

# THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

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A CHANCE TO EXTEND YOUR STUDIES



WHAT IS AN EPQ?

Why do you want to do an EPQ?

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# WHAT IS IT?

- Independent research project where **you**:

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  - Compose a question based around your own interests or area which you wish to study which allows you to analyse and evaluate a particular idea
  - Plan how to achieve all the project outputs within an agreed timescale
  - Research relevant information to help develop your knowledge of the subject and answer your question
  - Produce a written report to present your findings
  - Give a short presentation evaluating your project

# RESEARCH EPQ

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- A 5000 word research essay – based on anything that you like!
- A Production Log – to monitor your progress and develop your project management skills
- A presentation with question and answer session – 20 minutes

# WHAT SORT OF TITLES HAVE STUDENTS CHOSEN?

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- How do drugs affect the central nervous system?
- What is the most effective biological weapon and why is it so effective?
- What is the iconography of the Little Black Dress?
- What is Carbon Capture and can it solve the problems of global warming?
- To what extent should we re-wild Britain?



# ARTEFACT EPQ

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- A product that you have produced, that has a purpose
- A 3000 word research essay recording your research and development of the product
- A Production Log – to monitor your progress and develop your project management skills
- A presentation with question and answer session – 20 minutes

# ARTEFACT EPQ

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- Book
- Film
- Performance
- Art work
- Apps
- Website
- Games
- Physical products

# SO WHAT SKILLS DO YOU LEARN?

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- become more independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase your planning, research, referencing, analysis, evaluation and presentation skills



# WHAT SUPPORT DO YOU GET?

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- Regular one-to-one meetings with your project supervisor
- Taught skills on referencing, note-taking, writing up your project
- Dedicated timetabled time
- Help from AHS and Bucks County Libraries
- Access to Jstor an online database of academic journals and articles

# WHY SHOULD YOU DO IT?

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- It will look good on your UCAS form
- Add to your UCAS points (an A\* is worth 70 points)
- To explore a topic that you are really interested in.
- Study subjects you don't get to study at AHS (Law, Medicine etc.)
- Evidence to universities and employers skills you might not be able to show in other subjects (extended writing)
- A chance to develop the skills of independent learning and researching ready for university

# YOUR QUESTION

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- Question needs to be **analytical** and **evaluative** **not** research and describe
- This means you have to research in depth and be able to make judgements
- So, what makes a good question?

# WHAT MAKES A GOOD QUESTION?

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- Central **issue** to respond to.
- Clear and specific **focus**
- Explore **different** points of view.
- **Can't** be answered by a **yes** or **no**
- **Something you know a little about**
- **Interesting**



# How to prepare for EPQ

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To make a strong start, over the summer, spend some time identifying a theme/some themes that interest you and you are curious about.

- Do some reading around these topics.
- Make a note of books, authors, journals, articles or weblinks that you use.
- Have a think about possible titles you might want to investigate.

To develop your thinking further, for each title think about:

- Why you think this would be an interesting title,
  - What you could potentially research and where you would find information (sources)
  - How you would create a discussion to explore two sides of the issue.
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