

Key stage 5 – Year 12 only	
Course title:	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Exam board:	AQA
Specification code:	7993
Year 12	
Overview	EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop a student's abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career. In addition: • it's worth half an A-level (28 UCAS points) • it's recognised by universities and employers • many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ. How it works The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production. By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project, students: • become more critical, reflective and independent learners • develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills • increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills • learn to apply technologies confidently • demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise. Undertaking an EPQ can also deliver other benefits for students, such as: • improved A Level/BTEC performance. • An enhanced student profile by making applications more attractive • increased motivation by allowing students to study topics of personal interest • the development of transferable independent study skills. EPQ is taught in small supervisor groups which are timetabled weekly in IT rooms and led by the supervisor. Project Production pages at each stage are completed on Project Q, a web-based Project Log. Students also attend the EPQ lecture once per fortnight with the Centre Coordinator.

Autumn 1 – Autumn 2 (September to December)	Term 1 Planning and researching phase. Students learn about the course requirements, mark scheme and project opportunities. Students produce a project plan, a research log and begin researching a topic. Students carry out initial research and set a working title in order to propose a topic. For 5000-word written reports: Once the topic is approved by the Centre Coordinator, students carry out more in-depth research and begin to plan out the report. The final title is at the Mid-project Review stage in December. For Artefact projects: Once the Centre Coordinator has approved the project, students must draft a plan and costing sheet. Students then carry out in-depth research. The final artefact proposal is set at the Mid-project Review stage in December. Key paperwork (on Project Q) • Record of Initial Ideas • Part A: candidate proposal • Part B: supervisor’s comments (completed by the supervisor) • Part C: Centre Coordinator’s comments (completed by the Centre Coordinator) • Planning Review • Mid-Project review Taught skills in the Autumn terms: • Planning a project. • Carrying out and evaluating research. • Setting a title. • Keeping projects ethical and safe. • Recording and reflecting on progress to set targets. • Developing academic writing skills. • Referencing sources and research. • Guidance on accepted use of AI.
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Spring 1 (January – April)	Term 2 Production, Submission, Presentation and Reflection Phase Students continue to develop their project and begin to draft sections. Students carry out additional research and complete a first draft. Students carrying out Artefact projects must begin testing. Final drafts are developed. After February half-term: Submission Phase 1: Students submit the following: • A 5000-word report <i>or</i> an Artefact with accompanying report. • Management paperwork (project plan, research log, report plans, and any other documents used to produce the project). Presentation Students present their project, from conception to completion, to a small group of peers and the supervisor. Submission Phase 2 Students complete the Summary and Reflection document and submit all of their Project Q log pages. Key paperwork (on Project Q) • Project Product Review • Presentation Record A • Presentation Record B (completed by the supervisor) • Summary and Reflection Taught skills in the Spring term: • How to draft and edit a report. • Preparing for a successful submission. • Planning a presentation. • How to reflect upon and evaluate performance.
Course ends for students	
Spring 2 (May – June)	Supervisors mark projects The Centre Coordinator oversees internal moderation of marks. Students are given a moderated raw mark (/50). Students can appeal against any perceived unfair marking. Project raw marks are submitted to the exam board by 15th May. Grades are awarded on A-level results day in the summer following Year 12.