

LEVEL 3
EXTENDED
**PROJECT
QUALIFICATION**
(7993)

Specification

Freestanding EPQ September 2015 to May 2020
First entry November 2015



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This specification will be published annually on the AQA Website (www.aqa.org.uk). The version on the Website is the definitive version of the specification.

Vertical black lines indicate a significant change or addition to the specification published for 2008 onwards.

1 Introduction

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Glossary of terms

Please see below the changes in language introduced in this specification *for first teaching September 2015*. These changes are for clarity and will not change the way in which the projects are delivered or assessed.

Word/phrase

Learner
Marking/marked
Presented
For a specified audience
Title
Presentation

Replaced by

Student
Assessment/assessed
Submitted
For a non-specialist audience
Working title/ final title as appropriate
Live presentation

1.1 Why choose AQA?

It's a fact that AQA is the UK's favourite exam board and more students receive their academic qualifications from AQA than from any other board. But why does AQA continue to be so popular?

- **Specifications**

These are designed to the highest standards so that teachers and students can be confident that an AQA award provides an accurate measure of what the student has achieved.

- **Support**

AQA provides free of charge standardisation meetings and online resources for Project qualifications and offers a wide range of CPD meetings both face to face and online. These support and training meetings explain the specification, suggest practical strategies to help students produce successful projects and help staff development in new roles.

- **Service**

We are committed to providing an efficient and effective service and are at the end of the phone when you need to speak to someone about an important issue. We will always try to resolve issues the first time you contact us but, should that not be possible, we will come back to you (by telephone, e-mail or letter) and continue to work with you to find the solution.

- **Ethics**

AQA is a registered charity with no shareholders to pay. We exist solely for the good of education. Any surplus income is ploughed back into educational research and our service to you, our customers. We don't profit from education, you do.

If you are an existing AQA customer, we thank you for your support. If you are new to AQA, then we look forward to welcoming you.

1.2 What is the Extended Project?

The Extended Project is a Level 3 qualification first assessed in November 2008. It can contribute to programmes of study in two ways:

- **as a stand-alone qualification.** Students may choose to take the Extended Project Qualification as an extension from studies for any other qualifications at Level 3 (GCE, BTEC, NVQ, other academic or vocational qualifications including Modern Apprenticeships)
- **as part of the AQA Baccalaureate and Technical Baccalaureate.** The Extended Project Qualification is a compulsory part of the Level 3 AQA Baccalaureate and technical Baccalaureate. The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student(s) and agreed as appropriate by the centre.

Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification in centres will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the student's progress. It 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.

1.3 What are the Learning Outcomes of the Extended Project Qualification?

The student will:

- identify, design, plan and complete an individual project, applying a range of organisational skills and strategies to meet agreed objectives
- obtain, critically select and use information from a range of sources; analyse data, apply it relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of the topic
- select and use a range of skills, solve problems, take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, to achieve planned outcomes
- evaluate outcomes both in relation to agreed objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced outcomes and conclusions in appropriate format.

2 Teaching, Supervising and Assessing the Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will require the teaching of relevant planning, organisational, project management, study and presentation skills and a piece of independent work undertaken by the student. This work will be guided and overseen by the student's Supervisor, monitored by the Centre Coordinator and assessed internally by the centre.

2.1 Aims

The Extended Project Qualification offers opportunities for students to:

- make a significant contribution to the choice and design of an extended project and take responsibility either for an individual task or for a defined task within a group project
- develop and improve their own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise
- use their learning experiences to support their aspirations for higher education and/or career development
- transfer skills developed as part of their extended project to other areas of study.

2.2 The Taught Element of the Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification will require the teaching of the necessary skills. It is expected that 30 guided learning hours will be spent on this taught element. The remaining time is allocated for the student's independent work and the individual supervision and guidance received. Teaching of the skills for the Extended Project should be agreed by the supervisor as appropriate to the needs of the student and their chosen project. It is likely to include:

- research skills including the ability to search for and identify suitable sources of information in the chosen subject area
- any skills or techniques that will be required for the safe and effective execution of the project which are not part of the candidate's course of study. e.g. safe laboratory or workshop technique, professional codes of practice, ethical guidelines, research methodology
- ICT skills that will enhance the production of the report and/or the development of the project
- project management skills including time, resource and task management
- the format and structure of accepted academic forms of research report
- referencing, the evaluation of sources and the prevention of plagiarism
- presentation skills

2.3 What is the Project process?

Student

The student will develop an idea for a project that they wish to carry out and discuss their ideas with a supervisor.

