



The Oldershaw School

EPO - Extended Project Qualification

Course Outline

This is a Level 3 qualification. It is graded and carries the same UCAS points as an AS Level and can be taken as a free-standing qualification. The course offers students a unique opportunity to develop essential skills for higher education and the workplace, in a subject area of their own choice. The Extended Project gives students more control over their study than ever before. You have a free choice of project topic, so you can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject you're studying, or another subject, or choose a topic in which you have a personal interest. This level of choice and flexibility means students are engaged and motivated and gain valuable research and project management skills along the way.

The Process

1. Choose a topic of your choice to study
2. Complete a Production Log to document your project process
3. Plan, research and write up the findings of your project
4. Prepare and deliver a presentation on the outcome.
5. Assessment

This is an independent piece of research. You will meet with a member of staff (supervisor) weekly to discuss your progress and to guide you and help you develop the necessary skills to complete a successful project. You will also attend taught sessions which equip you with the key skills needed for primary research, project writing and independent study. You can write a 5000 word essay arguing both sides of your research topic or you can create a product with a 1000 word report on the research that lead you to your end product. The assessment covers both the process and the end product. The final project, plus the Production Log, will be assessed as a whole, according to a generic set of marking criteria.

Assessment is based on how well students identify and use resources, carry out research, develop their ideas to realise an outcome and then reflect on the outcome and the process. Students complete a Production Log as they carry out their projects and at the end they must deliver a presentation which should be for a non-specialist audience. This could take the form of a group presentation (in the case of a group project) or a one-to-one presentation to the supervisor. The presentation must be supported by a question and answer session which is recorded in the Production Log. The complete Production Log, a written report, the evidence and the presentation are assessed together by the centre at the end of the process.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This AS-level is an independent piece of work and will require students to manage their time effectively throughout the year. Students will be encouraged through self-motivation and independent study inside and outside of school. Students will need to be confident within their area of study to evaluate, reflect, criticise and support their ideas using other pieces of research. Students might use the project at interview stage for higher education and/or in their Personal Statement on their UCAS form. The project will develop important independent learning and study skills that will improve the chances of success when progressing to higher education or employment.

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