

The Extended Project Qualification



Information for
students and parents

THE EXTENDED PROJECT

The EPQ is a popular qualification that compliments your subject driven A-levels, giving you the opportunity to investigate a topic of your choice. You can either write a 5000 word report or produce an artefact (e.g. video, music CD, performance, artwork, website, book, fashion item, robot). Students use the EPQ as an opportunity to develop their passion in an area of interest, to be creative, to take an academic idea well beyond A-level or to immerse themselves in a subject that is not offered at A-level.

The EPQ demonstrates your ability to plan and organise a research project independently, obtain and analyse relevant data or evidence, use and develop skills to achieve planned outcomes and to evaluate those outcomes at the end of the project. You will be expected to spend 120 hours on the EPQ, including around ten hours of meetings with your supervisor. It is equivalent to an AS and carries up to 70 UCAS points if an A* is achieved.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ASSESSMENT

(100% coursework)

Though the emphasis of the EPQ is on independent research and self-regulation, you will be assigned a supervisor who will advise and assist you at each stage of the project. In broad terms, the project will be organised and assessed like this:

- Initial planning meeting with your supervisor
- Submission of research topic and outline plan
- Mid project review with mentor
- End of project review with mentor
- Submission of research project and/or artefact
- Presentation of research project and/or artefact

The project should be 5000 words in length, or an equivalent artefact and written report combination. You might submit a 5000 word dissertation-style extended essay, but if you were conducting, for example, sociological research then an observation journal could count towards the word limit, a linguistic study might include a CD, an engineering project might include a model or construction, etc. All artefacts must be accompanied by a written report of at least 1500 words.

Universities and employers value the EPQ. The EPQ not only gives applicants something to write about in personal statements or talk about in interviews, but it is recognised in offers for many competitive courses:

“The University is supportive of the requirement to undertake an Extended Project ... It is expected that some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers to those offering this qualification, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (for example either AAA at A-level or AAB at A-level plus Extended Project).” University of Bristol

Awarding Body: AQA

Duration: One year

Skills developed:

- Independent research and evidence analysis including visits to University Libraries
- Selection and analysis of data
- Time management
- Self-evaluation and reflection
- Giving a presentation on a complex subject

The Maynard School has been running the EPQ for a few years now and we have witnessed some very unique and fascinating projects. Each year around 50% of students take the Extended Project Qualification. Their results are stunning underlining the quality of our students' work. This year 100% of students achieved A*/A grades, with 86% at A*.

Past students have produced the following projects:

- Magazine designed for young people in Exeter.
- The changing role of women in British society through the two world wars
- Regeneration plans for an empty building in Exeter city centre.
- An analysis on the role of the media in body image
- The use of personalised cancer treatments
- An analysis of the Adaptation of 19th Century novels in Film
- Have sentences for murder changed over the past 100 years?
- A video documentary of the Battle of Culloden
- What is the way out of the Euro crisis?
The design, production and marketing of a 1950's dress
- Phage Therapy and the impending antibiotic crisis
- The effect of the economic downturn on horseracing
- How illustrations of an Old English Rune poem can convey its meaning to a modern audience
- The production of an authentic journal of an aristocratic journey in 1830s America
- An investigation of the placebo effect
- Is the NHS fit for purpose?
- The development of a robot vacuum cleaner
- A psychological investigation into mood and exercise
- The production of a patient and carers guide to Alzheimer's disease.
- What is the legacy of Live Aid?
- What were the influences of Tolkien's Lord of the Rings?

IS THERE AN INTERESTING TITLE NOT YET WRITTEN? SIGN UP FOR THE EPQ AND WRITE IT!

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