

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification Newsletter September 2018

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EPQ – An alternative qualification for Year 12/13 students to help top up their UCAS points

WJEC's Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a great alternative/additional qualification for your students' programme of study. The EPQ allows learners to research a topic of their choice. Many learners decide that their EP should be closely related to their chosen A level courses or their future university course; however, this need not be the case. Although the majority of projects submitted tend to be in the traditional dissertation format, this is not exclusively so as diversity is a key element of the EPQ philosophy. As such, live performance, film, software creation, a design portfolio and other artefact-based projects are all valid alternative outcomes.

The number of EPQ entries nationally has grown significantly since 2009 with WJEC seeing a 21% increase in the number of entries for the Summer 2018 series. The reasons for this growth are:

- The EPQ helps learners develop a range of independent learning skills that are so important for success at university and in employment
- Increasingly, universities are including the EPQ in their UCAS offers. Very often an A/A* grade in the EPQ will lead to a lower A Level grade requirement
- The educational climate has changed. Fewer learners are now pursuing a fourth A level as the focus is increasingly on quality rather than quantity of grades
- The EPQ, as an A Level standard qualification, is now worth more than an AS i.e. an A* grade in the EPQ now carries 28 UCAS tariff points compared to a maximum of 20 for an AS grade 'A'
- The EPQ allows the learner to pursue a research topic of their choice; a freedom which is seldom to be found in traditional A Level specifications

WJEC's Extended Project Qualification contributes to the L3 Threshold and Performance Points in Wales.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – Autumn 2018 CPD training dates

Our EPQ Autumn CPD courses are available to book online. Book [here](#) to secure your place. Book early to avoid disappointment!

The events this year will focus on a number of key assessment issues highlighted in the Summer 2018 Principal Moderator's Report, including:

- How to make new technologies work for your candidates
- Dissertation conclusions
- Evidencing AO3 LO5 marks in the Learner Record
- How to plan and implement effective internal standardisation

Are you a Welsh-medium centre?

No problem, our EPQ Subject Specialist, Glenda Kinsey, is a Welsh speaker and we also have Welsh-speaking moderators on our team and all our EPQ resources are available bilingually. As your students' Extended Projects can be undertaken on any topic or subject it can further help to develop their Welsh language skills.

Are students able to undertake an EPQ if they are already undertaking the Advanced WBQ?

Please have a look at Q. 8 within our FAQs available [here](#) – the simple answer is YES they can!