


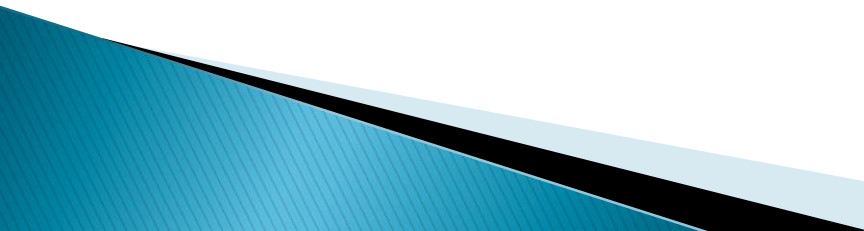
WHAT IS THE EPQ ?



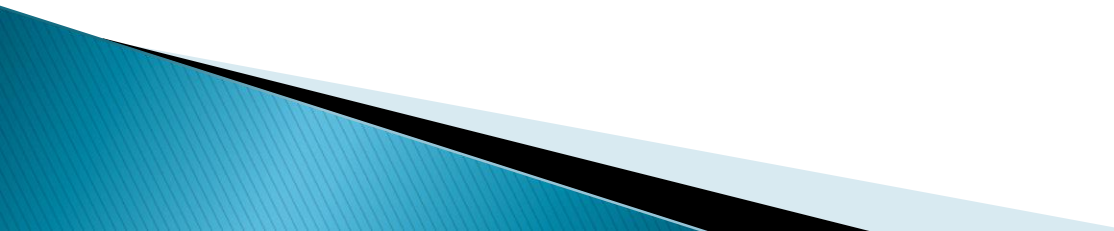
EXTENDED PROJECT

- ▶ EPQ stands for 'Extended Project Qualification'
 - ▶ The EPQ is a Level 3 qualification – this means it is the same level as A Levels and BTEC National Diplomas, the other courses offered in Sixth Form
 - ▶ It is worth half an A Level and is can be taken alongside A Levels or BTEC Nationals
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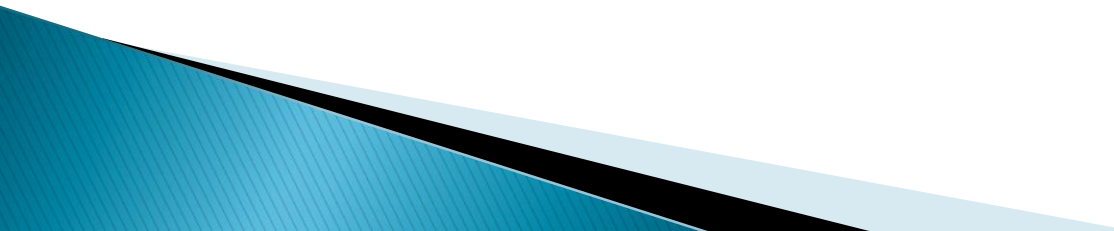
DIFFERENT...

- ▶ The EPQ is a very different type of qualification.
 - ▶ It offers students the opportunity to carry out an in-depth research project on a topic of their choice.
 - ▶ The end product is usually a dissertation (a long essay or report) but could be an artefact with a commentary instead.
 - ▶ Students have lessons in research skills once a week and a few meetings with a supervisor, but the rest is down to them!
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SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Students develop a range of research skills while doing the project.
 - ▶ They get better at time management, note-taking, reading critically and writing clearly and concisely.
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EXPERTS

- ▶ Students become experts on their chosen subject.
 - ▶ During the process, students keep a diary of their progress.
 - ▶ At the end, they give a presentation about their work.
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PROCESS

- ▶ Unlike many other qualifications, the EPQ is a *process* qualification. This means that the final grade is based not only on the outcome (dissertation / artefact/ report) but also on the project proposal and plan, reflective diary and presentation.
- ▶ The project is marked holistically, with evidence for each of the assessment criteria credited, whether it be in the proposal and plan, the reflective diary, the project outcome or the presentation.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **AO1 Manage (20%)**

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

- ▶ **AO2 Use Resources (20%)**

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.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **AO3 Develop and Realise (40%)**

