



What is an EPQ?

An Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an independent research project undertaken by students in Year 12 alongside their A-levels. It allows students to explore a topic of their choice in depth, developing a final product such as a research essay, investigation, artefact, or performance. The EPQ is worth half an A-level (equivalent to 28 UCAS points for an A*), making it a valuable qualification for university applications.

Why choose an EPQ?

- **Develop key skills** – An EPQ enhances essential academic and life skills such as independent research, critical thinking, time management, and self-discipline. These are highly valued by universities and employers alike.
- **Stand out in university applications** – Many universities look favourably on EPQs as they demonstrate a student's ability to manage an independent project. Some universities may even offer lower entry requirements for students who achieve a high grade in their EPQ.
- **Explore a subject of interest** – The EPQ provides an opportunity to delve into a topic of personal interest, which can be particularly useful for students considering specific university courses or career paths.
- **Enhance UCAS application & interviews** – Discussing an EPQ in UCAS statements or university interviews shows a passion for learning and commitment to academic exploration.
- **Improve academic writing & research techniques** – For students heading towards university, an EPQ is excellent preparation for the kind of independent research and writing required in higher education.

What does an EPQ involve?

- Choosing a topic of personal or academic interest.
- Conducting independent research using reliable sources.
- Producing a final outcome, which could be a 5,000-word essay or an artefact with a supporting report.
- Delivering a short presentation on the project and reflecting on the learning process.
- Keeping a production log to track progress and development.

Is an EPQ right for me?

An EPQ requires motivation and dedication, but it is an excellent opportunity to develop skills and gain extra UCAS points. It is ideal for students who enjoy independent learning, have a passion for a particular subject, and are willing to manage their own workload effectively.

