


The Extended Project Qualification, AQA – Level 3

What is an EPQ?

- The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a Level 3 course which is taken alongside A-levels.
- You'll be required to complete a project based on a research topic of your choice. It can be related to a subject outside of your current areas of study.
- The project can be in the form of an essay or report; or an artefact, musical composition or dramatic project (backed up with paperwork).



Why do an EPQ?

- An EPQ will help you develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping you prepare for the demands of university work.
- It is valued amongst Higher Education institutions as it demonstrates your dedication to independent learning.
- It contributes towards entry requirements at some universities. Some universities will even lower their grade requirements.

Choosing an EPQ topic

- You can study any topic you wish – but it's a good idea to choose something related to the subject that you intend to study at university.
- An EPQ gives you the opportunity to expand learning in an area that really interests you, so don't be afraid to go beyond your A-level syllabus.
- Do try to be specific, as it will help you to focus your research and develop a great project.
- Your title must be agreed by your supervisor and then by KHO (Co-Ordinator)

A completed EPQ

- All projects must include a written report of at least 1000 words.
- However, the outcome of the EPQ can be almost anything. For example: a dissertation, an artefact or model, a performance, a short film, a website or piece of software, a design or blueprints. This must be based in research, which you must present!
- If you choose to complete an essay – this must be 5000 words.
- Once complete, you must also give a short presentation about your project.

How is your EPQ assessed?

- Assessment is undertaken by your supervisor and externally moderated by the exam board. Grades are awarded in the range A*-E.
- You will be assessed in the following areas:
 - Management
 - Use of resources
 - Development and realisation
 - Objectives and achievements



Next Steps...

- You will now be taught some of the crucial skills needed to undertake an EPQ
- These include:
- How to access undergraduate resources through The Hive (a trip to the Hive is included with this course.)
- How to design a research question,
- How to plan your research,
- How to research,
- Analysing and evaluating sources,
- How to write different styles of reports,
- Referencing,



What you need to be thinking about...

- Whilst we are completing these study skills you need be thinking about the topics you would like to study.
 - Pick an area of interest
 - Try to find some sources which might be useful and start reading. This will help you to focus your ideas down.
 - Make contact with your supervisor and keep them abreast of your progress.
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