



CLAIRES COURT
SIXTH FORM

Curriculum Statement

Year 12 - EPQ
2025 – 2026

Your place to *aim high*

EPQ: Level 3 Extended Project Qualification

The EPQ is a project qualification because you not only learn to research and produce an essay or artefact on a topic, but you also learn project management skills. It develops and extends from one or more of your study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside your main programme of study. So, we don't credit material you've covered in an A level, but it can be useful to take you deeper into a topic that captures your interest. We have seen all manner of topics chosen so it's a genuine chance to pursue your passions. It doesn't have to be an essay - there have been many successful artefact projects involving more practical skills.

The output of your work is known as the 'product': it can be a 5000 word essay or what's known as an 'artefact' (with a shorter essay of around 1000 words). Both types of output are research-based so you will practise the key skills but can tailor your EPQ experience.

What background knowledge and skills are needed?

It is not necessary to have or be taking any specific qualifications to undertake an EPQ. However, there is an expectation that students will have attained a grade 6 or above in English at GCSE level due to the rigour of research and evaluation skills required for the course.

Where can it lead?

A well done EPQ can help you to develop a wide range of transferable skills. Some universities give reduced grades for good quality EPQs. It is up to you how well you pursue it and you won't find staff chasing you, but be aware that providing evidence of meeting deadlines and being on top of delivering to your objectives is part of the marking process.

What will I study?

Most of the qualification is undertaken independently, with appropriate supervision. There are 30 hours of taught sessions and the expectation is that your EPQ will involve a similar amount of work to half an A level. You will

- choose an area of interest
- draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval
- 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.

Mastery

The taught sessions cover a range of key skills which will be invaluable in future academic and working life.

- You will be taught research skills, including visits to both the local library and to Royal Holloway university to work with librarians on your academic research.
- Project planning teaches not only how to manage your work and time to achieve your goals, but also how to frame up the appropriate project focus/scope to be able to deliver within a timescale.
- Logic and argument fallacies are taught, which helps you to undertake critical analysis of sources of material and put together persuasive writing where appropriate.
- You will be taught how to structure academic writing if you are doing an essay based EPQ, or how to present the development of your ideas and your final work if producing an artefact.
- You will also be taught how to reflect on your project progress and decision-making; a record of this is handed in with your work for marking.

Students who have completed EPQs are usually ready for the challenge of university research and academic writing, as well as more able to evaluate sources of information in general.

Assessment

This is internally marked and then moderated by AQA, with results published in the exam series after entry. It carries UCAS points as an AS level. We usually run the project from October of Y12, finishing in September/October of Y13.

You will submit

- a completed Production Log and Assessment Record including a Project Proposal Form, Presentation Record and Candidate Record Form - these allow us to assess your management towards your objectives.
- your 'project product' including a written report and any other evidence, as appropriate, depending on the topic or subject area chosen and whether you have completed an essay or artefact.

How does it work?

Taught sessions and supervisor sessions will guide you as to what you need to do, and if you schedule time for your EPQ and understand the steps and what is required of you, you should do well. If you miss deadlines and don't proactively manage our work, this reflects in the grade you will attain for your EPQ. Your supervisor won't necessarily be from the subject area you've chosen. Your work is managed and monitored through ProjectQ online.

Textbooks

Materials for taught sessions are provided. There are some books to guide EPQs but not essential to buy.

For further information please contact:

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