student will produce an extended essay of approximately 5,000 words. However, it is also possible for the project to take the form of an artefact, model or construction, a CD/video/DVD of performances or activities, an audiotape/multimedia presentation or a journal of activities or events. In these cases a report of at least 1,000 words will accompany the project.

As part of the EPQ, the student must complete a Production Log. This documents the planning and progress of the project, including decision-making and the learner's reflections on the process. They also deliver a 15-minute presentation to an invited audience, explaining their project and answering questions about it.

Projects are undertaken with the assistance of a Supervisor who guides the student at every level, although they are not allowed to contribute directly to its content. The initial 30 guided learning hours where the necessary study skills are delivered through tutorial and other sessions. The EPQ is anticipated to take an extra 90 hours of independent study. Students at the Maynard School can study it through the Extension Studies Programme in addition to their four A-level subjects.

Because an EPQ requires the student to identify and design their own project, adopt a strategic approach to managing this project and work independently, it is an ideal vehicle for curriculum enrichment and academic extension. The EPQ is warmly welcomed by universities because it provides evidence of a student's capacity for independent learning and the development of the skills

they will need to succeed at university. The EPQ also carries up to 70 UCAS points for an A*.

Exam Board: AQA



“ I achieved the best results of my academic career so far since joining the Maynard and I am confident that with the continued support of the staff, this year will be just as successful. ”

– Maynard Upper Sixth Student