Students will then:

- carry out research to enable them to sufficiently develop project aims and objectives to make a formal project proposal
- document their planning and research within the Production Log
- meet with the supervisor at specified meetings to discuss the project process and issues
- carry out the project by achieving the aims and objectives they set themselves
- prepare and give a presentation about the project product and process (including a question and answer session)
- evaluate the project process
- submit evidence for assessment (production log and project product)

Group Projects

If students are working as part of a group each student's individual contribution to the end product must be pre-approved by the Centre Co-ordinator. Students working as a group must submit individual assessment evidence and complete an individual presentation.

Evidence submitted for assessment must show how each individual student within the group has met the assessment objectives.

Supervisor

The centre will allocate a supervisor to each student. It is advised that the number of students allocated to each supervisor should take into account the supervisor's other commitments.

Supervisors will:

- meet with each student to review initial ideas
- agree the student's working title and proposal and complete the supervisor's sections in the Production Log
- meet with each student for regular reviews including at least:
 - a meeting to discuss the record of initial ideas and how the student intends to develop the project
 - a planning review (post-proposal acceptance)
 - a mid-term review
 - a project product review
- assess the project holistically applying AQA assessment objectives
- confirm that a presentation took place and provide a record of the questioning
- endorse each student's Production Log and Assessment Record by signing the appropriate sections including a declaration that the evidence submitted for assessment is the unaided work of the student
- **confirm that no work assessed for the award of the marks above is also to be submitted, or has been submitted, for any other accredited qualification(s)**

Centre Coordinator

Each centre is required to appoint an appropriate Centre Coordinator who will be responsible to AQA for all Level 3 Extended Project submissions from the centre.

The Centre Co-ordinator will:

- develop staff understanding of the requirements of the Extended Project and the centre's relevant assessment policies and procedures
 - approve the suitability of a proposed working title
- NB it is possible for the Centre Coordinator to also supervise projects. If this is the case a senior colleague should counter-sign Proposal part C**
- quality assure standards of internal assessment
 - meet administrative requirements (both internal and external)
 - review and evaluate assessment practice including feedback from AQA.

2.4 Assessing the Potential of a Proposal

The supervisor assesses the potential project against the following checklist.

1. Does the working title of the project and proposed action allow the student to investigate and to access the higher-level concepts and skills in the assessment objectives, i.e. plan, research, analyse, evaluate and explain, rather than simply describe and narrate?
2. Are the working title and proposed action clear and focused on an issue which can be managed within the timescale, available resources and word total?
3. Do the working title and proposed action indicate that the student will be capable of investigating and researching the topic or carrying out the activity or task independently?
4. Is there a danger that the student will be unable to approach the project impartially and in a balanced way?
5. Is the student likely to face difficulties understanding the concepts associated with the project topic?

2.5 Assessing the Extended Project

2.5 1 Assessment Evidence

The evidence for assessment will comprise the following:

- the completed Production Log and Assessment Record including the Project Proposal Form, Presentation Record and Candidate Record Form
- the project product including a written report and any other evidence, as appropriate, depending on the topic or subject area chosen.

Completed Production Log and Assessment Record

The Production Log and Assessment Record will document the planning and progress of the project, including decision-making and the student's reflections on the process:

- formal proposal and approval
- initial idea and outline plan for the project
- record of research carried out and resources used
- record of advice and support offered and action taken as a result
- note of any changes made to plan and reasons for the changes
- a review of the completed Project Product
- a record of the presentation with the supervisor's record of relevant questioning

(The live presentation should be for a non-specialist audience and use media appropriate to the type of project. The presentation may involve the use of flipcharts, posters, Prezi, PowerPoint or short excerpts of video material. The presentation evidence should include examples of questions from supervisors and the student's responses to these).

All substantive advice given to the students should be recorded by them in the Production Log and Assessment Record and confirmed by the Supervisor.

The Production Log and Assessment Record can be downloaded from the website.

Appropriate Evidence of Project Product

Depending on the subject area or topic chosen, a variety of evidence may be submitted for assessment. Evidence can be provided in any form appropriate to the type of project chosen.

