



AQA AS Level EPQ

- Extended Project Qualification

“Research is formalised curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” – Zora Neale Hurston

Subject Information

EPQ is an A-level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university or their future career.

- it can be taken as an extension of other Level 3 qualifications or vocational qualifications
- it's worth half an A-level (28 UCAS points)
- it's recognised by universities and employers
- many universities make lower A-level offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production. Students at USF have completed EPQ reports on a range of topics including racism in film, social policy and reproductive health, economic bubbles, and gender roles in Disney. Some students choose to apply their research to create artefacts. Students at USF have choreographed dances, filmed short movies and have designed and created outfits, including a wedding dress.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Course Content

The EPQ will involve extended autonomous work by the student. It will require in total 120 guided learning hours. Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- plan, research and carry out the project
- deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience
- provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

Entry Requirements: Open to anyone studying at least one A level, meets the general entry requirement, is able to manage time effectively and can work independently.