



The Sutton Academy

LEVEL 3 EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

WHAT IS THE EPQ?

A dissertation project on a subject of the student's choice that promotes independent learning, study skills and essay writing/referencing techniques.

WHAT DO I NEED TO STUDY THIS COURSE?

The entry requirements for this course are GCSE grade 6 in English and working towards 3 A Levels.

IS THIS COURSE FOR ME?

This is a self-driven course, so students must be motivated to write outside of class as lessons will include all the skills required in order to complete written work effectively. The topic is derived by the student, so the success on this course is based on their interest in researching their topic and work ethic.

WHERE WILL THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

This course is worth half an A Level and trains students in the skills needed to create high-achieving academic essay. The aspects of the course allow students to prepare well for university expectations in terms of academic writing and gives those aiming for university extra UCAS points and prestige when applying. It increases the likelihood of getting into students chosen universities as it also gives an indicator at the academic level a student can potentially be, but also their enthusiasm for the subject and work ethic.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Students will first choose a topic that they are interested in aided by activities and one to one support.
- Students will research that topic to produce a range of information sources for both sides of the debate so they can support the points once trained in the ability to scrutinise and select sources effectively.
- Students must create an equal sided debate before coming to a judgement encouraged through support with skills such as referencing and academic structured writing.
- Students are not just marked on their writing, they are also marked on how they have planned out their writing/time, how they have analysed and selected the sources and how they have evaluated their own approach to the work. This develops their skills of time management, essay planning and self-reflection.

- Students will complete an assessed presentation on their findings to a small group of people after having lessons on public speaking.
- Students must keep a log of when they complete tasks as this will count for marks too.

Important key skills learnt:

- University level academic writing e.g. analysis and paragraph structure.
- Referencing and using footnotes (essential for University essays).
- Smart researching/reading.
- Public speaking and suiting a presentation to an audience.
- Higher level learning on a topic that can help university career choices.
- Evaluating/self-reflection of own study skills.
- Critical thinking.
- Time management/effective essay planning.

Previous student topics:

- What caused the Arab spring? – B Grade – Investigating three theorised causes of the riots and protests in the Middle East about democracy.
- Should we stay in the EU? – B Grade – Investigating trade, cultural and monetary implications if we leave the EU (Positive vs negative)
- What impact did the economic policies of the coalition have on the Family? – A Grade – Looking at tax, benefit and work impacts on families during the 2010-15 coalition.
- Harold Shipman – Nature or Nurture? – A* Grade – Investigating whether it was nature, nurture or both that caused Harold Shipman to become a serial killer.
- Has Global Warming been caused by Humans? – A* Grade – Investigating whether global warming was happening and whether it was caused naturally or by humans?

FURTHER INFORMATION

See Mrs Grimshaw