

EPQ – Extended Project Qualification

(AQA syllabus)

The Extended Project Qualification is an independent project carried out over one year in the 6th form on a topic entirely of your own choice. Pupils have often had their interest sparked by a topic area in their A level subjects, or from their reading; they take this idea and build a suitable title that is then researched and presented, either in the form of an essay or an artefact. The course includes 30 hours of taught skills that enable pupils to develop the tools needed to focus their research, evaluate sources, and critically analyse the information they are reading. The EPQ is completed to A level standard (often above) and is worth 50% of an A level grade. Universities have been open about their support for these projects as they not only show the enthusiasm a pupil has for a particular subject area, but it helps to develop the skills needed to be a successful undergraduate.

Previous projects at Taunton School include:

- How can genetic sequencing help treat hereditary breast cancer?
- Can the Integration of Electrochromic Systems allow for a Self Sustained Solar Sail Mission to Jupiter?
- Are improvements in International Humanitarian Law necessary to better protect journalists working in areas of armed conflict?
- The Economic significance of US National Debt
- Solving the Security Council veto dilemma: To what extent should the United Nations Permanent5 members of the Security Council have the power of the veto?

