

Hello Year 11's!

Your EPQ journey is about to begin. You may be wondering what you can do to prepare, or are eager to get stuck in so I've compiled some things to do over the coming weeks – not homework, just activities to put you on the path to be EPQ superstars!

Week 1: What *is* the EPQ?

Week 2: Dissertation or Artefact?

Week 3: How to decide on a topic/Design Brief

Week 4: Developing wider skills

Week 5: Project Proposal Self-reflection Task

- 1) Get familiar with an overview of what the EPQ – have a read of slides 1-6 of the intro to EPQ:
https://stokenewingtonschool.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/EPQStudentHomepage/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B82F2A622-5AB4-4451-B56F-2AEEBB6D8FB8%7D&file=32607833370.%20Introduction%20to%20EPQ.pptx&action=edit&mobileredirect=true Reflect on the mix of subjects you want to do at A-level – can you think of any that relates them all – can you think of a (silly or serious) topic that could combine them all? E.g. If you are doing Spanish, Textiles and Maths you could design and produce a garment detailing the life story of Surrealist artist Salvador Dalí. If you do Economics, Geography and PE you could look at the impact of sports funding on life expectancy and performance in international competitions.
Write down a topic/project that could involve all your Sixth Form choices on Unifrog.
- 2) There are two strands within the EPQ that you can choose: dissertation or artefact, and if you did a subject such as music, graphics, art, drama, photography, textiles you will have a good idea of what the artefact process involves. For Artefact you generate your own design brief in the same way in dissertation you generate your own question. It is not always the case that students doing (e.g.) history, English and psychology should do dissertations and students doing (e.g.) art, photography and drama should be doing artefact. In fact if you are doing 2 or more creative coursework subjects I would recommend considering a dissertation and similarly if you are doing 2 or more academic coursework subjects I would recommend considering an artefact.
Write down your thoughts on whether you are leaning towards dissertation or artefact on Unifrog.
- 3) Have a read of advice around choosing a topic <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/how-choose-epq-topic-and-title-epq-advice-2> and have a look here to see that you can truly choose any topic/question you want to <http://thinkstudent.co.uk/epq-ideas/>. A word of caution around just straight-up selecting one of these titles – I find that students that go for a title or topic because they've found it in these lists run out of steam during the process and find it a bit of a drag – if you chose something personal to you that you've given lots of thought to and you follow the advice of the team, then you will be in the A*/A range. Everyone's title should be unique to them. Artefact students: when creating the design brief be as detailed as possible in order to think about what you want to achieve, e.g. instead of 'create an eco-friendly dress' consider 'The design, production and evaluation of a piece of sustainable fashion'. Reflect and write down on Unifrog what topics/areas of design appeal to you and why you think you would want to explore them more in an EPQ.
- 4) Hopefully you have a good picture of what the EPQ process looks like now and maybe even have a topic/design area in mind. This week's focus is on the skills you would like to pick up during your Sixth Form experience. One of the reasons the EPQ is valued at university and in the world of work is the development of key skills beyond the regular subject content of your other A-Levels. Research the type of key skills that

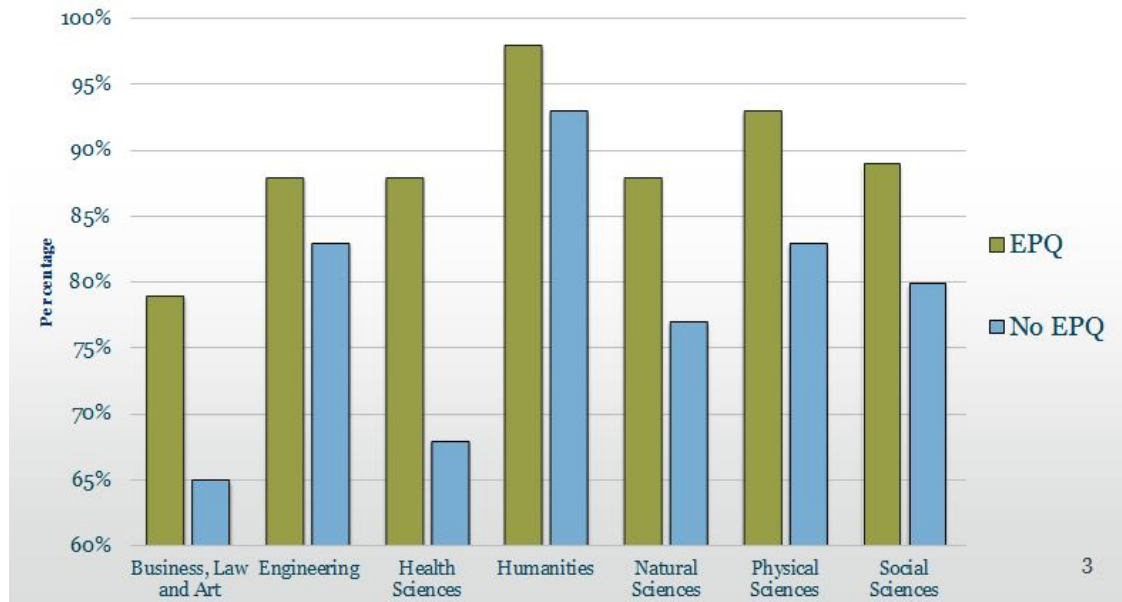
universities/employers are looking for, pick 3 and on Unifrog how you think you can develop them during the EPQ. (As you can see below there is a correlation between completing the EPQ and tending to better at university.

The Impact of the EPQ

2013/14-2016/17

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

Percentage of Students Achieving 1st or 2:1 in degree



- 5) Have a look at a document called the Project Proposal – this is the very first document that is completed in an EPQ course and have a look at a guide to filling in the 4 sections (look for both here: <https://stokenewingtonschool.sharepoint.com/sites/EPQStudentHomepage>) then reflect on which sections you think you would find easy to fill out and those you would find difficult. You can also complete this google form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tchETrRDsFkc2N7J5_FOtnMEgBaSwlGSngZKOYcZaqE/viewform?edit_requested=true. This will let me know what topic/design area you are thinking of and if you have a question or a design brief in mind.

Let's see how we go with those tasks for now, try to stick to the week by week outline. I've included a few more details about the EPQ below – have a read and feel free to get in touch if you have questions or queries.

Warmest regards,

Mr Wasserfall

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EPQ Details:

- Runs over Year 12 only
- Dissertation is around 6,000 words
- Artefact is, typically, a portfolio and 1,000-2,000 words
- 4 periods a fortnight on your timetable
- You will be assigned a supervisor within those periods
- Mostly independent based work
- Feedback at 3 key points throughout the process
- EPQ is internally and externally moderated
- All students complete a graded presentation on their EPQ process