

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Course Length: Studied over 120 hours
Examination Board: AQA
Course Leader: Mrs C Tresidder (tresidder@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Course Content

What is it?

The EPQ is an exciting qualification which is growing at QEGS each year. Students can choose to do the EPQ alongside their A-Level or BTEC courses.

It is a research-based piece of work of the students' choosing that requires evidence of planning, preparation, research, analysis, decision-making and autonomous working.

The Project can be an extension of an existing programme of study, or can arise from an area of interest. It could possibly be connected to a future career or university course.

The Project can take several forms. It can be a 5,000 word written report (dissertation style) or it can be an artefact (e.g. a piece of art), an event (e.g. a fashion show) or an electronic product (e.g. a computer game) with a shorter report.

This is a great opportunity to do something truly individual and increase the depth of knowledge in an area of particular interest.

Whatever form the outcome takes, it must be based on research which leads the student to make decisions about how they create the product or reach the written conclusion.

Recent example projects include:

- Will UEFA Fair Play Regulation solve the problems commercialisation has created in the Premier League?
- A design for an aesthetically pleasing Passive House
- To what extent are Modern day beliefs about Ancient Roman dietary habits exaggerated?
- To design a Role Playing Game with a compelling narrative for the 16-25 age group
- Should Texas retain the death penalty?
- Can IPS cells be used to develop a cure for Parkinsons?
- To create a contemporary propaganda poster accessible to dyslexics

Why do it?

The EPQ is highly valued by universities and employers. It is graded A*- E and achieves UCAS points worth half of A-Level grades.

The aims of the extended project are:

- To extend students' skills in planning, research and critical thinking, presentation, synthesis, evaluation and referencing.
- To allow students independence, choice and input into the design of an extended piece of work.
- For students to use this 'toolkit' of skills to better prepare them for higher education and employment.

How is it taught?

The EPQ includes a taught skills programme which is primarily delivered at the start of the course. This is followed by time to work independently, some more taught sessions and meetings with the students' EPQ teachers and supervisors. There is a lot of independent research involved in this qualification as this is a project in which the student becomes the expert. EPQ is normally timetabled for two hours per week but students will need to add to this independently once writing/developing has begun.

How is it assessed?

There is no exam for the EPQ. The evidence submitted for assessment will be:

- A completed production log which records the process from proposal to final review
- The Project product: either a long-written report of approximately 5000 words or an artefact, CD/DVD of performances, audio/multimedia presentation, photo log, etc. which must be supported by a written report of approximately 1000 words
- A presentation for a non-specialist audience using appropriate media