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### **WHAT IS AN EPQ?**

AQA define the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) as a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' skills in independent research and project management. It is worth half an A-level (up to 28 UCAS points) and, as pointed out on the hyperlink above, some leading universities, such as Southampton University, make alternative offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

**2**

### **HOW AM I TAUGHT AND ASSESSED?**

You will have guided lessons once a week, which will vary in how to conduct research to producing a report or artefact. The topic for the project is chosen by the student and will not be part of your other qualifications, therefore staff will not teach any content in relation to the project. Students will research the topic and produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production. In addition to this, there will be a presentation and production log that forms the overall assessment grade.

**3**

### **DO I NEED TO DO AN EPQ TO GET INTO A COMPETITIVE COURSE OR UNIVERSITY?**

It is advisable but not a necessity. However, you can include the EPQ in your UCAS application as it could help you meet the entry criteria and conditions of a university place. The EPQ demonstrates the following: a high level of autonomous research skills; a passion for the subject -especially if this is related to the course choice at university; employability skills, such as presenting, research and motivation.

**4**

### **WHEN DOES THE EPQ START?**

The research and initial formulation of your EPQ will begin in the summer term of year 12. You will confirm your participation by the start of your year 13 and will have already done research over the summer, minimising the impact on your a-level studies.

**6**

### **CAN ANYONE DO THE EPQ?**

The EPQ is not just for Scholars' programme students, it is also open to students who are achieving or exceeding their MTG, and are attaining A or B grades at the end of Y12.