All project products must include a written report. The exact length of each written report will depend on the nature of the project, the subject area or topic chosen and the other evidence provided.

A project product which consists solely of a research based written report should be approximately 5000 words, for example a research report of a scientific investigation, exploration of a hypothesis or an extended essay or academic report in appropriate form. Where the chosen product is an artefact there must also be a research based written report of approximately 1000 words. In order to appropriately evidence an artefact students may include photographs of each stage of development as well as the final product. It is not necessary to include large artefacts themselves as evidence, photographs or other media will suffice.

2.5.2 Assessment Objectives (AOs)

All candidates are required to meet the following Assessment Objectives. The Assessment Objectives are weighted as indicated below:

	Assessment Objectives	Weighting
AO1	<p>Manage</p> <p>Identify, design, plan, and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.</p>	20%
AO2	<p>Use Resources</p> <p>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.</p>	20%
AO3	<p>Develop and Realise</p> <p>Select and use a range of skills, including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem-solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.</p>	40%
AO4	<p>Review</p> <p>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.</p>	20%

2.5.3 Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria statements are provided in three mark bands for each objective and should be regarded as hierarchical (i.e. each criterion assumes that any lower criteria are also met and that aspects of any higher criteria may be met in part).

When assessments are made, the criteria should be used to judge which mark best fits the candidate's work on their Extended Project.

The mark should be awarded on the basis of the general level of the candidate's work in relation to the criteria statements for each level (i.e. an isolated example of performance at a different level should not be used to raise or lower the overall assessment).

The work will clearly meet the criteria given in the appropriate level descriptor for the lowest available mark at that level as appropriate to the particular project. Higher marks at each level may be used where work is judged to meet the criteria readily, consistently and across different elements of the project.

The zero mark band should be awarded in the event of a candidate failing to demonstrate any achievement in the objective at Level 3.

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Assessment Objectives	Mark band	Assessment Criteria
AO1 Manage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the topic • identify project aims and objectives • produce a project plan • complete the work applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives 	7–10 marks	Clear identification of the topic to be investigated or researched and clear evidence of appropriate aims and objectives for the proposed project title. Detailed project plan, with clear evidence of monitoring progress of project work against the agreed objectives.
	4–6 marks	Some identification of the topic to be investigated or researched and some evidence of appropriate aims and objectives for the proposed project title. Project plan, with some evidence of monitoring progress of project work against the agreed objectives.
	1–3 marks	Limited identification of the topic to be investigated or researched and limited evidence of appropriate aims and objectives for the proposed project title. Brief project plan, with little evidence of monitoring progress of project work against the agreed objectives.
	0 marks	No relevant response.

Assessment Objectives	Mark band	Assessment Criteria
AO2 Use resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain and select from a variety of resources • analyse data • apply information relevantly • demonstrate understanding of appropriate links 	7–10 marks	<p>Evidence of detailed research involving the selection and evaluation of a wide range of relevant resources.</p> <p>Critical analysis and application of the resources with clear links made to appropriate theories and concepts.</p>
	4–6 marks	<p>Evidence of some research involving the selection and evaluation of a range of relevant resources.</p> <p>Some analysis and application of the research, with links made to appropriate theories and concepts.</p>
	1–3 marks	<p>Evidence of limited research involving limited selection and evaluation of resources.</p> <p>Little or no analysis and application of the resources, with few links made to appropriate theories and concepts.</p>
	0 marks	No relevant response.

Assessment Objectives	Mark band	Assessment Criteria
AO3 Develop and Realise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problem-solving • decision-making • creative thinking • to achieve planned outcomes 	14–20 marks	<p>Candidates take appropriate decisions and appropriate data is collected and thoroughly analysed. The project plan is fully implemented and the outcome is fully realised to a high standard and consistent with a candidate's finally agreed plan.</p> <p>There is clear evidence of appropriate changes to or development of the initial project plan or title or aims and objectives, with clear and appropriate reasons for any changes.</p> <p>Candidates communicate their findings fluently in an appropriate format, synthesising information from a variety of sources and present them within a logical and coherent structure which addresses closely the nature of the task.</p>
	7–13 marks	<p>Candidates take decisions and some appropriate data is collected and adequately analysed. The project plan is implemented and the outcome is sufficiently realised to an acceptable standard and consistent with a candidate's finally agreed plan.</p> <p>There is some evidence of appropriate changes or development of to the initial project plan or title or aims and objectives, with reasons for any changes.</p> <p>Candidates communicate clearly their findings, showing some ability to synthesise information from different sources and present them in a structured manner appropriate for the task.</p>
	1–6 marks	<p>Candidates take few decisions and a little data is insufficiently analysed. The project plan is implemented in a limited way and the outcome is realised in a limited manner and not always consistent with a candidate's finally agreed plan.</p> <p>There is little or no evidence of appropriate changes or development of to the initial project plan or title or aims and objectives, with only limited reasons for any changes.</p> <p>Candidates communicate their findings by drawing on a limited number of sources and present them in a manner not always appropriate for the task.</p>
	0 marks	No relevant response.

