



# EPQ Course Start

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

| Course Name                                                         | <b>Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| How this <b>Course Start</b> fits into the first term of the course | <p>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.</p> <p>You will conduct research (a literature search) and learn how to write an academic dissertation without plagiarising</p> <p><b>EPQ IS A PROCESS...IT IS NOT JUST WRITING AN ESSAY!</b></p>                                                                                                                                |
| How will my <b>Course Start</b> learning be used in lessons?        | <p>You will use your ideas to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• develop a research question</li><li>• write a project proposal form</li><li>• develop a project plan</li><li>• conduct further research</li><li>• develop skills in Harvard Referencing</li><li>• write and structure an academic dissertation</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Course Start</b> learning objectives                             | <p>To understand the course requirements and to develop your EPQ project idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Go through the slides</b><br/>    <input type="checkbox"/> EPQ 'Getting Started' Course Start</li><li>• <b>Join the EPQ Google Classroom</b> - rvza2ptg<br/>    <a href="https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa">https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa</a></li><li>• <b>Complete all the tasks and record your activities in the reflective log</b></li></ul> |
| Study Skills                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research Skills</li><li>• Academic writing skills</li><li>• Planning and time-management skills</li><li>• Academic honesty and plagiarism</li><li>• Communication and presentation skills</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# Expectations for: Extended Project Qualification

Our specification is: Edexcel (Pearson)

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| <b>What this course involves</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a short course (submitted at the beginning of March) that presents a unique and exciting opportunity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| You will conduct a detailed literature review on your own topic and will write a 5-6,000 word dissertation, deliver a presentation and keep a detailed diary of your progress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>You'll learn and be assessed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How well you manage your work, such as planning your time and choosing what methods to use</li><li>• How you conduct independent research</li><li>• How you select and use information and reliable resources</li><li>• How you write academically honestly and use Harvard Referencing</li><li>• How effectively you review your own work</li></ul> |
| 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><i>EPQ IS A PROCESS...IT IS NOT JUST WRITING AN ESSAY!</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# EPQ: Getting Started Worksheet

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

You must **reflect** on what you have learnt every week and **set a SMART 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.

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## Planning: Twenty Questions, focusing your project & creating a glossary of key terms (A01)

1. Go through the materials on Google Classroom to learn more about the EPQ  
<https://classroom.google.com/w/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa/t/all>
2. Complete the twenty questions activity  
<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa/a/MjlyNjAoOTg1MTFa/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 (find sources to answer rather than directly answer the questions):**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Continue...

# Research Log (A02)

3. 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>

[illegible]

## Reflective Log (Weekly Diary A01)

4. Add an entry to your relative activity log (weekly diary)

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa/a/MjlyNjEwNzUwMTIha/details>

Reflect on what you have learnt and what you plan to do before the next. Make a SMART target every week.

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## Research Log (A02)

5. 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.**

Add sources to the research log on GC

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa/a/MjlyNjEwMDQ2MDVa/details>

[Reading and note-taking - Ask The Elephant](#)

6. 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).

[Reading and note-taking - Ask The Elephant](#)

**Personal Interest:**

**Link to subjects:**

**Link to future plans:**

**Skills you want to develop:**

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## Continuing to research (A02)

7. Go through the Alex Writing tool to help you understand how to write a dissertation <https://www.alexessaytool.com/#stepsmenu>

8. Continue to conduct research, define key terms and develop your project idea
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## Planning Ahead (A01)

9. Read the **EPQ mark scheme**

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNjAoMDAxOTBa/m/MjlyNjA1MjcZNDZa/details>

10. 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/>

11. Keep a **record of all your summer activities**

12. 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.

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## EPQ from September

You will have **three 1.5-hour EPQ lessons 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 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.

**JCQ NEA Guidance and Lesson Attendance:** Centres must ensure that there is **sufficient supervision of every candidate to enable work to be authenticated.** The

College will take reasonable steps to accommodate the candidate in completing the assessment, including consideration of a short extension. Longer-term absence when work is being submitted in a series, prior to certification, is not eligible for special consideration.

**Everything** you are asked to do will be marked.