



SWISS EPQ Course Start

(For Swiss International Students ONLY)

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	SWISS 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 conduct research (a literature search) 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 • Join the EPQ Google Classroom - n6ouwni6 https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNzUxMTQwNzVa • 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: SWISS Extended Project Qualification

What this course involves
The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a short course (submitted at the end of May) that presents a unique and exciting opportunity.
You will conduct a detailed literature review on your own topic and will write a 6,000-7,000 word dissertation, deliver a presentation and keep a detailed diary of your progress.
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 conduct independent research • 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.
<i>EPQ IS A PROCESS...IT IS NOT JUST WRITING AN ESSAY!</i>

EPQ: Getting Started Worksheet

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.

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/c/MjlyNzUxMTQwNzVa>

2. **Complete the twenty questions activity on Google Classroom**

Read the Twenty Questions document on Google Classroom. 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) on Google Classroom**

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

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 these sources to the research log on Google Classroom

[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:

Continuing to research (A02)

7. Go through the Alex Writing tool to help you understand how to write a dissertation [Alex Essay Writing Tool](#)
 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 on Google Classroom**
10. Create a **plan** for the summer holidays. This should include **researching, making notes on your sources and refining your research question.**
[Managing your assignment - Ask The Elephant](#)
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.

EPQ from September

You will have **two 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.

Everything you are asked to do will be marked.