Assessment Objectives	Mark band	Assessment Criteria
AO4 Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication skills • convey and present evidenced outcomes and conclusions • evaluate own learning and performance 	7–10 marks	<p>Detailed and careful evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the completed project in relation to the planning, implementation and outcomes, and the candidate's own learning during the project.</p> <p>Material is consistently relevant, well-structured and appropriately presented. Candidates clearly communicate their findings and conclusions which are based on sound evidence and judgement.</p>
	4–6 marks	<p>Some evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the completed project in relation to the planning, implementation and outcomes, and the candidate's own learning during the project.</p> <p>Material is sometimes relevant, well-structured and appropriately presented. Candidates communicate their findings and conclusions which are based on some evidence and judgement.</p>
	1–3 marks	<p>Limited evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the completed project in relation to the planning, implementation and outcomes, and the candidate's own learning during the project.</p> <p>Material is not always relevant, well-structured or appropriately presented. Candidates communicate some of their findings and conclusions which are based on little or no evidence and judgement.</p>
	0 marks	No relevant response.

2.5.4 Standardisation

AQA will hold standardising meetings. Centres entering candidates for the first time should send their Centre Coordinator to the meetings. Attendance is also strongly recommended in the following cases:

- where there has been a serious misinterpretation of the specification requirements;
- where the nature of the projects agreed by a centre has been inappropriate;
- where a significant adjustment has been made to a centre's marks in the previous examination.

Otherwise attendance is at the discretion of centres. At these meetings AQA will provide support in using the assessment criteria.

Centre Coordinators must standardise marking within the centre to make sure that all candidates at the centre have been assessed to the same standard.

Internal standardisation could involve:

- all supervisors assessing some trial pieces of work and identifying differences in marking standards;
- discussing any differences in assessment at a training meeting for all supervisors;
- referring to reference and archive material such as examples from AQA's standardising meetings;

but other valid approaches are permissible.

Supervisors must show clearly how the marks have been awarded in relation to the marking criteria defined in the specification. This annotation will help the moderator to see as precisely as possible where the supervisor considers that the candidates have met the criteria in the specification.

Work could be annotated by either of the following methods:

- key pieces of evidence flagged throughout the work by annotation
- summative comments on the work, referencing precise sections in the work.

The Centre Coordinator should sign the Centre Declaration Sheet to confirm that internal standardisation has taken place. Internal moderation should evidence the sampling and appropriate adjustment by the Centre Coordinator.

The total mark for each candidate must be submitted to AQA and the moderator on the mark forms provided or by Electronic Data interchange (EDI) by the specified date. Centres will be informed which candidates' work is required in the samples to be submitted to the moderator.

The centre must retain the work of all candidates, with Candidate Record Forms (CRFs) attached, under secure conditions, from the time it is assessed, to allow for the possibility of an enquiry about results. The work may be returned to candidates after the deadline for enquiries about results. If an enquiry about a result has been made, the work must remain under secure conditions in case it is required by AQA.

2.5.5 Moderation

AQA's appointed moderators will carry out their work by post. Projects involving a performance will be moderated by the scrutiny of a video or DVD or digital recording. Where an artefact or artwork has been produced, moderation will take place using good quality digital recordings or photographic records. AQA reserves the right to visit schools/colleges by arrangement to sample stages of the project process, such as the project proposal or presentation stage, particularly where there has been a serious misinterpretation of the specific requirements and/or where the nature of projects previously agreed by a centre have been inappropriate.

