

Extended Project Qualification



Why Study the Extended Project Qualification?

The Extended Project (EPQ) provides students with an opportunity to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. Students will be able to formulate their own question on a research topic of their choice and will produce a piece of independent research working towards a final outcome. The qualification can be used to earn extra UCAS points as well as demonstrate to universities that the student has the critical thinking and independent study skills required of degree level thinking.

What Universities Think of the Qualification?

Cambridge "We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education."

UCL "UCL welcomes the introduction of the Extended Project into the curriculum, recognising that it will develop many of the skills necessary for successful study at University."

Course Content

The Extended Project is a one year qualification completed over the student's first year of A Levels and is entirely assessed through a piece of completed coursework which demonstrates the student's research process and final outcome. Students will be given weekly compulsory taught sessions on the key skills required to successfully complete the project which will help them make the adjustment in skills required in the step up from GCSE. These weekly sessions will include topics such as: research skills, referencing, plagiarism, critical thinking, assessing bias and using visual sources.

Students will also be assigned a project supervisor who will help advise and guide them towards successful completion on the project but the emphasis of the project is independent thought and freedom of research therefore students will be expected to conduct much of the project work under their own supervision. Students should see this qualification as an opportunity to produce academic research on a topic they have a personal interest in. Students are given a great deal of freedom in the choice of their topic and the format of their final outcome, the choice of topic does not have to be limited to their A Level subjects nor the subject they wish to study at University. The final outcome and answer to their research question can be presented in a number of ways from a traditional 5000 word dissertation to an art exhibition, controlled experiment, piece of poetry or dramatic performance. It is up to students to decide the best way of presenting their research and as such it is an opportunity to study in the way a student feels they learn best.

Previous EPQ Titles

- The Seven Deadly Sins in Art; To what extent has society's view of the Seven Deadly Sins changed since The Middle Ages and how has this influenced their depiction in modern art?
- To what extent does the objectification and over sexualisation of women in anime influence the attitudes and behaviours in fandoms and cosplay?
- Romantic Literature: an exploration of the creative themes.
- Nature vs Nurture: are serial killers born or made?
- The Truth about Psychics: can psychic ability ever be empirically tested?
- How true is it to say that the media has a direct impact on voting patterns in the United Kingdom?

Assessment

The course is assessed through one piece of coursework that is externally moderated at the end of their first year.

Exam Board

AQA

Progression

The course is designed to provide students with all the independent study skills required of higher level study so will be invaluable to any who wish to progress on to University. The course also encourages individuals to think independently and critically and as a result is highly useful for any form of post education employment as it demonstrates that students are able to manage their own time and produce high quality work without the need for careful supervision.