

Subject:	EPQ Studies Intent:
EPQ	Highly regarded by universities, the EPQ is increasingly taken into account when making offers and it will certainly make students stand out from others who have not undertaken the project. The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a free standing qualification which involves choosing a topic and carrying out extensive research into that particular area, then creating a 5,000 word report or artefact and a 1,000 word report. After that, students deliver a small presentation. Students can choose to write their project on anything they like, but through their initial research they will focus it down so that it is not too broad. It is wise to pick something that is related to what the student intends to study further.

### The Big Questions...

#### Over the period of study...

During this fantastic qualification, you will explore a number of topics and areas. Some previous questions are:

- Mitigation and adaptation: a critical analysis of climate change management in nations at differing levels of development.
- To what extent was the thirteenth amendment the most significant cause of mass incarceration of African Americans in America from 1865 to present day?
- To what extent does Ted Hughes redeem himself for the tragedy of Sylvia Plath in 'Birthday Letters'?
- E-cigarettes: Friend or Foe?

- Why is cancer set to become one of the biggest killers in Africa?
- What was the most significant factor which influenced the 'Analytical Cubist' movement (1907-1912)? With focus on the paintings of Picasso and Braque between these years.
- 'Setting the stage for the new Deaton Theatre'. Artefact: redesign of the Deaton Theatre.

#### What skills will I develop?

- Experience of deeper study than is possible at A level
- An opportunity to explore a specialised topic, e.g. medical research, politics or astronomy, that is closer to their preferred university courses
- Confidence to work independently and creatively
- Practice in essay writing and independent research
- Scope to develop their personal interests on a topic they feel enthused about.

#### What great resources can I use?

- <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/teachers/students/widening-participation/post-16/extended-project/resources/> Lots of great resources to support you in your project.
- This is a great online course to help understand how to achieve a high grade: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success>
- Achieving an A\* in your project

#### How will I be assessed?

Whilst you will be conducting all that research yourself, the emphasis of the assessed elements of the project will be less on the actual material you produce and more on the process that you will have followed. You will be assessed on a range of skills, from your planning of and sticking to timetables to your research management skills, from your presentation skills to your ability to evaluate your own work.

#### Three ways that parents/carers can help...

1. Ask your son/daughter to explain their project and initial research
2. By engaging in conversations with your child to connect them with their learning and, by extension, to the world around them. When discussing the EPQ always be keen to ask "why?" to boost their understanding which will develop deeper thinking.
3. Speak to your son/daughter about the limitations behind their research and evaluate the strengths of the project.