

EPO

Extended Project Qualification

What will I need before taking this course?

The EPO is a supplementary course taken in conjunction with A levels. As long as a student matches the required grades of those A level courses they wish to study, then they can take the EPO.

(The decision to take the EPO is made during Year 12, you do not need to include this in your options on the application form).

Assessment and Grading

The Extended Project Qualification is a Level 3 qualification.

It is a stand-alone qualification aimed to develop and extend an area of personal interest or activity outside your main programme of study. It is based on a topic chosen by you and agreed as appropriate by us.

How will I learn?

The EPO allows you to embark on a largely self-directed project. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project you will:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent in your learning
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase your planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Learn to apply new technologies confidently
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise

What can I do at the end of the course?

The EPO has proved to be popular with students, teachers and especially universities. It provides an opportunity for you to extend your abilities beyond the A level syllabus and prepare for university or your future career. It can also be used to earn extra UCAS points.

What will I learn?

Students must keep a production log and assessment record. The Product can be either:

- Artefact, model or construction
- CD, DVD or video or performance/activities
- Journal of activities or events
- PowerPoint presentation
- Photographic record
- Written project

All projects must have a written report at least 5000 words (or 1000 words and an artefact) containing: references, sources, information accessed, background research, methods, conclusion and evaluation.

The project is equivalent to half an A level and is graded A*-E.

The taught element

- 30 hours directed time
- Research skills
- Project management skills
- Format and structure of accepted
- Academic forms of research reports

The project

- 90 hours self directed time
- Meeting with a supervisor fortnightly
- Keep a log and evidence of the whole process as well as writing the report
- Present findings to an audience

AWARDING BODY	AQA
CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS	Miss Southwell—EPO Coordinator