

Course Start

Course Start is independent learning you MUST complete as a fundamental part of your introduction to the course. It should take you approximately 5 hours to complete.

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| Course Name | **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** |
| How this **Course Start** fits into the first term of the course | *Completing the ‘EPQ Getting Started’ course will provide you with the information required to complete your Project Proposal Form and start your reflective activity log.*  *You will continue to research and learn how to write an academic dissertation without plagiarising*  ***EPQ IS A PROCESS…IT IS NOT JUST WRITING AN ESSAY!*** |
| How will my **Course Start** learning be used in lessons? | *You will use your ideas to:*   * *develop a research question* * *write a project proposal form* * *develop a project plan* * *conduct further research* * *develop skills in Harvard Referencing* * *write and structure an academic dissertation* |
| **Course Start** learning objectives | *To understand the course requirements and to develop your EPQ project idea*   * ***Go through the slides*** [***EPQ 'Getting Started' Course Start***](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yXbBZK-d_v7FS8Su5aa3Qv_1KS0b_JpzBhpyl1oVFsk/edit?slide=id.g351f8751626_0_126#slide=id.g351f8751626_0_126) * ***Join the EPQ Google Classroom***  ***- dubfaear*** [***https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla***](https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla) * ***Complete all the tasks and record your activities in the reflective log*** |
| Study Skills | * Research Skills * Academic writing skills * Planning and time-management skills * Academic honesty and plagiarism * Communication and presentation skills |

**Expectations for: Extended Project Qualification**

Our specification is: Edexcel (Pearson)

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| **What this course involves** |
| The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a short course (submitted in March) that presents a unique and exciting opportunity as you decide on your own topic. |
| You will write a 5-6,000 word dissertation on a topic of your choice. |
| You’ll learn and be assessed on:   * How well you manage your work, such as planning your time and choosing what methods to use * How you select and use information and reliable resources * How you write academically honestly and use Harvard Referencing * How effectively you review your own work |
| You will develop skills in organisation, writing, research, presentation and reflection. |
| You will develop independent learning skills (e.g. meeting deadlines, conducting work outside lessons). |
| You will engage in discussions and small class presentations about your EPQ. |
| ***EPQ IS A PROCESS…IT IS NOT JUST WRITING AN ESSAY!*** |

EPQ: Getting Started Worksheet

Please complete all the tasks and **submit them during the first lesson.**

You must **reflect** on what you have learnt every week and **set a target** for the week ahead.

You will need to **make a copy of this document and save it to your own EPQ Drive.** You will use the information when completing your **Project Proposal Form** in September.

**Twenty Questions: Focusing your project & creating a glossary of key terms**

1. **Go through the materials on Google Classroom to learn more about the EPQ** [**https://classroom.google.com/w/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/tc/MjM0MDIxMjM3MjJa**](https://classroom.google.com/w/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/tc/MjM0MDIxMjM3MjJa)
2. **Complete the twenty questions activity** [**https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjM0MDIxMjIyODNa/details**](https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjM0MDIxMjIyODNa/details)

Read the Twenty Questions document. Select twenty questions (or more) from the list. Make sure you have some questions from all four sections (***descriptive questions,***

***questions for analysis, questions for synthesis/application and questions for evaluation***). Your EPQ must go beyond describing. You MUST analyse and evaluate your topic.

**Write your Twenty Questions:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

continue…

1. Start a **glossary of key terms**. Make sure you reference the source of the definition using Harvard referencing. Try your best with this but you will get more help in September.

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/skillshub/?id=379>

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| **Key term** | **Definition** | **Harvard reference/URL** |
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1. **Add an entry to your relative activity log** <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjM0MDIxMjI1NzFa/details>

Reflect on what you have learnt and what you plan to do before the next

Research Log

1. Add sources to the research log on GC [**https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjE1ODYwNjU4NzNa/details**](https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjE1ODYwNjU4NzNa/details)
2. Create a list of your **initial 15 sources**. You need a **wide range** of sources (refer to the EPQ course booklet on **page 11** for examples). **DO NOT USE wiki/YouTube/Reddit/TikTok etc.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of source** | **Author(s)** | **Date of publication** | **Publisher/**  **place of publication** | **URL or page numbers** | **Harvard Reference** |
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[**https://asktheelephant.org.uk/reading-and-note-taking/**](https://asktheelephant.org.uk/reading-and-note-taking/)

1. Write a **detailed paragraph outlining why you have chosen the project** (links to other subjects, personal interest, future plans, knowledge/skills you want to improve, and why the topic is important). In September, you will add this to your Project Proposal Form (PPF).
2. Add an entry to your relative activity log <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjM0MDIxMjI1NzFa/details>

Reflect on what you have learnt and what you plan to do before the next

Continuing to research

1. Go through the Alex Writing tool to help you understand how to write a dissertation <https://www.alexessaytool.com/#stepsmenu>
2. Continue to conduct research, define key terms and develop your project idea
3. Add an entry to your relative activity log <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/a/MjM0MDIxMjI1NzFa/details>

Reflect on what you have learnt and what you plan to do before the next

Planning Ahead

1. Read the **EPQ mark scheme**

[**https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/m/MjM0MDIxMDQ0NjFa/details**](https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM0MDIxMDQzMzla/m/MjM0MDIxMDQ0NjFa/details)

1. Create a **plan** for the summer holidays. This should include **researching, making notes on your sources and refining your research question.**

[**https://asktheelephant.org.uk/managing-your-assignment/**](https://asktheelephant.org.uk/managing-your-assignment/)

1. Keep a **record of all your summer activities**
2. When writing your EPQ you start in the middle of the dissertation (i.e. do not start with an introduction). **Write approx. 500 words of your dissertation**. Don’t worry too much about your writing style but you should aim to follow the PEAL structure:

*P = Clearly state your claim/point*

*E = Then provide/use the evidence/sentences from your sources to support this point. Do not forget to reference this evidence/use citations to do this.*

*A = Next analyse/explain how the evidence you have just used supports your claim/point. (This is your understanding/thoughts on what you have read).*

*L = Link the last sentence of the paragraph to the first sentence, (connect the first point/claim made to the last sentence stating what this shows/demonstrates...) or link to the next paragraph you are going to write (transition link to the next paragraph to help with the flow and organisation of your paragraphs).*

Use the Alex Writing Tool, Ask the Elephant and MyBib.

EPQ from September

You will have **three 1.5-hour EPQ lesson per week**. You MUST allocate some additional time every week to manage, research, reflect and write your dissertation.

Lessons start with a focus on academic honesty, plagiarism and how to write in an academic style.

You will complete a proposal form and will start your reflective activity log.

There are some taught aspects to the course, but you will mainly work independently. Your teachers will be available to support you.