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Ascot

Sixth Form

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION



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Cover picture is Jasper King's 'Powerful Photograph'
Booklet updated by Emma Keeler

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) at LVS

The Extended Project is a research-based qualification which is highly valued by Universities, for which students investigate a topic about which they are passionate. It is the process they follow that is assessed, rather than just the outcome. Students work with a personal supervisor to develop the necessary skills of research and critical analysis for their investigation. The product of their idea may be an evidence-based written report or a practical artefact; the options are very flexible. It is completed with a presentation to a non-specialist audience and an evaluation of their learning of both the topic and their study skills.

“Learning how to research and write an academic paper stretched one EPQ student. Having to consider ways to research online, during Lockdown, challenged him but he endeavoured. He has realised how much time, effort and energy go into writing these types of papers. With a chosen career path of veterinary science, this may be the first of many successful academic papers written by him.”

Mrs Melhuish (English & Media Studies)

The LVS Programme is offered to all Year 12 students. Undertaking an EPQ in Year 12 enables students to develop valuable study skills resulting in improved A level performance in Year 13.

The Programme covers a comprehensive range of elements:

- Core study skills – sources of information, quality and bias.
- Planning, prioritising, monitoring and reflecting.
- Referencing skills, framing a question and formatting.
- Mini project – topic of student choice.
- Constructing arguments, recording research and analysis.
- Risk assessments & research ethics.
- Presentation skills, structure of work, evaluating and abstracts.
- Presentation evenings are in June.

After the initial sessions, all students complete a mini-project on a topic of their choice, following the project process from inception through research to presentation. In November students start their EPQ, either stemming from their mini-project or another idea. Their title should be of personal interest to them with sufficient scope for research and ‘Artefact’ projects (ie practical projects) are fully supported and encouraged.

“Every EPQ student I have worked with has developed their capacity for original work, their research skills and their ability to plan and manage their time. In short, it equips them for real life demands of higher education and the workplace.”

Mr Towl (Law, Government & Politics)

Students are carefully matched with Supervisors (non-expert staff), to provide positive 1:1 support and challenge throughout the project process, this is in addition to the taught skills lessons. EPQ is a research based qualification, so evidence of planning, use of academic resources and analysing progress are essential to success.

Students present their projects to staff and guests in June, with results in January. Students are taught presentation skills and rehearsed, prior to their final performance. Parents, staff and peers are invited to question the students to enable them to demonstrate their expertise.

This programme requires self-motivated, independent students to develop study skills, while balancing this project with their other priorities. The benefit of the EPQ is not just in the qualification itself, which is worth half an A level, but in how it can boost students' performance in their subject A levels.

This booklet is about some of the students who completed projects in recent years – it includes an abstract of the topic they chose and their

“The most interesting part of the EPQ mentoring process for me is that fact that I learned a lot about a topic that I had no real prior knowledge and understanding of. In this sense, the mentoring was a two way thing and I enjoyed reading around the topic and reflecting on my own preconceptions and attitudes. The student I worked with really immersed herself in the area of research and deserved the A* that she was awarded and it was a real pleasure to be able to help her with this.”

Mr Martin (Philosophy)

reflections on what they learnt by completing an Extended Project qualification (AQA syllabus).

“The EPQ provides an invaluable opportunity to practice and develop those independent research skills which are invaluable at the university level and beyond. By developing these abilities through the exploration of a project close to their hearts, students are able to see their purpose – while discovering new and exciting information.”

Mr Padrick (Vice Principal)

DRAVYA ALE

Is Capital Punishment an effective deterrent to murders in the United States of America?



Throughout this project I learnt about the different statistics for murder rates after a series of executions and the deterrence in murders over a period of time, as well as engaging in the different opinions of people. From this, I have learnt how to effectively use evidence and opinions in arguments I have constructed myself, which means I have learnt how to present my sources in a professional manner. I have learnt how to access the reliability and validity of the source by doing deeper research into the author as well their intentions. The most important thing I have learnt is the value of time and how crucial timing is.

Doing this project has been beneficial and the things I have learnt have helped me become a better student all around. One thing I used to lack was time management, but now I feel like my time management has improved substantially as well as seeing a huge change in my work ethic. EPQ is almost all independent work, which is the very first stepping stone in university, this course gives me

some experience of what university has, preparing me for the future.

When first starting the project, my work ethic was always low and I never thought that I could complete a project so big. But as the course progressed I have realised that I always had this work ethic inside and has given me a boost of confidence in my other subjects.

HEATHER ARDRON

What is the most reliable type of evidence for investigating crimes?



