

Year 13 EPQ

The EPQ is short for Extended Project Qualification. An EPQ is an independent research project which involves writing an essay of 5000 words or creating an artefact, which might be anything from an art object to an iPhone app. As the project evolves, students must complete a 'production log' to record specific stages of the project and this also contributes to their project result. The third component of the project is an oral presentation.

Generally, the whole process from start to finish takes about 120 hours. It is a formal 'level 3' qualification that is the equivalent in UCAS tariff points to half an A-Level. Students receive teaching and guidance to get them started, to help with planning and researching and presentation skills, and to keep them on track as they work through their chosen project. There is no formal restriction on what students do the project on: that is negotiated between the student and their project supervisor, who will help students choose a topic they will enjoy and cope with.

The three assessments which decide a student's result are done by their teachers, though the exam board 'moderates' their marks to check they are grading correctly. The importance of the EPQ is that it enables young people to develop skills and aptitudes that are sought-after by universities and employers. Since every EPQ is unique and personal to the individual, it gives each student a unique selling point when it comes to applications and interviews.

Methods of deepening and securing knowledge:

Research	Students are encouraged to research around and beyond the areas of study in class in order to deepen their understanding of areas studied.
Project management	Students are expected to identify a topic to research, establish aims and objectives, produce a project plan and complete the work applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives.
Use of resources	Students are expected to obtain and select from a variety of resources, analyse data, apply information relevantly and demonstrate understanding of appropriate links.
Develop and realise	Students are expected to problem solve, make decisions, think creatively about their topic to achieve desired outcomes.
Review	Students are expected to deliver an oral presentation requiring students to: convey and present evidence, outcomes and conclusions and evaluate their own learning and performance.

	Autumn term 1	Autumn term 2	Spring term 1
Topic(s)	<p>Introduction of EPQ - Choosing your title.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students consider their thoughts and ideas on a topic of their choice. Supervisor and student discuss initial ideas. • Students develop a 'working title' which can be altered during the early stages of the EPQ. • Students start their EPQ production log; a diary that documents a student's progress throughout the qualification. • Students begin to conduct background research based on their agreed working title. 	<p>Planning your project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students start clearly documenting their planning throughout the course of the qualification using their production log as a guide. • Students are expected to complete the 'Initial Ideas' section of the Production Log by this stage. • The supervisor will make any alterations or recommendations at this stage. 	<p>Research sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students use this time to build up a reputable set of primary and secondary resources to help them to develop their project further. • Students are taught how to reference their sources appropriately (Harvard). • Students continue to meet with their supervisor to ensure that students are meeting deadlines.
Assessment	Production Log.		
CEIAG <i>(Careers that are linked to that topic)</i>	Students are encouraged to complete their EPQ based on their future career aspirations as this is a unique opportunity to develop their knowledge in a field the student is interested in.		

	Spring term 2	Summer term 1	Summer term 2
Topic(s)	<p>Essay planning and structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to collate all of their research by this stage. • Students are taught how to plan and structure their essays. • Students are expected to develop an essay plan, draft essay and evidence of work completed in the accompanying production log. <p>Final</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are expected to work through their project, guided where necessary by the supervisor. • Students submit their final essay and receive amendments where necessary. • Students prepare for their oral presentation with guidance from the supervisor. The presentation offers students the opportunity to discuss their research, data and findings. • Students submit their final essay, production log and presentation. 		
Assessment	Production log.		
CEIAG <i>(Careers that are linked to that topic)</i>	Students are encouraged to complete their EPQ based on their future career aspirations as this is a unique opportunity to develop their knowledge in a field the student is interested in.		

Independent Study

Independent study is set based on where a student is at in relation to the deadlines above.