

## Summer preparation for the EPQ

On the following pages, you will find suggested activities to prepare you for the EPQ. We follow the Edexcel specification and it is worth familiarising yourself with this using the following link: [www.tinyurl.com/EdexcelEPQ](http://www.tinyurl.com/EdexcelEPQ)

The EPQ is an opportunity for you to develop your own academic or cultural interests in a self-directed project.

You can choose from **one** of four ways to present your project:

- 5000-6000 word dissertation
- 4000-5000 word practical investigation
- 1500-3000-word essay to accompany a practical performance
- 1500-3000-word essay to accompany an artefact.

You'll be assessed on your ability to:

- **Manage** Think of a project idea, plan how you'll achieve it and keep records of your progress.
- **Use resources** Selecting, organising and utilising relevant information to create your EPQ.
- **Develop and realise** How well you're able to complete your project using a range of skills and technologies.
- **Review** How well you evaluate your project and your journey.

You will have until May/June 2020 to complete your EPQ. It does not have to be related to your A-levels but it can be or you may choose something that is related to the degree you want to do or something that just interests you.

You will be supported in choosing your question when you start the course, but now is a good idea to start thinking about what you might like to study.

### **TASK 1: Complete a list of topic areas you may wish to look at and some potential questions you might like to ask**

You will need to engage with a lot of research to write your EPQ. Start to explore your topics of interest to see if there is enough information out there. You can do this through internet searches but also through watching documentaries on YouTube, Vice, BBC iPlayer, Netflix, 4OD... Think about whether:

- Has your topic of interest been researched before? (search on *Google Scholar*)
- Are there any challenging arguments or debates (for/against or agree/disagree)?
- How reliable are the sources? (random person? Newspaper? Academic source? Government?)

### **TASK 2: As you find any articles or links that might be useful, save them somewhere safe or make sure you make a note of anything useful and where you found it for referencing them in the future.**

### **TASK 3: (optional) If you want to really get ahead you can enrol onto this FREE online 8-hour course.**

[www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project)

It's specific for EPQ and provided by the University of Southampton. It covers:

- Academic research: principles and definition
- Drafting and developing research proposals
- Gathering information from literature and from findings
- Research methods: choosing an appropriate methodology
- Academic reading and note taking
- Referencing, plagiarism, and academic integrity
- Academic writing: organising sources, structuring essays
- Academic writing: summarising a research project into an abstract □ Academic presentations: preparation and delivery