



Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

What is an EPQ?

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university and future careers. The EPQ is an exciting opportunity offered to and taken up by most pupils in Year 12. There can be two routes through the EPQ: a formal 5000 word essay or the creation of an artefact accompanied by a 1000 word essay. The choice of topic is indeed endless and varied.

Why should I take an EPQ?

The qualification was the brainchild of several universities who aimed to improve the quality of their undergraduate admissions. As such, it is highly respected and pupils who undertake the EPQ are typically offered lower grades for university admission and also find the transition from school to higher education much smoother. The EPQ allows students to learn new skills, such as independent researching, referencing and assimilating a large amount of information for the completion of their projects.

The success rate at Queen's is quite remarkable, with over 80% achieving the top grade, which is well above the national average!

Overview

Pupils will either have a burning interest in a particular subject or want to extend their knowledge or perhaps an aspect of their A- Level course that has piqued their imagination. Recent years have seen pupils focus on serial killers, climate change, prison reform, reminiscence therapy for those with Alzheimer's, disaster relief and why some people participate in sport, to name but a very few.

The artefact route has seen some imaginative and awe inspiring creations including making a wedding dress out of parachute silk, designing an eco-friendly house, recycling surf boards, making a biogas converter and even creating a pizza oven in their own garden.

Alongside their artefact or essay, the pupils are expected to complete a production log which is essentially a diary or blog of their EPQ journey and this is done in stage as they move through their project. All students have to deliver a presentation of their EPQ at the end, before evaluation of their project.





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Head of department: Donna Ashman

Email: da@queenscollege.org.uk

