



## Extended Project Qualification Curriculum Information - A Level

As Year 12 students begin their Level 3 Extended Project Qualification, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

### Overview

- The examination board for this Level 3 qualification is AQA. You can find further information relating to the specification here: [Level 3 Extended Project Qualification | Specification at a glance](#).
- During the course, candidates are supported by a project supervisor.
- Candidates can complete either
  - a research project consisting of a 5000 word report and a oral presentation with a question and answer session
  - or an artefact project consisting of a 3000 word report, artefact and oral presentation with a question and answer session
- Every candidate will also complete the exam board's Production Log which records their initial ideas, development of their project, meetings with supervisors, and their end of project reflection.

### Course outline

The EPQ runs from September to May in Year 12, although it is possible that artefact projects, and those candidates with access arrangements or extenuating circumstances may be moved into a later series entry after discussions with the supervisor, coordinator and Senior Leadership Team.

- The course starts with an initial ideas meeting between the candidate and their supervisor to establish the candidate's areas of interest and to discuss how this can be turned into a relevant project.
- The candidate then completes a proposal that is signed off by their supervisor and the centre coordinator, who will approve the project based on the requirements of the exam board.
- The candidate then undertakes a blended course of taught skills, independent research and one-to-one meetings with their supervisor, which they record in the Production Log.
- The taught skills element consists of
  - Writing and using questions
  - Time management: GANTT charts and Critical pathways
  - Organising research: Skeleton Drafts
  - Research Methods 1 - Accessing sources
  - Research Methods 2 - Reading and Note-taking
  - Research Methods 3 - Online research
  - Research Methods 4 - Evaluating sources
  - Plagiarism and how to avoid it
  - Referencing: Harvard Style
  - Critical Thinking
  - Report writing: Structure and Style
  - Effective presentations 1 - Planning and Delivery
  - Effective presentations 2 - Questions and Answers

- After Christmas, at the end of the main research phase, candidates will begin to work on the first draft of their project report, if completing a research project, or a first draft of the opening sections of their report and their prototype artefact, if pursuing an artefact project.
- After receiving feedback, candidates then work on redrafting and producing their final report and presentation.
- At the conclusion of the project, after completion of the oral presentation and question and answer session, and the submission of their final product (report, or report and artefact), candidates complete a final reflection to conclude their Production Log.

### Required resources

- The school provides the electronic resources needed to complete the exam board's Production Log, as well as several subscriptions through the Library which will allow candidates to perform a wide range of high level research. However, there may be some additional costs associated with individual projects which require students to research less common topics.
- An artefact project may incur an additional cost dependent on the nature of the artefact the candidate wishes to produce and if a candidate wishes to make use of school resources.
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### Useful websites

The following websites provide useful information and resources to support EPQ candidates

- <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/information-for/young-people/epq/epq-resources>
- <https://educationoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/epq-support/>
- <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/learnwithustransition/academic-skills-resources/index.page>
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/epq-success/0/steps/26101>
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success>

### Homework and assessment:

- EPQ is an independent research qualification which requires candidates to complete 2 hours of independent study per week; this may come in the form of planning, reading, note taking or writing depending on the stage of the project.
- As the purpose of the qualification is to develop independent working and organising skills, candidates need to be mindful of monitoring their own progress against deadlines arranged by the centre
- The EPQ is 100% non-examined assessment, meaning that the candidate's work is holistically marked at completion by their supervisor before being moderated as part of the whole cohort by the school's supervisors and coordinator. The centre marks are then further moderated by the exam board (AQA), who request a randomised sample of the centre's marking after initial marks have been electronically entered.

### Contact:

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Hannah Ellis, Center Coordinator, at [hellis@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:hellis@ahs.bucks.sch.uk).