

# Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

## (1-year course)

### Overview

Embarking on an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is one of the most rewarding steps you can take in Sixth Form at BGS. An EPQ offers you the unique opportunity to explore a subject you're passionate about in depth, beyond the confines of your A level syllabus. Whether you choose to write a dissertation, create a performance, or develop a product, the EPQ allows you to take control of your learning, develop independent research skills, and produce a project that showcases your interests and abilities.

### What will I study and learn?

The brilliance of the EPQ is the unique opportunity it provides to shape your own learning and delve into a subject that you're passionate about, or that's completely new. Undertaking the EPQ shows commitment and determination, and offers a fantastic opportunity to develop a more critical, reflective and independent learning approach. Universities and employers alike value the research, analysis, evaluation and presentation skills gained throughout the qualification.

What you study is largely down to your ideas and motivation. You will learn how to plan, research, develop and produce a project, which may be in the form of an essay (5,000-word report), or an artefact, investigation or performance (such as a dress, a play or extract from a book). If you choose to create an artefact, investigation or performance you must complete a written report to accompany your project. Whichever route you take, you will gain research and independent writing skills to support any future career path.

You will be allocated an EPQ supervisor who will support you as you create a project that you find inspiring and motivating. This project may be linked to your future career choice, hobbies, or extend your A level studies in some way. Projects cover a whole range of topics, with essays on such diverse subjects as the antibacterial properties of manuka honey, the digitisation of music, and the treatment of phantom limb pain. Artefacts created included: the best chocolate cake recipe for those on restricted diets; crochet instructions for a beginner; and the creation of a catwalk piece from recycled material.

### What skills should I have and what will be developed?

You must have an enquiring mind. You will have questions or ideas about a particular topic that you would like to draw together in research. In carrying out an EPQ, you will develop and extend skills in independent research and project management, equipping you for study after BGS. Your EPQ supervisor supports your studies much like an undergraduate study, meeting with you to discuss progress and pathways of your research and supporting you in any difficulties or questions you have.

The form your project takes is entirely up to you - whether it's creating an artefact (such as writing an excerpt from a book, composing a piece of music, or developing computer code) or writing an essay. Essay topics are broad and can cover any subject that is not being studied within your A level courses.

The skills you will develop are numerous, from presentation skills and time management, to referencing and developing a large piece of independent work. Universities are increasingly recognising these useful skills and many now give alternative offers for those that have an EPQ.

### How will I be assessed?

Many of the marks go towards how you went about your research, managed your time, and responded to difficulties. Hence, the process of developing your project is just as important as the end project, and you will need to formally submit a log (how you developed your project, your thoughts on how it is going, your response to your supervisor's advice and the decisions you are making). You will present your EPQ journey at the end of the process.

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students  
completed an  
EPQ last year