

INTENT

The AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) aims to develop students' independent research, project management, and presentation skills, preparing them for higher education and future careers. It encourages students to take ownership of a project, fostering critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation skills.



Prior learning

No prior knowledge is explicitly required for the EPQ, it is designed to allow students to explore a topic of their choice in depth. While no specific academic prerequisites exist, strong self-management and research skills are crucial for success.



Extra-curricular

University of Southampton – Choosing a topic masterclass (online)
University of Wolverhampton – Library visit for research

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
TOPIC/KNOWLEDGE	<p>Students will complete:</p> <p>Production Log: Maintaining a detailed log documenting the research process, progress, and any challenges faced.</p> <p>Research Question/Hypothesis: Formulating a clear and focused research question or hypothesis.</p> <p>Research: Conducting in-depth research using a variety of sources.</p> <p>Final Report/Artefact: Producing either a written report (5,000 words) or an artefact (practical project) with an accompanying report (1,000 words).</p> <p>Presentation: Delivering a presentation summarizing the project and its findings.</p> <p>Referencing: Accurately referencing all sources used in the project.</p> <p>Evaluation: Reflecting on the project, its successes, and areas for improvement.</p>					
SKILLS	<p>Research Skills: Conducting thorough research, evaluating sources, and avoiding plagiarism.</p> <p>Planning and Project Management: Creating a project plan, managing time and resources, and adapting to challenges.</p> <p>Academic Writing: Structuring a report, developing arguments, and presenting findings in a clear and concise manner.</p> <p>Presentation Skills: Delivering a presentation summarizing the project and engaging in Q&A.</p> <p>Critical Thinking and Analysis: Analyzing information, forming judgments, and developing a well-reasoned argument.</p> <p>Decision-Making and Problem-Solving: Making informed choices throughout the project and addressing any challenges encountered.</p> <p>Transferable Skills: The skills developed through the EPQ are highly valued by universities and future employers.</p>					
ASSESSMENT	<p>EPQ is assessed on a set of objectives that evaluate the entire project process, not just the final product and can only be marked after completion. There is no written exam; the assessment is based on the submitted project and its associated documentation.</p> <p>AO1 Managing the project: This objective assesses the student's ability to plan, organize, and manage their project effectively.</p> <p>AO2 Using resources and evaluating evidence: This objective assesses the student's ability to gather and analyse information from various sources. It includes researching effectively, evaluating the reliability and validity of sources.</p> <p>AO3 Developing and realizing the project: Evaluates the student's ability to develop their chosen project, whether it's a written report, an artifact, or a performance. It includes demonstrating problem-solving skills, using new technologies where appropriate, and achieving the planned outcomes.</p> <p>AO4 Self-reflection and evaluation: This objective focuses on the student's ability to critically evaluate their own learning and reflection on their progress, identifying areas for improvement, and evaluating the final outcome in relation to their initial objectives.</p>					

READING SKILLS

Strong reading skills are crucial for effective research and analysis. Students need to be able to identify key themes, distinguish between fact and opinion, and compare different texts. We develop strategies for active research and note-taking.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) fosters personal development by enhancing skills like independent learning, research, and critical thinking, while also boosting confidence and self-awareness. Students gain valuable experience in project management, time management, and presentation skills, all of which are highly regarded by universities and employers

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT HOME

Parents and carers can help with time management, provide a supportive environment, and encourage the development of essential skills. This includes assisting with planning, organization and research