

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Enrichment Information

Extended Project Qualification

Entry Requirement:

There are no special entry requirements for this subject; however, students with a strong GCSE profile will benefit most from this additional intellectual challenge.

Awarding Body: AQA

About the subject: The qualification is designed as a "stretch-and-challenge" opportunity, to investigate a topic beyond the normal confines of an A Level qualification. It demonstrates that you have some of the key skills required for university study and provides good evidence to include in a UCAS personal statement, demonstrating that you can work independently, research, plan, argue and present. Most applicants claim to have these skills, but an Extended Project shows specific evidence.

The EPQ allows students to embark on largely self-directed projects. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply new technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Universities value students who undertake an Extended Project; mainly because the skills involved are those which they believe are important for students to access their courses successfully. For the less competitive universities, the points count fully, whilst for the more competitive universities, the Extended Project could be the deciding factor when it comes to making an offer to an applicant.

There is also evidence that some universities will make students undertaking an EPQ an alternative offer to their traditional offer. The alternative offer will typically be one grade reduced from their traditional offer in exchange for an A in the EPQ. For example, a subject whose traditional offer is AAB will make an alternative offer of ABB plus A grade in the EPQ.

“UCL welcomes the introduction of the Extended Project into the curriculum, recognising that it will develop many of the skills necessary for successful study at university. For students presenting A-levels, UCL will be accepting a pass in the Extended Project as an alternative to the need to offer a pass in a fourth subject at AS level.”

University College London

“The University recognises that some A Level students may also choose to offer the Extended Project. In such cases some admissions tutors may make two alternative offers, one of which involves success in the Extended Project (e.g. either AAA at A Level or AAB at A Level plus Extended Project).”

University of Bristol