



HOWELL'S CO-ED COLLEGE

Llandaff

N U R T U R I N G E X C E L L E N C E

The Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an independent research project on a topic of a candidate's own choosing. ***The topic must NOT be something taught in any of a student's A level courses.***

The research is ***supervised but not taught*** – a wide range of research topics are undertaken. Research, planning and presentation skills are taught in the EPQ lessons.

Format:

A 5000-word report and presentation or an artefact accompanied by a shorter report of 1000 words, and presentation.

Examples of Projects

- How is France's Colonial Past Reflected in French Culture Today?
- Nature or Nurture? What is the secret to a long and healthy life?
- What Will Be the Energy of the Future?
- Will the NIPT Eradicate Down's Syndrome and Will This Be Bad for Society?
- How Has Welsh Identity Been Constructed?
- Gender: Why is it so controversial?
- Artefact Project: a photographic exhibition on how the 1960s' counterculture influenced fashion

Why Do It?

- Enhances university applications
- Could make transition from school to university more successful

Do Universities Value the EPQ?

Yes, because it tells universities that you have the ability to:

- research effectively
- think critically
- evaluate evidence
- work independently
- plan effectively
- present effectively

In other words, all the key skills required to study successfully for a degree.

Many universities, including members of the Russell Group, and colleges give alternative offers if students have an Extended Project Qualification.

Delivery of Skills Needed for the EPQ:

The EPQ has a timetabled lesson where the skills needed for the project are delivered. These include:

- Research skills, including academic referencing and how to find sources
- Critical thinking skills such as learning how to evaluate evidence and sources effectively
- Presentation skills
- Organisation and planning skills

In addition, students have **one to one supervision sessions** for each key stage of the project:

- ▶ Initial Ideas
- ▶ Planning Review
- ▶ Mid-Project Review
- ▶ Planning Your Report
- ▶ Project Product Review
- ▶ Presentation Rehearsal

Assessment Objectives:

- Assessment Objective 1: **Management of Project** (10 marks)
- Assessment Objective 2: **Use of Resources** (10 marks). This includes critical evaluation and analysis of the sources used
- Assessment Objective 3: **Developing and Realising the Project:** identifying a research topic, devising a plan to carry it out and realising the planned objectives. (20 marks)
- Assessment Objective 4: **Review** (10 marks)
- Total: 50 marks

Academic Support on Firefly and Teams:

- There are lots of resources on the EPQ page on **Firefly**, including a blog where Mrs Jones posts about articles or books that she thinks might be useful for the projects. It is also a good place to look for ideas for project topics
- There is also a section on Resources where there is a list of useful websites and podcasts
- In addition, this year, resources have been posted on the EPQ **Teams** site



HOWELL'S CO-ED COLLEGE
Llandaff

N U R T U R I N G E X C E L L E N C E