



KING EDWARD VI

Handsworth School For Girls

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: AQA

Who takes the EPQ?

All students in the 6th Form complete the EPQ, alongside three linear A-Levels.

What is the Extended Project Qualification?

The EPQ is a Level 3 qualification (click [here](#) for the specification) which is graded up to A* and carries UCAS points equivalent to half an A-Level. It is a long-term, student-led investigation which tests their ability to:

1. **Manage** – goal setting and management of time and materials to achieve the outcome
2. **Use Resources** – critical selection and evaluation of appropriate sources of evidence
3. **Develop and Realise** – decision-making and delivery of the final project
4. **Evaluate** – reflection on successes and failures, strengths and weaknesses over the duration of the project

The key assessed components are the **production log** – a record of all the planning, decision-making and reflections – a **research log**, a 20-minute **presentation** and the **product** – either an artefact (such as a computer program, a website, a model etc) or a 5000-word report. Choice of topic is the student's: the only prohibited titles are questions covered by the student's A-Level subject specifications.

Previous EPQ titles have included:

- *Which types of teaching materials are most effective in learning a new computer program?*
- *Why do we love chocolate so much?*
- *Is time travel in science fiction based on fact?*

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How is it delivered at Handsworth?

Students are allocated a supervisor who meets with them periodically to discuss progress.

Term 1: This is a sequence of taught lessons on study skills using the latest academic research into effective learning. Techniques of source analysis, note making and referencing are covered, along with sessions on academic motivation and revision. These are all essential skills for university study, whatever the subject.

Terms 2-4 (January Year 12 to Christmas Year 13): Students consider the topics which interest them, and begin to formulate their driving question. They submit their proposals to their supervisor and once approved they begin their research. Progress is reviewed in supervisions, students deliver their presentations and evaluate their project management skills before submission of their projects.

Why do we promote the EPQ?

The ethos of the EPQ chimes with our own vision for learning at Handsworth: the development of creative, independent, active and reflective students. In contrast with the generally short-term, teacher-directed tasks required in A-Levels, the EPQ places the student's curiosity centre stage and tests it over a full calendar year. It provides a safe space for students to encounter problems of time management, procrastination, dead ends and confusing choices. The skills gained are highly rated by universities and medical schools (see here for the University of Manchester's view of the EPQ), and they will often lower their entry requirements for students with strong EPQ grades.

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