

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

EDEXCEL - COMPULSORY FOR A LEVEL STUDENTS

What are the aims of the course?

The Extended Project is an exciting qualification that puts the student in control, giving them the chance to explore something new. An excellent preparation for higher education, the Extended Project encourages independent thought, critical thinking and personal exploration. In an increasingly competitive climate for university applications, the Extended Project gives students individual skills and experience which are welcomed by university admissions departments. Key perceived gaps in some students' outlook when arriving at higher education were 'intellectual curiosity' and a 'sheer love of investigation'. This is what the Extended Project aims to foster.

The central aim of the course is to promote and stimulate a love of learning and it will enable you to:

- Learn more about something that interests you
- Investigate a controversial topic
- Possibly expand your knowledge of one of your AS subjects
- Gain practical skills that will help you in Higher Education and the workplace

What does it involve?

The Extended Project has no examination; it is an independent coursework project. Students will select one of the following topic formats for their project:

- The Dissertation (Typically in a humanities based subject)
- The Investigation (Typically in a science based subject)
- The Performance (Typically drama or music)
- The Artefact (Typically Art or Design Technology)

How is it assessed?

The Extended Project will be graded A* – E.

The Extended Project is more than a summative assessment. What you learn and how you perform throughout the time spent on the Project all count towards the final grade.

Students will be assessed on:

- **Manage:** How well the work is managed, such as planning and choosing what methods to use
- **Use Resources:** How information and resources are used and selected throughout the Project
- **Develop and Realise:** The range of skills used to achieve the final outcome
- **Review:** How effectively work is reviewed afterwards

Are there any specific entry requirements?

As an additional A Level the Extended Project is a rigorous qualification. Students will need to have good time management skills, the ability to work and research independently, have a secure level of written English and be confident in oral communication and discussion. More importantly, though, will be an ability to ‘think outside the box’.

Why is it a useful qualification?

1. An EPQ is worth valuable UCAS points

A top grade in an EPQ is worth the equivalent of half an A Level (28 UCAS points) which could be invaluable when applying to universities.

2. It develops useful skills

Skills such as time management, research skills, presentation skills, and essay writing can all be developed during the course of your EPQ, and many of these skills are transferable to university and beyond.

3. Pick your own subject

The EPQ lets you choose your own subject to explore and write about.

