

## EPQ

The Extended Project qualification (EPQ) is increasingly popular in many Sixth Forms, as part of a 3 A-level programme of study. It is highly regarded by universities as it prepares students for independent study and students have been known to gain places on university courses on the strength of their EPQ.

The qualification is focused on skills development and reflection. Students work on a project of their choice with a supervisor who guides and advises. They also undertake a taught course that develops study skills, as well as a presentation at the end of the course that is reflective of their learning throughout the process. Students produce either a 5000-word dissertation or an artefact and 1500 words about the methodology and research behind the artefact (the project outcome).

Students will start the EPQ in the second term of Year 12. They are allocated a supervisor and a timetabled double lesson each week. They continue with the course in September of Year 13, finalizing their project outcome. They then work on presentations, completing the qualification by the end of November. After external moderation in May, students get their results alongside their A-levels in August.

The EPQ helps students to develop skills that are essential to success beyond school, such as critical thinking, or researching, and learn to work independently in a way that they do not do anywhere else in their school careers.

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