



Extended Project Qualification

Exam Board: Edexcel

EPQ

Want to take a course that appeals to both Universities and employers?

Want to take a course that develops transferable skills?

Want to take a course that rewards you for researching and exploring a topic, hobby or interest you already have?

The Extended Project Qualification (E.P.Q) is a free standing nationally accredited qualification equivalent (UCAS point's tariff) to more than half an A-Level, graded A*-E.

The students' choice of topic is free, although they must show that it is academically useful, either related to their current course of study, or their future career. The freedom available to a student in selecting their topic can be highly motivating and rewarding.

An EPQ is available in 4 types; a dissertation (5,000 words being a common guideline), a field study investigation (often very suited to those studying science or geography), a performance piece or an artefact, backed up with paperwork. The dissertation type report is the most popular. The EPQ is assessed through evidence including; a project plan, an activity log, a literature review, a project presentation.

Recent examples of extended projects by students at the College that demonstrate the wide range possible include;

- Report/dissertation into a military leader of the Ancient Rome period
- Field study investigation into bio-chemistry involved in development of cosmetic products such as shampoos
- Report/dissertation into portrayal of female characters by Thomas Hardy
- Report/dissertation into issues involved in the current NHS health provision crisis
- Artefact investigation into performance and feasibility of commercial drone design

Extended projects can help students to develop and demonstrate a range of valuable skills through pursuing their interests and investigating topics in more depth. It has also been praised by universities for guiding students into higher education. An extended project is a single piece of work requiring a high degree of planning, preparation, research and autonomous working. The EPQ was jointly designed by employers and the Further Education sector to help students develop key transferable skills including;

- Planning
- Communication
- Problem-solving
- Research

An EPQ contains 100% Coursework, there is no exam and students start their EPQ course towards the end of the Lower Sixth. This is because the project helps students to gain a lot of new information, develop new skills and explore their interests in depth after the transition of A-Levels has finished smoothly and students settled. It also indicates a heavy interest in a particular subject which is useful for those applying to university. As such EPQ are highly valued by both employers and Universities. A student successfully completing an EPQ applying to University may have their entry offer reduced or receive favourable consideration for interview.

