

6th form

Course Level

Equivalent to half an A Level

Awarding Body

AQA

Entry Requirements

The EPQ runs from the spring term of Year 12 to the spring term of Year 13.

Students are required to be on track in each of their other subjects in order to start this optional course.

Assessment

Students meet with their teacher on a regular basis to ensure that they are on target in terms of meeting the various deadlines throughout the year.

Students are timetabled for one hour a week and the project is assessed on four main areas:

- Ability to manage the project.
- Ability to research and evaluate sources found.
- The project itself.
- Evaluation of the project once it is complete including a presentation.

EPQ

The Extended Project is a qualification that is completely different from other studies in the Sixth Form. This is because the student chooses their project from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student and agreed as appropriate by the student's teacher. While there will be some teaching, this will mostly be comprised of generic skills such as research and referencing. The teacher is not allowed to deliver any of the subject content and, as such, no part of the project can be based on any area that is being taught or has been taught for a current or previous qualification. It will require in total 120 guided learning hours, 30 of which are taught skills with the remainder being the students to use as they think appropriate.

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest.
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval.
- Plan, research and carry out the project.
- Deliver a presentation on the management of the project.
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

Career and Progression Opportunities

The Extended Project Qualification offers opportunities for students to:

- Develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students.
- Develop and apply decision-making and, where appropriate, problem-solving skills.
- Extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills.
- Where appropriate, develop confidence in applying new technologies in their studies.
- Develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise.
- Use their learning experiences to support their aspirations for higher education and/or career development.

Some of the benefits of an EPQ include:

- Supporting an application to university.
- Reducing the level/points of a university's offer.
- Giving an application preference on highly selective or over-subscribed courses.
- Providing valued content for a personal statement.
- Generating a point of interest and evidence for interview discussions.

As such, the project is very much welcomed by universities and prospective employers as any student who has completed one is able to demonstrate significant skills in terms of managing their own time and independence of learning. EPQ does not count as one of the option choices but is an additional subject that runs from the spring term of Year 12 to the spring term of Year 13.

Link to specification: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/projects/project-qualifications/EPQ-7993>