

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Awarding Body: AQA

Level: Level 3 'free standing' qualification

Intro

Are you a budding project manager? Have you got a burning desire to explore a brand new, original area of study? Do you enjoy researching and seeking out new learning on a topic entirely of your own choosing?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then the EPQ could be a great choice for you.

The Extended Project develops and extends from one or more of your study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside your main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the you and agreed by your dedicated EPQ supervisor. In the past, students have completed research projects into self-driving cars, RED-S conditions in elite athletes, composition of classical architecture in ancient Rome or even explorations of femininity in 'My Little Pony'. The opportunities are endless, plus the EPQ is looked on very favourably by a number of top universities as completing it successfully shows an excellent level of critical thinking, self-discipline and genuine independent study.

EPQ content

Your EPQ will start in September and run over your entire Year 12 year. You will submit your EPQ in November of Year 13, so you have a little over a year to create, refine and deliver your project.

You will be taught:

- How to research effectively
- Project management skills
- How to conduct risk assessments
- Ethical conditions of research
- Safe working practices as appropriate to the nature of your project
- Professional codes of practice
- Referencing
- ICT skills
- Presentation skills

For your final submission, you will need to create:

- A production log, detailing the process you have undertaken in your project
- A presentation about your project, your product and the process you went through
- Suitable evidence of your project. This could be a written report of around 5000 words or an artefact + a report of more than 1000 words

What you need

The EPQ is open to students studying on the Extended or Extended+ pathway. Please check the general entry requirements for further information.

There is no specific entry requirement other than those above.

As the EPQ is a 'free standing' qualification, you would be completing this in addition to your three other A-Levels, BTECs or vocational qualifications.

Career and further study

Many universities see the EPQ as being a strong indicator of academic ability and will, in some cases, make contextual offers to students studying for the EPQ who apply to their courses. This is not to say that an EPQ guarantees access to university, but the independent, research and critical skills learned throughout the process are highly valuable.

The EPQ contains key project management skills and, as such, is transferable to a range of subjects and career paths. It is a genuinely flexible qualification.

Trips and other costs

Students should be aware that there is no budget attached to the EPQ and so any production costs will need to be covered by the individual. These costs will be dependent on the nature of your project.