

THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION



INFORMATION
for students and parents

2026 ENTRY

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. In 2025 100% students achieved A*/A grades with 86% of grades awarded at A*!

PAST STUDENTS HAVE PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

To what extent was the financial crisis in France the main factor that led to the French Revolution in 1789?

To what extent should Islamic law be recognised in the UK legal sphere?

An exploration of Philip Taaffe in the context of African themes - producing a piece of artwork

To what extent is the 'Virtual Mirror Box' therapy effective in treating stroke patients?

Do genetics and nature play a more important role in donor conceived families than the role of nurture?

To what extent was the 'one child policy', as applied in China, moral from a utilitarian perspective?

How are the metaphysical poets' relationships' with God portrayed in their poems?

Vaccination vs. Eradication: the UK fight against Bovine Tuberculosis

Is the 'Virgin Queen' an accurate representation of Elizabeth I?

To what extent is social cost the main impact of the Vietnam War?

To what extent has British Army involvement had an effect on the War on Terror?

Cull or Cure? An investigation into preventing the spreading of bTB

To what extent would investing money in property be better than saving?

To what extent has the manufacture and distribution of antiretroviral drugs impacted on the lives of HIV/AIDS sufferers in Sub-Saharan Africa?

To what extent does Thalidomide affect the human body?

To what extent does Confucianism impact on modern day Chinese society?

To what extent does HIV/AIDS impact on girls development in Africa?

Is the brain hard-wired for hierarchy?

How accurate is the biological approach in explaining anorexia nervosa?

To what extent does the translation of literature affect readership with specific reference to 18th Century French texts?

Is the preservation of languages the responsibility of society?

How is our perception of historical events affected by literature which has been censored, with reference to George Orwell's 1984 and Animal Farm?

How have GM crops been developed and what problems and solutions do they engender?

To what extent did the external factors of the Victorian era influence Oscar Wilde's collection of his major works?

To what extent can the Shmallenberg virus be seen as a ticking timebomb?

To what extent is the development of Alzheimer's disease influenced by extrinsic risk factors?

To what extent are current treatments effective at eliminating or severely reducing the frequency of seizures in children and adolescents with epilepsy?

Is there an interesting title not yet written?

Sign up for the EPQ and write it!



MADE FOR GIRLS AGE 4 - 18

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