

Course

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Exam Board

AQA specification

Entry requirements

Grade 5 English.

This qualification is usually taken in addition to three A Levels and is best suited to students who have demonstrated a strong aptitude or ability in a subject.

What is the EPQ?

Run in a university style through 1:1 tutorials and some taught lessons, this is a qualification that prepares you well for higher education and for employment. Just as importantly, it allows you to carve out entirely your own pathway and really follow your own interests.

Best of all, the Extended Project Qualification is equivalent to half an A level and is highly regarded by universities as evidence that the transition from college to university will be a smooth one for students who have successfully demonstrated their aptitude for independent learning.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) course at St Peter's begins in October of Year 12. Students taking an EPQ are taught for one lesson a week and study independently for other lessons.

What do I actually have to do?

The EPQ consists of three elements:

- An essay of 5000 words on a subject of your choice. It can be linked to the area you would like to study at university, or can be something completely different that you personally have a passion to study in greater depth. Some examples are listed later on. However, it could be an "artefact" like a play, a dress or a piece of music - together with a 2000 word essay.
- A production log which details the research that you carried out, how you evaluated your sources for potential bias or inaccuracy, a bibliography, how you planned your time, successes and failures, and finally a reflection on yourself and your finished project.
- Lastly, a detailed 30 minute presentation of your main findings.

Why should you take the Extended Project Qualification?

In a competitive market, universities value this qualification and use it to identify the very best students. It emphasises your ability to carry out independent research and your ability to plan and realise a project. You will also be demonstrating these skills to universities and potential employers who find selection of candidates difficult.

Examples of extended projects

- Can Cuba continue with a planned economy?
- How successful have attempts been to combat the threat posed by Hepatitis B?
- How does Irish folk music reflect the social, political and economic history of Ireland?
- Is punk rock art?
- Do violent films cause violence?
- To what extent was the fall of Rome due to Christianity?
- What is the best way to tackle MRSA in hospitals?
- Should the voting age be lowered to 16?
- Can science explain happiness?
- Are ASBOs effective?
- A documentary exploring the issues behind the decline of theatre audience while cinema remains popular
- Did Gustave Flaubert's novel, Madame Bovary, revolutionise French Literature, culture and attitudes?
- Public Art in Birmingham from high art to low culture; who chooses it? What is the impact of it on its surroundings and what do people think?

For more information contact EPQ Lead:

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