Crimes are being investigated around us every day, however much of this is done behind the scenes. I aimed to find out more about evidence and how it can be used to uncover the truth of what happened. The Police have many different methods of collecting and analysing evidence, but it is unclear which is the most reliable type. Different methods can be more useful depending on the situation. The outcome of a court trial affects many people's lives and the reliability of evidence plays a massive part in this; juries need to be made aware of the possible strengths and limitations so they can make an informed decision. I looked at the reliability of different types of evidence and discussed the impact this could have in court.

This project gave me the opportunity to research a topic that I find really interesting. I especially enjoyed combining the Psychology and Biology aspects into one project because this allowed me to learn more about each of them. This project has taught me a lot of valuable skills that I have been able to apply to my other subjects at school. Some of the most helpful skills were how to research, how to structure my writing and how to plan ahead to make sure I finished on time. Whilst researching, it was important to evaluate the sources to check if the information was accurate or biased. Furthermore, planning the essay

structure helped me to split it into different sections, which made it clearer and easier to follow.

At first I thought I would find it difficult to finish all the sections by the deadline. However, the taught skills lessons really helped me to focus on time management, and setting smaller deadlines helped me to complete the project. The presentation was the most challenging part for me because it was difficult to choose the key parts to include. However, after practising the presentation I became more confident with it so this is something that will really help me in the future.

LUKE COOPER SMITH

What goes on behind the scenes of production explored through the role of stage manager?



Theatre productions take huge amounts of planning and preparation, however the audience only ever see the cast on stage during the production. This document will explain what is happening off stage and help people who are interested in seeing the amount of work that has to be done so that the stage is all ready for the actors to perform. It will also discuss a few of the techniques that a stage manager will use during a show and the difficulties that have to be overcome. The document will contain first-hand experience from a stage manager in a school production along with information from different sources.

In completing my EPQ I have learnt great organisational skills through the production of West Side story which will help me greatly in the future. I have learnt how to reference my work, something I had never done before. I also learnt a few techniques used in productions like spiking, light focusing and drawing skills, some of which will be useful across my other subjects.

Completing an EPQ gave me a chance to explore my chosen area in greater detail; it meant that as I wasn't taking drama as an A-level option I was still able to

complete work to do with the school production and create a project which would gain me half an A-level. I also found that universities may allow a grade drop if you have an EPQ and it's also a great topic to talk about when being interviewed. I have learnt a few different things about myself while completing my EPQ; without setting my own deadlines work would never have been completed. I also learnt that when I put my mind to a piece of work I can carry on doing it until it's completed.

JAY DUGGAL

Has rap become more socially acceptable over time with consideration of rap music from the 1980s to present day?



Rap music has had a notorious history of causing controversy with the media, the police and people. However, that is history. Rap has evolved and expanded, with different types of rap now being released. Rap music has slowly integrated in to society, and some people would even say rap music has become more socially acceptable. I aim to explore if rap really has become more socially acceptable. I will explore a range of points, including the effect of Celebrity Endorsement, the impact it has made socially and politically and the exposure of rappers now at festivals and on the radio. This will help prove my question, as back in the late 1980's and 1990's, rappers could not get involved with any of the points listed, however in the current era, it is very easy for them to. By exploring rap music fully and throughout the years it will allow me to answer the question – Has rap music become more socially acceptable?

I enjoyed researching how my favourite rappers have made impacts on to society and delving deeper to get information about them. Researching some of my favourite rappers in depth, was very enjoyable and interesting to do and helped me get strong arguments for my essay. I didn't originally think that JSTOR would hold much information for a subject like rap, as it is quite a new and relatively young person's thing. There were some facts that I found on JSTOR that I probably wouldn't have been able to find if I looked on a usual media, hip-hop website. Throughout

this project, from planning my essay to presenting my product I have learnt a range of useful skills, that will benefit me throughout life. I have also learnt that it is very important to keep a record of your progress when doing a project like EPQ. This is because if you keep track of your progress, it will help you remember your ideas better and keep a clear track of your ideas throughout your project, which will also show how your ideas have progressed over time. It also generally keeps things more organised, and with something like EPQ, organisation is key.

ROBERT WHITTY

Do particle accelerators provide enough societal benefit to warrant their cost?



Particle accelerators may be something that to most just seems like a figment of science fiction, but they are in fact very real and used for countless applications across a range of industries. However, whilst they see many uses, they come at a great financial cost, from the initial construction, to the maintenance and running costs, the total adds up fast. This project aims to weigh out the benefits and costs that arise when covering particle accelerators, as well as looking at possible alternatives that do not have such a fiscal burden on global economies.

