

# Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)



## **What is an Extended Project?**

The EPQ is an essay that students will complete from year 12-year 13. The aim of this is to inspire, enthuse and motivate students by giving them the freedom to do a project on a subject they're studying or in an area of personal interest. It's a stand-alone qualification that is assessed as an A2 piece of work and is worth up to 70 UCAS points – equivalent to half an A Level.

It provides students with the skills that higher education is looking for, by encouraging independent study, critical thinking and teamwork. It is useful when applying for university to help 'stand out from the crowd'. It provides a talking point for applications; completing the EPQ provides students with clear evidence of independent learning and a passion for a topic beyond the constraints of the curriculum.

### Examples of past EPQ topics:

- Defining time. Is it possible?
- Should vaccinations be compulsory for everyone?
- Are serial killers born to kill?
- Should pyromania be regarded as a special type of insanity and should we recognise it in a court of law?

### What does it entail?

- Independent research using a wide range of sources.
- 5000-6000 word essay.
- A presentation on findings.
- 120 'guided learning' hours which will be delivered during a timetabled 'enrichment hour', once a week.

### How do I get started?

The first step towards completing an Extended Project is picking the topic. There are a lot of options, so how do you decide?

#### Tips:

- **Pick something you are interested in pursuing after Sixth Form.** For example, if you want to study Law at university, you might consider completing an EPQ in an area of law to prove your passion and also see if it is for you. If you want to do an apprenticeship in construction, perhaps you want to complete your project on an area within this.
- **Delve deeper into the subjects you already study.** It may be that you are interested in History and already study the subject. Perhaps you want to broaden your understanding of a certain topic you study by going into more depth and looking at a connected topic. Or, it could be that you want to study something new altogether that is not covered in the A Level curriculum within your subjects.
- **Write about your hobbies.** This could be connected to your interests outside school. If you are a keen triathlete then maybe you could research this. If you enjoy painting then you might be interested in art history. The possibilities are endless.
- **Develop a personal understanding.** Previously, students have researched medical conditions affecting themselves, friends or family. Perhaps you have an ancestor that was involved in a historical event? The EPQ is about researching something of interest and with this option you can learn more about yourself or your history.

#### Other things to consider about your question:

- Your research question should be academic and suitable for in-depth research.
- It should have a narrow focus. For example, it should not be on 'WW2' or 'Female Writers', but should have a smaller focus such as 'The use of weapons in WW2' or 'The rise of female writers in the late 1800's'.

## **TASK 1:**

**Your title:**

**What areas are you interested in?**

**What specific, niche areas could be your focus?**

(You don't have to decide straight away! It might be that you narrow your focus after completing some reading)

## **Sources**

Sources:

Once you have chosen your topic, you will then spend a lot of time reading and researching (you get marks for your sources).

Things to consider when picking sources:

- You must have a wide variety of sources. Just watching documentaries or reading a couple of articles will not be enough. You should use books, articles, surveys, documentaries, diagrams, letters etc.
- Your sources should be as reliable as can be— do not use Wikipedia.
- Your sources should link strongly to your research question. Is it a good source to use if it is not very informative about your niche subject area?
- Your research should be thorough. You will not get good marks for your use of sources if you have not spend a lot of time researching in depth and reading.
- All sources **MUST** be referenced. This means that if you will use a quote, statistic or simply an idea, you **MUST** note down where it came from and the page number, minute on the video etc.

Where will I get my sources from?

- JSTOR journal articles.
- Books. Search for them online and you can then order a book to read from The British Library to read/photocopy for a day.
- Primary research. Complete a survey or experiment to inform your findings.
- Contact an expert in the field. Perhaps they can point you in the right direction or give you a valuable point of view.
- Documentaries from reputable sources.
- Academic websites.

**TASK 2: Note down the sources that you will use below. You should have a minimum of 5.**

**Source 1**

**Type of source (documentary, book, website etc.):**

**Title of source:**

**Writer:**

**Publisher/producer:**

**Year produced/published:**

**Source 2**

**Type of source (documentary, book, website etc.):**

**Title of source:**

**Writer:**

**Publisher/producer:**

**Year produced/published:**

**Source 3**

**Type of source (documentary, book, website etc.):**

**Title of source:**

**Writer:**

**Publisher/producer:**

**Year produced/published:**

**Source 4**

**Type of source (documentary, book, website etc.):**

**Title of source:**

**Writer:**

**Publisher/producer:**

**Year produced/published:**

**Source 5**

**Type of source (documentary, book, website etc.):**

**Title of source:**

**Writer:**

**Publisher/producer:**

**Year produced/published:**