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

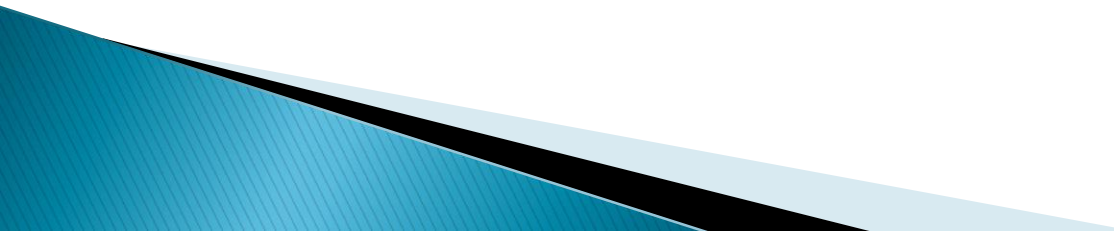
- ▶ **AO4 Review (20%)**

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.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ▶ At the end, everything is handed in: diary, dissertation or artefact and presentation notes.
- ▶ Students have an independent project to be proud of.

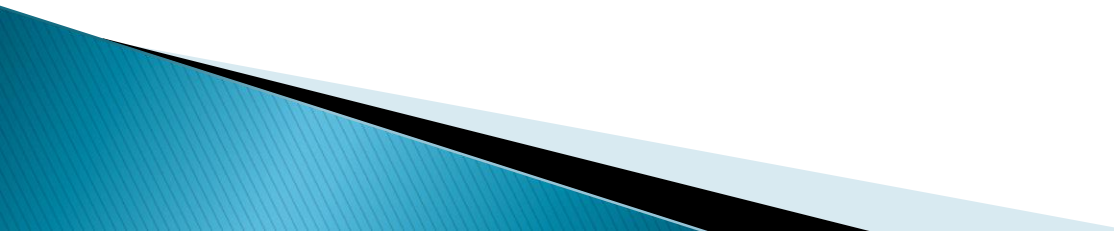
GRADING

- ▶ The project is marked by the student's supervisor and then moderated in school and by the exam board (WJEC)
 - ▶ In August, students receive a grade for their work.
 - ▶ Grades are like A Level grades – from A* – E
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THE EPQ AT RANGE

- ▶ About 30 Year 12 and 13 students will be offered the opportunity to take the EPQ. Each will be allocated a supervisor to offer advice and guidance and will also attend taught research skills sessions every Monday at 3.45p.m. – 4.45 p.m.

WHAT DO PAST STUDENTS THINK?

- ▶ The Extended Project is a brilliant way to inject your own interests into your work, so there is a guarantee of enthusiasm and engagement, and can demonstrate your independent prowess, something that universities will find appealing - it's one of the best advantages on offer. (Harry Draper, now studying Creative Writing at Edge Hill University)
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- ▶ You can write on almost anything you want, and it gives you the freedom to study things that interest you outside of your A Level subjects. It helps you to improve your independent working skills and learn to work as you will have to at university. (Beth Mulhall, now studying Biochemistry and Genetics at Sheffield University)

- ▶ You are provided with support throughout and develop skills which look brilliant when applying to university. It can be a massive bonus and result in university grade requirements being lowered. (Jay Hall, now studying Law at Liverpool John Moores University)

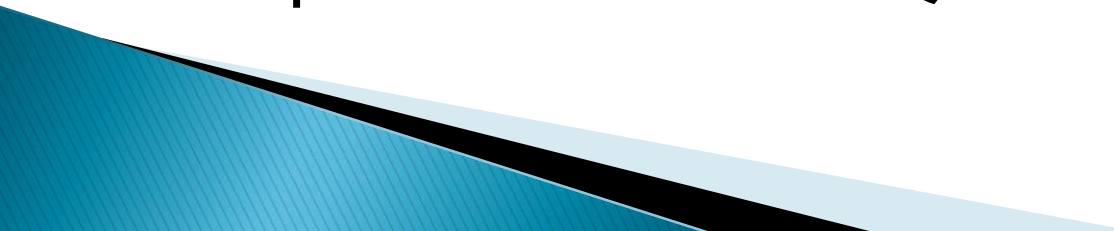
- ▶ EPQ is not only helping me to ensure my place of a university of my choice but it will also be helping me with the final year which is completely based on a research project. EPQ puts you one step ahead of the game. More than this, it is preparing me for the rest of my life, giving me self-motivation and skills for the workplace.(Freddie Russell, now studying Dentistry at Sheffield University)

