



# Extended Project Qualification

## Why take the Extended Project Qualification?

'Research is to see what everyone else has seen, and to think what no one else has thought.'

~Albert Szent – Gyorgyi (Nobel Prize in Physiology / Medicine in 1937)

The Extended Project Qualification affords students the opportunity to write a 5,000 word research project on an area of interest that engages their interests and passion for learning beyond the curriculum. **All students are offered the opportunity to complete this qualification**, and they are supported throughout with **regular fortnightly sessions, experienced staff supervisors** and the **expertise of students in Year 13** to offer their guidance. The qualification runs across 15 months, and is the equivalent of an AS level; it is one of the very few AS qualifications to be awarded A\*.

For students wanting to apply for university, this qualification is highly regarded by university admissions tutors and is, on many occasions, taken into consideration when issuing conditional offers to students; the EPQ can be the difference between securing a student's top university choice and narrowly missing out.

## Key features of the Level 3 Extended Project

Throughout this qualification, students will acquire and develop many academic skills that will be required of them at undergraduate level. Some of the key features of this qualification for students include:

- individually managing and designing an in-depth research project of their choice; showing independence and passion beyond the curriculum
- developing and improving their own performance as critical, reflective and independent learners
- applying decision making and, where appropriate, problem solving skills
- extending their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- improving as e-confident learners and applying relevant technologies in their studies
- using different learning experiences to support their personal aspirations for further education and/or career development.

## Assessment Objectives and Weightings

There are four assessment objectives for the Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project. These detail the knowledge, skills and understanding that the learner is required to demonstrate in each unit. Students take part in guided EPQ sessions to cover the main assessment objectives that they are being assessed against. There is a palpable research community the Sixth Form, with a supportive and inclusive approach towards achieving success.

### Assessment Objective Marks available Weighting

#### **AO1 Manage (9 marks)**

Identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.

#### **AO2 Use of resources (12 marks)**

Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.

#### **AO3 Develop and realise (24 marks)**

Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.

#### **AO4 Review (9 marks)**

Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced project outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format.

#### **TOTAL: (54 marks)**

### Sample project titles from 2017-18:

- Examine the views of the EU27 on Brexit
- To what extent has the evolution of animals been adversely affected by humans?
- Assess the impact of the Chinese Communist Party on modern China
- Evaluate the social and economic impact of immigration on Britain in the years 1992 to 2017
- Assess the view that the First World War was the most significant contributing factor to the extension of the franchise to women on an equal basis with men by 1928
- To what extent can the UK government continue to justify the existence of grammar schools in England?