



Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is an independent project-based course. It allows students to design and lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. Students then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

The EPQ develops many skills that are very desirable for university courses and careers in most industries. The qualification can be used to count towards UCAS points (worth half the A-level points value). Undertaking an EPQ can be very beneficial to students as it often leads to improved performance in their other A-Level subjects as it enables them to apply their new and improved skills to their other areas of study. Students often find it extremely rewarding as they are exploring something that is of genuine interest to them.

Qualities and qualifications needed

If you are progressing well with your Level 3 studies, the EPQ will be offered to you! Although you will attend taught lessons and will have a supervisor to support you with your project, you will need to consider the fact that you will be working independently and ensure that you can meet deadlines and be self-motivated.

How will the course be assessed?



**100% written report/
produced artefact**
plus a completed plan and production log.



Course content

The taught element of the course involves developing skills in the following areas:

- Independent working and initiative
- Problem solving
- Research and referencing skills
- Planning, analysis, communication and evaluation skills
- Time management
- Self-reflection



Examinations

The EPQ is a fully non-examined course. Students receive a grade (A*-E) based on their performance in the following areas:



Management of the project

Identify, design, plan, and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.



Use of resources

Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.



Development and realisation of project

Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem-solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.



Review

Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate formality.

Methods of teaching and learning

Students have one taught lesson per week. During lessons, they are taught practical skills such as how to research effectively and reference properly, how to plan and manage their time effectively and how to overcome any difficulties or problems they may encounter. Students are also given lots of support and guidance in establishing and realising an appropriate project, whether they start with lots of ideas of their own or not.