Following the assessment of a selection of the sample work, the moderator's marks are compared with the centre marks to determine whether any adjustment is needed in order to bring the centre's assessments into line with standards generally. In some cases it may be necessary for the moderator to

call for the work of other candidates in the centre. In order to meet this possible request, centres must retain under secure conditions and have available the project and the CRF of every candidate entered for the examination and be prepared to submit it on demand. Mark adjustments will normally preserve the centre's order of merit, but where major discrepancies are found, AQA reserves the right to alter the order of merit.

The candidates' work will be returned to the centre after moderation has taken place. The centre will receive a report with, or soon after, the despatch of published results giving feedback on the appropriateness of the tasks set, the accuracy of the assessments made, and the reasons for any adjustments to the marks.

AQA reserves the right to retain some candidates' work for archiving or standardising purposes.

3 Administration

3.1 Entries

Please refer to the current version of *Entry Procedures and Codes* for up to date entry procedures.

3.2 Private Candidates

This specification is not available to private candidates.

3.3 Access Arrangements and Special Consideration

We have taken note of the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 in developing and administering this specification.

We follow the guidelines in the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) document: *Access Arrangements and Special Consideration: Regulations and Guidance Relating to Candidates who are Eligible for*

Adjustments in Examination GCE, AEA, GCSE, Entry Level & Key Skills. This is published on the JCQ website:

http://www.jcq.org.uk/access_arrangements/
or you can follow the link from our website
http://www.aqa.org.uk/admin/p_special_3.html

3.4 Language of the Assessment

We will provide this specification in English only.

3.5 Awarding Grades and Reporting Results

The Extended Project Qualification will be graded on a six grade scale: A*, A, B, C, D, E. Candidates who fail to reach the minimum standard for grade E will be

recorded as U (unclassified) and will not receive a qualification certificate.

3.6 Re-sits and Shelf-life of Results

Candidates may re-sit this qualification any number of times within the shelf-life of the specification. However, any re-sit must include the full project

process and a new title. Candidates will be graded on the basis of the work submitted for assessment.

3.7 Supervision and Authentication of Coursework

In order to meet Ofqual's qualification and subject criteria AQA requires:

- **candidates** to sign the Candidate Record Form (CRF) page in the Production Log and Assessment Record to confirm that the work submitted is their own, and
- **supervisors** to confirm on the CRF page that the work assessed is solely that of the candidate concerned and was conducted under the conditions laid down by the specification.

The completed CRF for each student must be included in the candidate's Log and Assessment Record. All supervisors who have assessed the work of any student entered for each component must sign the declaration of authentication. Failure to sign the authentication statement may delay the processing of the student's result.

In centres where supervisors are familiar with candidates' work the supervisor should be sufficiently aware of a student's standard and level of work to appreciate if the project submitted is beyond the

ability of the student. Where this is not the case, Centre Coordinators should make sure that the project is completed under closer supervision. However, in all cases the initial planning, guidance, mid-term and final reviews will ensure that the supervisor is confident that the project is the candidate's own work. This will be recorded in the Production Log and Assessment Record.

If it is believed that a student has received additional assistance and that this is acceptable within the guidelines for the specification, the supervisor should award a mark which represents the student's unaided achievement. The authentication statement should be signed and information given on the relevant form.

If the supervisor is unable to sign the authentication statement for a particular candidate, then the student's work cannot be accepted for assessment.

3.8 Malpractice

Centre Coordinators/Supervisors should inform candidates of the AQA Regulations concerning malpractice.

Students must **not**:

- submit work which is not their own;
- lend work to other students;
- allow other students access to, or the use of, their own independently-sourced source material (this does not mean that candidates may not lend their books to another candidate, but candidates should be prevented from plagiarising other students' research);
- include work copied directly from books, the internet or other sources without acknowledgement and attribution;
- submit work typed or word-processed by a third person without acknowledgement.

These actions constitute malpractice, for which a penalty (eg disqualification from the qualification) will be applied.

If malpractice is suspected, the Examinations Officer should be consulted about the procedure to be followed.

Where suspected malpractice in projects is identified by a centre after the student has signed the declaration of authentication, the Head of Centre must submit full details of the case to AQA at the earliest opportunity. The form JCQ/M1 should be used. Copies of the form can be found on the JCQ website: <http://www.jcq.org.uk/>

Malpractice in projects discovered prior to the student signing the declaration of authentication need not be reported to AQA, but should be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures. AQA would expect centres to treat such cases very seriously. Details of any work which is not the student's own must be recorded on the CRF in the Production Log and Assessment Record or other appropriate place.

