



## EPQ: Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is an EPQ?**

The EPQ is an Extended Project Qualification. It is A-Level standard, and is worth half of an A-Level in terms of UCAS points.

### **What do I do as part of the EPQ?**

To complete an EPQ, you must do the following:

- Take part in a series of taught sessions
- Meet with your supervisor on a fortnightly basis
- Conduct independent research
- Log your research and project organisation
- Produce a final project: this can either be a 5,000-word essay or an artefact with a written evaluation of at least 1,000 words.
- Present your findings to a group of your peers.

### **Does everyone who wants to do an EPQ get to complete one at LRGS?**

Unfortunately not. Due to limits on staff capacity, we aren't able to support every student with their ambitions of completing an EPQ.

### **How do you decide who gets to complete an EPQ?**

During October in Lower Sixth, we ask applicants to submit a written statement, outlining their ideas for an EPQ and why they would be a suitable candidate for the scheme, along with a mock literature review.

### **Which skills do successful EPQ candidates possess?**

Successful EPQ candidates tend to be inquisitive, organised and have effective communication skills. They will be self-motivated and keen to take on the challenge of completing challenging work independently.

### **How is the EPQ assessed?**

The EPQ is assessed by a student's supervisor. They will assess their final submission, which will consist of their final project (be that an essay or artefact) and well-documented evidence of how their project has developed throughout the course. This is known as a production log, and supervisors guide students through this process step-by-step.

It is important to note that only 40% of the final mark is allocated to the realisation of the final project. 20% of marks are focused on how the project has been managed by the student, another 20% focuses on how students identify and use resources and existing research, and the final 20% is dedicated to how students review and evaluate their process and project. The students who tend to score the highest grades are able to not only produce an excellent final project, but can fully outline how it came to exist and consider how they would do things differently a second time.

### **What kinds of projects have pupils completed at LRGS?**

Students complete work across a wide spectrum of topics. To give you an idea, here is a selection of project titles that were completed in the last academic year:

- Developing a remote controlled glider to determine the advantages and disadvantages of different positions of retractable propulsion systems.
- Is evil born or created? An application of biological and psychological explanations of crime.
- How is home advantage influenced by different factors in high-level professional football?
- What is the most significant challenge preventing the widespread adoption of superconducting transmission lines?
- What is the most effective solution to decrease congestion and improve pedestrian health in Lancaster?

### **Which topics can I not do as part of an EPQ?**

You are not allowed to “research” topics that have already been covered by one of your existing A Levels. However, you are allowed to focus on a topic which is related to what you study on one of your courses, so long as it involves extending your knowledge beyond the curriculum. For example, A Level Spanish students focus on immigration trends in Latin America as part of their course. However, they could potentially produce an EPQ focusing on immigration trends in countries that have significant Spanish speaking populations, without it being an official language.

### **What are the benefits of completing an EPQ?**

Completing an EPQ has numerous benefits. One such example is that students are given a structured way of exploring their passions in greater depth.

For many students, it’s really helpful to be able to apply to universities with an A-Level standard qualification that has already been completed. A good EPQ grade is likely to strengthen university applications.

Additionally, completing the EPQ enables students to demonstrate the following skills: conducting research, time management, planning, reflecting on work, and communicating effectively via written and verbal means.

### **I still have further questions, who can I talk to?**

Any questions about the EPQ should be directed to Mr Brassington, the school’s EPQ Coordinator. They can be reached on email: [abrassington@lrgs.org.uk](mailto:abrassington@lrgs.org.uk).

Information correct as of June 2026. Details are subject to change based on staff availability and changes to the scheme as dictated by the accrediting exam board (AQA).

