

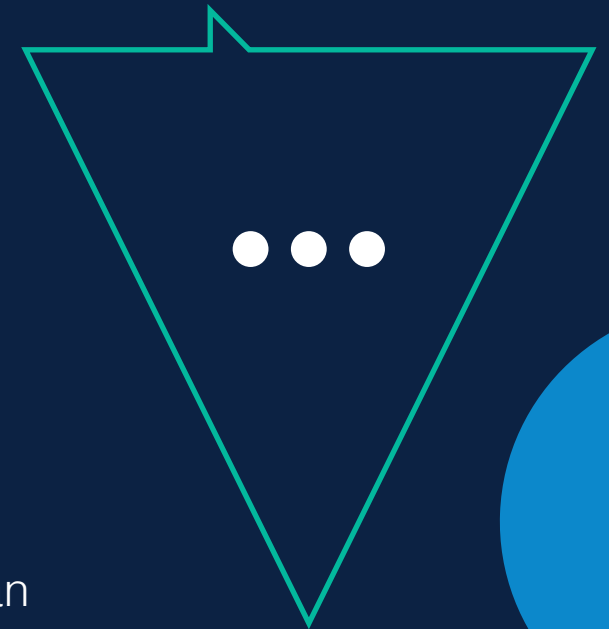
OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL
AQA EXAMINATIONS



Increase student A-level performance *with IPQ*

Research suggests that taking the Independent Project Qualification can enhance students' chances of achieving a higher grade A-level by up to 29%



For improved A-level results and effective preparation for university, teach the *Independent Project Qualification (IPQ)* from OxfordAQA.

“We’ve taken the best of the UK Extended Project Qualification, designed to develop students’ independent thinking skills. The result is the IPQ... the first A-level standard Project Qualification specifically tailored to international schools.”

Praise for the project qualification approach from *top universities.*

“We do value qualifications such as the IPQ. They are important in building the right kinds of skills that a student will need to make a smooth transition to universities.”

King’s College London

“The skills that students develop through the Extended Project are directly relevant to and useful for university-level study.”

University of Manchester website

“Some Russell Group universities will make you a lower grade offer if you have a good grade in the EPQ. Even if it is not part of the offer, it can be used in your personal statement or interview to demonstrate your interest or aptitude in the subject.”

Russell Group website

“The Independent Project Qualification provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop the kinds of research and academic skills demanded by the rigours of Higher Education.”

University of Southampton

“[Students] gain a lot of soft and hard skills such as time management, problem solving, public speaking and interpersonal skills through primary research and computer skills which are all considered to be highly beneficial for life after school.”

Rosary School, Jordan

(This is a true statement as at September 2021 and may be subject to future changes).

Based on AQA’s market leading Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), the IPQ is a project-based qualification that students can take alongside their A-levels.

This approach is proven to contribute towards improved A-level results. Research by the Centre of Education Research and Practice (CERP) revealed that students taking the EPQ are 29% more likely to achieve a Grade A*-B in most of their standard A-level subjects.

The IPQ also provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus. By developing a range of academic and 21st Century skills, IPQ students have an opportunity to stand out from the crowd when applying to top universities and employers.



How the *IPQ* works

1. Student discusses their project idea with a supervisor and an optional specialist.
2. Student researches and develops a project proposal for the supervisor to endorse.
3. Student develops the project, guided by a series of taught skills, and maintains a Production Log.
4. Student submits a 5000-word report, Production Log and delivers an oral presentation to a non-specialist audience.
5. Supervisor grades the report with the help of a step-by-step grading process, and provides evidence that the presentation took place.
6. Centre Coordinator undertakes an internal moderation to quality assure the standards of the internal assessment.
7. Centre Coordinator submits grades to OxfordAQA for moderation.
8. Student receives certificate graded A*-E.

Easy to implement for *international schools*.

- ✓ No exam: easy to take IPQ as a supplement to desired A-levels.
- ✓ Explicit taught skills syllabus: more guidance for teachers than EPQ.
- ✓ No artefacts: logistically easier than EPQ for schools to administer.
- ✓ Straightforward grading process: guidance in the specification allows teachers to assign grades instead of marks.

The *IPQ* Taught Skills:

- ✓ Project planning and management – including:
 - Planning
 - Setting objectives
 - Selecting resources
 - Planning research
 - Monitoring progress
 - Completing a risk assessment
 - Evidencing
- ✓ Research skills – including:
 - Evaluating sources
 - Researching ethically
 - Referencing
 - Avoiding plagiarism
 - Developing a bibliography
- ✓ Report writing – including:
 - Introduction
 - Style
 - Narrative vs evaluative
 - Analysis, evaluation and synthesis
 - Conclusion
 - Editing
- ✓ Presentation and oral communication skills
- ✓ Creative thinking and decision making

Scheme of work helps you teach the Taught Skills with confidence



Your questions on the IPQ, *answered...*

Q: How long does it take to teach the IPQ?

A: 120 hours in total (30 hours of guided teaching and 90 hours of independent project work). We recommend students have at least a full calendar year to complete the IPQ.

Q: Is the IPQ an A-level?

A: It's an A-level standard qualification, and it's worth half of an A-level. Students can use it to demonstrate their independent learning skills when they apply to universities.

Q: Can students deliver the oral presentation in their first language?

A: The presentation may be given in English, or the student's first language. Should the presentation be given in a language other than English, an authenticated translation to English should be provided along with the record of the presentation. All written evidence should be provided in English.

Q: Will students receive UCAS tariff points for the IPQ?

A: Many universities, from the Russell Group and worldwide, have confirmed they will welcome applicants with the Independent Project Qualification in combination with other acceptable qualifications as evidence of their

commitment to and achievement in obtaining a more independent learning style. The OxfordAQA IPQ has been benchmarked by UK ENIC to be comparable to the AQA EPQ, which earns half the UCAS tariff points of an A-level.

Q: IPQ is based on the EPQ... but what is the EPQ?

A: The AQA Extended Project Qualification is the UK's leading Level 3 project qualification. In the 2020/21 academic year, more than 40,000 students in the UK take the EPQ every year and nearly 80% take the AQA syllabus.

Q: How is IPQ different to EPQ?

A: The IPQ has a more structured taught skills component and we have removed the option of artefact-based and group-based projects.

Q: How is IPQ different to Global Perspectives?

A: Global Perspectives is a larger course, with an exam, team project, report and additional research project at A-level. IPQ is more achievable for students to fit alongside their full range of A-level subjects.

Q: Can institutions offer IPQ without any other A-levels?

A: Yes, though we recommend that students start the IPQ after completing their International GCSEs.

Q: When can I start teaching the IPQ?

A: The specification and resources are available at oxfordaqaexams.org.uk/ipq. If you plan to start teaching the IPQ, remember that your institution needs to be an approved OxfordAQA centre or teaching school.

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For more information:

Visit: oxfordaqaexams.org.uk/ipq

Email: enquiries@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

Or contact your regional OxfordAQA Qualifications Consultant to arrange a meeting.