Appendices

A Grade Descriptions

The following descriptions indicate the level of attainment characteristic of the given grade at Level 3. They give a general indication of the required learning outcomes at each specific grade. The descriptions should be interpreted in relation to the content outlined in the specification; they are not designed to define that content.

The award will depend in practice upon the extent to which the candidate has met the Assessment Objectives (see Section 2.4.3) overall. Shortcomings in some aspects of the project may be balanced by a better performance in other aspects.

Grade A*

Students identify their project and produce an effective design and thorough plan. They carry out their project in a highly organised fashion, showing excellent independent working skills and clear evidence of responding very effectively to guidance given. They use a wide range of resources critically, analyse data effectively and apply findings to good effect. They show clear links between sources of information and the themes of their project and fully explore the complexities of the topic. Problems and/or issues are identified, fully explored and addressed. Students select and use a range of skills including, where appropriate, new technologies, to achieve high quality outcomes that fully realise the intentions of the project and to draw conclusions. Students carry out full, in-depth evaluations, showing a high level of insight into how they conducted their project and the limitations of the resources at their disposal. They select and use a range of communication skills to present outcomes and conclusions clearly, in an appropriate format with excellent supporting evidence. Students show a deep and extensive knowledge of the project area of study through their responses to questions.

Grade C

Students identify and design their project. They produce a plan that enables them to achieve the overall objectives and to demonstrate some higher level organisational skills. They are able to work independently in carrying out the project and respond to guidance given. Students use a range of resources, analyse data and apply findings. They show links between sources of information and the themes of the project and explore some complexities of the topic. Some problems and/or issues are identified and addressed. A range of skills are employed and the intended outcomes are generally achieved to a competent standard. In their evaluations, students reflect effectively on the final outcome and on their strengths and weaknesses in carrying out their project. They use a range of communication skills to clearly present outcomes and conclusions in an appropriate format with sound supporting evidence. Students show a good knowledge of the project area of study through their responses to questions.

Grade E

Students identify their project and produce a workable plan. They show some organisational skills in completing the project. There is some evidence that they have responded to guidance given. Students use a limited range of resources, analyse some of the data and apply findings. Some links are made between the sources of information and the themes of the project. Students use a range of skills to partially realise the intended outcomes. They give some thought to the way the final outcomes have emerged and to their own strengths and weaknesses in carrying out their project. Communication skills are used to present outcomes and conclusions with some supporting evidence. Students demonstrate some knowledge of the project area through their responses to questions.

B Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social, Cultural and other Issues

The Extended Project provides students with many opportunities to develop their understanding of moral, ethical, social and cultural issues. The skills of planning, self-management of learning, collecting and analysing data and reviewing and evaluating learning will enhance the student's personal aspirations and career development.

European Dimension

AQA has taken account of the 1988 Resolution of the Council of the European Community in preparing this specification.

Avoidance of Bias

AQA has taken great care in the preparation of this specification to avoid bias of any kind.

C Overlaps with other Qualifications

The specification has been designed to allow maximum flexibility for centre and students.

The subject content allows the opportunity for students to pursue integrated critical, practical or theoretical study within the context of an Extended Project. There is some overlap in skills and/or subject content with GCE courses. However the approach to, and the context of, the skills and content in the specifications are distinctly different from those of GCE AS/A courses. The EPQ is designed to extend

and develop beyond a student's programme of study. If a student attempts to submit a piece of coursework for another qualification as an EPQ, relies heavily on text books or chooses a topic central to one of their other courses of study, they will not be extending or developing beyond what they have already learned. We would recommend that students use their studies as a springboard from which to launch their EPQ into an area of particular interest to the student.

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) 2013 onwards.

Qualification Accreditation Number 600/9534/9

To obtain free specification updates and support material register with Ask-AQA:

www.aqa.org.uk/ask-aqa/register

Support meetings will be available throughout the life of the specification:

<http://events.aqa.org.uk/ebooking>

Further copies available from: AQA Logistics Centre, Unit 2, Wheel Forge Way, Ashburton Park, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1EH

If you have questions about teaching or adopting this specification in your centre look at Ask-AQA at:

www.aqa.org.uk/ask-aqa