

Switching pack

Extended
Project
Qualification

See them flourish with an EPQ



Contents

Why choose AQA?	03
Key benefits	04
Specification at a glance	05
About our EPQ	06
Our support offer	07
Professional development	10
Make the switch	12
Our other Project qualifications	13
Contact us	14

Why choose AQA?

Our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

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Our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is popular with learners and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for learners to extend their abilities beyond their sixth form course of study, stand out and prepare for university or their future career.

Learners will independently 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 an academic written report or, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production with accompanying report.

Our support package includes Project Q, the complete student management system, which we're proud to offer free to AQA customers.

Project Q

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Project Q provides tailored workflow tools that simplify the administration of Project qualifications, and is free to AQA customers.

- Delivers real-time interaction of learners' EPQ progress
- Compiles the information required for submission of learners' assessment evidence
- Reflects the production log, and supervisors can lock sections when complete, removing the risk of retrospective completion of the log
- Course resource section is a place for coordinators and supervisors to share files and resources, useful for Taught Skills materials
- Features such as a journal and files area can be useful to learners to demonstrate the development of their project – also useful when completing reflections
- Can help raise engagement, retention and achievement.



Key benefits

- Suitable for all learners
- Builds life experience and increases confidence
- Up to 29% increased chance of achieving A-level A*-B when studying for an EPQ at the same time (Jones, B: 2015)
- Develops study skills
- Easy access to a range of online learning resources from leading universities
- Boosts UCAS points
- Provides key skills for the workplace

Specification at a glance

About our EPQ

The Extended Project is a Level 3 qualification, first assessed in November 2008. It can contribute to programmes of study as a stand-alone qualification. Students may choose to take the EPQ as an extension from studies for any other qualifications at Level 3.

Delivery of the EPQ will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the learner's progress. It requires 120 guided learning hours and extended autonomous work by the learner.

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.



About our EPQ

Guided learning hours

The Taught Skills element requires 30 guided learning hours, maximising time for independent learning. This is approximately a quarter of the overall time for the EPQ.

Assessment

Our EPQ has only one comprehensive mark scheme that can be applied to any type of project. This ensures comparability and gives you the confidence to mark each project fairly.

Production log

Our Production log is the most supportive framework for your learners to complete their projects. It has a clear structure that supports learners to meet university expectations for creative projects, scientific investigations and practical EPQs.

Production log administration is minimal - we've stripped out the unnecessary administration but maintained the supportive framework that you told us is vital to the success of your learners.



Our support offer

Resources

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We have a wide range of example materials and commentaries. These are secure and available on Centre Services to help you feel confident in your assessment of project work. We also have a comprehensive set of [guides](#) which explain the EPQ project process. They've been created to make sure you feel supported every step of the way.

From [planning](#), [teaching](#) and all the way through to [assessment](#), we've got you covered with our extensive resource package.

Teacher support

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We offer free face to face standardisation meetings and a range of [professional development courses](#), both face to face and online, to support you to deliver this unique qualification.

Find out more on pages 10-11

Projects community

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Many universities and higher education institutions work directly with schools and colleges to support EPQ students and provide expertise in the taught skills and project development process.



Our support offer

Centre Services

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Switch to us and gain access to [Centre Services](#). Here you'll find all of our essential resources, including past training and standardisation materials for EPQ. It also has all the centre-specific services you'll need as a teacher or exams officer running our general qualifications.

Project Q

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Project Q your free, must-have EPQ companion; an uncomplicated platform designed to simplify the admin of Project qualifications.



Our support offer

Your NEA Adviser

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If you have questions, you'll get individual guidance from your own Project adviser for ongoing support.

Our [NEA Advisers](#) are experienced teachers who are on hand to provide guidance and support on delivering the EPQ, including:

- suitability of project titles or topics
- questions about the production log
- dual accreditation concerns
- administration
- Taught Skills content
- internal moderation procedures
- preparing for moderation.



Professional development

We have a range of comprehensive, free-of-charge training and events throughout the year

View our course selection [here](#).

Standardisation

The purpose of these sessions is to standardise marking, using example EPQ projects covering a wide range of marks.

Supervisor training

This course provides a complete overview of the role of the supervisor in facilitating independent learning and supporting learners through their project.

Coordinator training

This training is a complete overview of the coordinator's role for EPQ. The session considers set up and operation of EPQ in schools and colleges, and the areas in which supervisors may need support and guidance.

Coordinator Virtual Communities

These regional online events are interactive sessions where you can get together with other coordinators, and hear the latest EPQ news and support from us. We'll focus on areas where you've told us you'd like to know more, for example, what forms a good-quality title.

Professional development

Supervisor e-learning modules

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Our suite of e-learning modules are available for you to complete at your convenience. Mix and match your courses to strengthen your understanding of delivering the EPQ.

Current modules include:

- Understanding the Assessment Objectives and criteria
- What makes a good supervisor?
- What's expected of a centre coordinator
- What is required to deliver the EPQ
- Understanding the artefact projects
- How to use the production log

Curriculum Connect

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Suitable for both coordinators and supervisors, our Curriculum Connect sessions allow you to hear from our team of experts on a different theme each time.

Join our sessions and find the best ways to inspire, motivate, or just some reassurance. Whether you're looking for experiences from schools like yours or a different perspective, you're in good company.

View our course selection [here](#).

Make the switch

Account managers

Our Account managers offer local support for teachers in schools and colleges. They provide curriculum guidance enabling teachers to make informed choices that fit local and individual conditions. Find your account manager [here](#).

Sign up

If you'd like to be kept up to date with information from us, please complete our [updates form](#).

Explore resources

Take a look at our extensive resource offer for [planning](#), [teaching](#) and [assessment](#).

Our other Project qualifications

Our Project qualifications give learners the freedom to study the topics that they're interested in. The skills they develop will support successful progression to university and future careers.

Discover our Foundation Project Qualification and Higher Project Qualification [here](#).



Contact us

Tel: 0161 957 3980

Email: projects@aqa.org.uk

8am–4pm Monday to Friday

For more information, visit [aqa.org.uk/extended-project-qualification](https://www.aqa.org.uk/extended-project-qualification)

See them with an EPQ

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