Extended Project Qualification

Exam board and specification: AQA (7993)

Why you should consider this course

The EPQ is an excellent opportunity for students to undertake a self-directed and self-motivated project which allows students to explore a topic of interest in depth through independent research. Universities recognise the qualification as it provides a strong foundation in the transition to university study. It develops time management, research, critical thinking, problem solving and academic writing skills.

What you will study

The EPQ is a structured yet self-directed project, requiring students to:

- Choose a topic of **personal interest**
- Plan and conduct **independent research**
- Develop their ideas into a **final product** (either a research report or an artefact with a report)
- **Evaluate** their research and learning journey through a detailed **logbook (Project Q)**
- **Present their process** to an audience, showcasing their research and conclusions.

How you will be assessed:

The EPQ is an independent, research-based qualification that allows students to explore a topic they are passionate about in real depth. It can take the form of:

- A 5,000-word research report,

Or,

- An artefact (such as a piece of artwork, a model, or even a documentary) accompanied by a 1,000-word research report.

Students are awarded grades from *A to C**, based not just on their final product but on their entire research process—how well they manage their project, engage with sources, and reflect on their progress.

The final assessment is based on:

- The research and development process
- The quality of the final project (report or artefact)
- The student's presentation and reflection

'The EPQ allowed me to explore a fascinating topic that I would not have had the opportunity to study in class. I researched the ethics and justification of using the atomic bomb on Japan to end the Second World War. It was eye-opening to discover the unsung voices involved in the conflict'