

Project Qualifications – Information for Parents

Designed to develop: critical, reflective, problem-solving and independent learning skills, the Project Qualification supports students with the transition to higher education or into the world of work.

Students study a topic area which *extends* their learning in their area of study and culminates in one of four different outcomes:

- 1) Dissertation – a theoretical written project on any topic presenting an argument, eg research into a biological, historical or environmental issue
- 2) Investigation/Field Study – a practical investigatory project involving the collection of data, eg a scientific investigation, a geographical study of erosion, a biological study of pollution, a statistical survey
- 3) Performance – development of practical skills resulting in a performance, eg performing music, drama, sport
- 4) Artefact – for example, making a painting or sculpture, designing a piece of furniture or a garment, creating a website, solving an engineering/construction problem, producing a piece of graphic design

Grading and UCAS tariff

The Extended Project is graded A* to E. All other AS qualifications go up to A grade only. In terms of UCAS tariff, Level 3 Project qualifications are worth half an A-level.

Grade	EPQ UCAS tariff	'Normal' AS Level
A*	28	Unavailable
A	24	20
B	20	16
C	16	12
D	12	10
E	8	6

Students are assessed on their ability to plan, manage, complete and review their project. Projects are assessed by staff at Princethorpe College and externally moderated by Edexcel.

Students are required to:

- select a topic of interest for an in-depth study
- identify and draft objectives for their project (eg in the form of a question, performance, or commission for a client) and provide a rationale for their choice
- produce a plan for how they will deliver their intended outcome
- conduct research using appropriate techniques
- develop the intended outcome, demonstrating the ability to pursue an extended project through to completion
- evaluate the outcome and their own learning

The course consists of 120 guided learning hours, including about 40 guided learning hours for the taught element. The taught element is delivered as a series of timetabled weekly lectures in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre at the start of the course. Small group seminars are also timetabled every week, during which time the students benefit from 1:1 support from their mentors and other students working on similar topic areas and project outcomes. The taught element includes the development of:

- research skills
- project management skills
- writing, performance or production skills, as appropriate
- presentation skills

Every student is assigned a mentor for the duration of the project who acts as a catalyst and facilitator of the research process. Students have been provided with a Student Guide and a Study Pack in which to log all learning and activities carried out.

Extended Project Qualifications carry UCAS points and are highly regarded by many universities. Some universities may offer an alternative for candidates studying the Extended Project (such as ABB instead of AAB, provided that you get an A in your Extended Project qualification).

Universities are also recognising the Extended Project qualification as a valuable part of a student's profile on their UCAS application. Students can use their Extended Project to show their interest in an area of study at a university interview.

Project Qualifications have many short term, but more importantly *long term*, rewards.