**WHAT ABOUT CURRENT YEAR 13
STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THEIR
EPQ LAST YEAR?**



EPOQ and Universities

BENEFITS FOR THE FUTURE

- ▶ Universities love the EPQ because it means that students arrive at university already competent in research.
 - ▶ The EPQ has a 'points' score equivalent to half the points awarded for a full A Level at each grade.
 - ▶ Some universities amend their entry requirements for EPQ
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INTERVIEWS

- ▶ Lots of universities now interview students before offering places.
 - ▶ The EPQ tends to be a good discussion point at these interviews
 - ▶ Doing the EPQ increases confidence which improves interview skills which is useful for both university interviews and job interviews.
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- ▶ There are many different ways in which EPQ can help when it comes to applying for university.

1. It can be included in a points score

- ▶ Some universities which give their offers in points form state that points from EPQ can be included.
- ▶ An example of an offer this year:

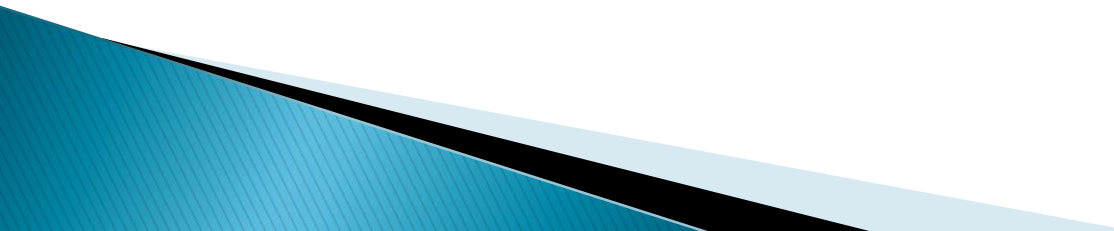
Northumbria University

Business with Financial Management

'This offer is subject to you obtaining a minimum of 120 UCAS points from a combination of Level 3 qualifications.'

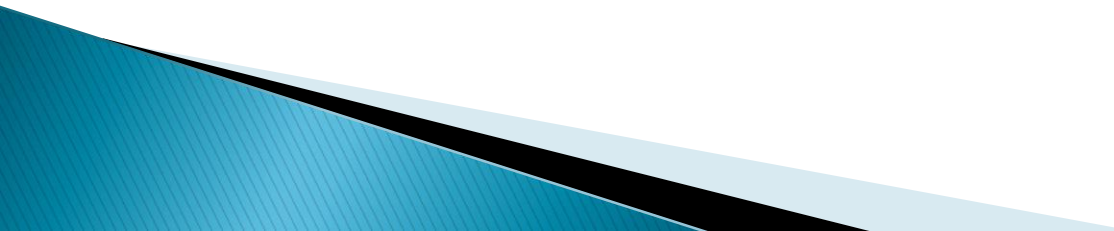
As the EPQ is a Level 3 qualification, EPQ points can be counted.

Someone without EPQ would need to get BBB or ABC (or equivalent) at A Level.

- ▶ Someone with EPQ grade D or E would need to get BBC at A Level
 - ▶ Someone with EPQ grade B or C would need to get BCC (or BBD etc.) at A Level
 - ▶ Someone with EPQ grade A would need to get CCC (or BCD etc.) at A Level
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Another example from this year

Manchester Metropolitan University has made a number of offers for different courses (Events Management, Accounting and Finance, Computer Forensics and Security) this year where EPQ can be considered in the **overall points score** if achieved at grade C or above.



An example of this from this year is Law at Lancaster University

The standard offer given by this university for this course is A Levels grade AAB.

Two students at Range this year have been given an offer of ABB on condition that they provide evidence of the EPQ which they achieved last year (one achieved an A, the other a B)

Another example

- ▶ University of Keele

Chemistry

Usual Offer : BBB or ABC

Offer for a Range student with a grade C in EPQ
last year: BCC (including B in Chemistry)

Interviews

- ▶ Many universities interview for some of their courses. The EPQ often helps at interview as it gives students something which they can talk about in depth and with authority.