



**EXTENDED  
PROJECT  
QUALIFICATION**

## WHAT IS EPQ?

The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification that all students will complete alongside their A level subjects or other Level 3 qualifications. It is graded A\* - E and is equivalent to half an A level in size (and UCAS points). It is an independent research project on a topic of student interest which is planned, researched and written by them.

## WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THIS COURSE

The EPQ qualification helps develop skills and experience in independent research, time management, problem solving, academic writing and communication. It has rapidly become an important part of an academic sixth form experience supporting performance whilst preparing students for higher education and working life.

Research substantiates that students who complete the EPQ have higher attainment levels across all their A level courses in comparison to their peers who do not undertake the EPQ.

## WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO WITH THIS COURSE

Achieving an EPQ qualification is not only useful for one's personal development, but also highly valued by universities and employers as evidence of the students' ability to engage in research, independent learning and extended writing.

In this way, the EPQ can help students gain a competitive edge when applying to university.

## HOW THIS COURSE IS ASSESSED

The completed project is assessed holistically – i.e., the final report, presentation and production log are all used collectively to arrive at a final mark. It is assessed in the areas detailed below:

A01 - Manage 20%

A02 - Use Resources 20%

A03 - Develop and Realise 40%

A04 - Review 20%



# WHAT THE COURSE COVERS

Students will develop an idea for a project that they wish to carry out and discuss their ideas with their supervisor.

## **Students will then:**

- Carry out research to enable them to sufficiently develop project aims and objectives to make a formal project proposal
- Document their planning and research within the Production Log
- Meet with the supervisor at specified meetings to discuss the project process and issues
- Carry out the project by achieving the aims and objectives they set themselves
- Prepare and give a presentation about the project product and process (including a question-and-answer session)
- Evaluate the project process
- Submit evidence for assessment (production log and project product)

During their lesson each week students will be taught the skills needed to successfully complete their project. EPQ teachers will be project supervisors and meet students regularly to discuss their progress.

The EPQ is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore an academic area related to their career goals – the titles below demonstrate the flexibility of this qualification.

Are passwords an out-of-date technology for authentication?

How important was Bletchley Park to the Allied Victory of WW2?

Does the freedom of the press outweigh the people's right to privacy?

To what extent can current immunological research advance cancer treatments?

Could stem cell research lead to a viable cure for Alzheimer's disease?

Can Britain in the 21st Century still be regarded as a patriarchal society?

## STUDENT PROFILE

# SARA

### GRADUATED WITH:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| EPQ                        | A* |
| A level Biology            | B  |
| A Level Chemistry          | B  |
| A Level English Literature | B  |

### DESTINATION:

University of Newcastle studying  
Biomedical Sciences



**My EPQ was an opportunity to develop skills including research, public speaking, and creativity, whilst delving into a topic I personally found interesting. Now as I move into university, the skills I have fostered will give me a head start for future projects and dissertations. I felt fully supported during my journey with my supervisor's guidance and the support of other EPQ students and would definitely recommend the subject to others interested!"**



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