This project required me to read through a number of highly scientific articles, then attempt to simplify the content into a format that is more easily accessible to a wider audience. This will be a crucial skill for me going forward in life, in both my university experience and throughout my career as a whole. The project also required me to effectively organise a project, keeping a detailed log as I went along, which will greatly benefit me throughout my life going forward. The final skill that the project allowed me to develop was my analytical writing,

with the final essay having to be written in a way that was objective and clear, conveying the required points to the reader in an optimal way.

Therefore, I highly recommend the EPQ as it allowed me to develop a wide range of analytical skills that will be crucial in almost any career path and most certainly at university. They are skills that many employers look for and will really help me stand out amongst the crowd, in a world that is becoming ever more competitive.

ROMARIO FERREIRA

What has driven the development of sport photography?



Sports photography has changed enormously in a relatively short period of time. These changes had an effect on all involved in this industry. Sports photography and the technology it uses also affects the game. Introducing technologies has a direct impact on the game itself such as support systems for the referees, of which hawk eye for tennis, hotspot for cricket are examples, also for analysing the game and coaching. My aim is to find out how sports photography and related imaging technology has changed by looking at factors such as media, technology and the business. Is using technology to enhance a picture making the image a better product? To help me answer my research question I have looked for available research in this arena and my own knowledge to help me answer my question.

The reason why I picked this topic is I have done sport since I was 5 years old and always loved it. I've learnt about the process of producing the photos for the media industry, and the extent of the impact that technology has, the impact each of the factors on sports photography such as Media, Business and Technology, also to understand the different parts of the camera and what they do to the photo.

My planning skills were not the best at the start but I now know how to structure my essay and manage my time. Research skills have helped me as I had to be specific in

what I wanted to find out. I've learnt the strengths and weaknesses about myself when it comes to work so the next time I have a project or just have homework, I know what I can do to improve and use my strengths to advantage. The project was beneficial for me as I learnt to time manage my subjects that I take with EPQ, also to find out about something that I was interested in now and in the future, I will know what to do next time I have a project and use that to advantage, because I now know what the processes are.

CALLUM GAMBLE-SMITH

Why do Babies need People for Interaction?



This project reviews the impact of interactions on infants and the effects when those interactions are taken away. I aim to understand the psychological gifts that can be bestowed upon babies when interactions with people and the environment are positive and the disorders that can arise as a result of negative experiences. I wanted to find more information about the psychological principles as to why children grow up the way they do and develop into adults with different behaviours and levels of confidence. The argument of nature over nurture being the decider in people's intelligence is nothing but a myth. In fact, there is lots of research supporting the argument that many of the choices we make during adulthood are down to the interactions between people and our surroundings in our early postnatal environment, suggesting that nurture can have a more profound effect than nature.

It is easy for me to procrastinate and not get the work done. I learnt to set myself deadlines to complete small tasks each day that would eventually amount to completing a much larger task over a set number of days. My essay writing skills have improved significantly by using citations, spending time on punctuation and grammar and taking research from a wide range of sources. With at least one of my A level subjects being essay-based these skills will be very useful.

I can be quite a timid person and often what I need is a push to get out of my comfort zone. For me, the 'push' in

my EPQ was my interview. I was very nervous to interview another person all by myself, but afterwards I felt a rush of confidence that I did not have before. This has taught me a valuable life lesson that I need to continue to bring myself out of my comfort zone to achieve new things.

Finally, I have discovered that I really enjoy public speaking. After presenting both the mini project and my final presentation, all I wanted to do was go up and present all over again. Public speaking is something that I could see myself doing in future as a result, be that for leisure or even in competition.

OLIVER GILMAN

How do materials affect the tone of an acoustic guitar?



This report investigates the different materials used in the manufacture of acoustic guitars. I will research the materials so that I can categorise them into strata of different tonal properties. From there I will be able to analyse what type of music genre/ situation the materials should be used for. There is a big thing in the guitar industry called the tonewoods debate, where people talk about what woods they think should be used and what materials they think are best. Lots of the people are full of opinions and a large portion are uninformed on the topic they are arguing about. Some people even have the opinion that materials have no bearing on the tone of a guitar at all, which has been proven wrong on countless occasions. However, this got me thinking about how the materials used in acoustic guitars sound and how they are different from each other. I thought that once I had researched the materials I could form my own opinions about how they can be used for certain situations or genre of music and which ones are more effective in these situations.

During my EPQ project I learnt how to do proper research and how to use references correctly. I also learnt how to plan and execute an extended piece of writing. I feel that I benefited a lot from doing the project because I learnt lots of new skills that can be transferred to future projects or essays that I may have to write in the future. Doing the

project means that next time I do a project I will know how to do it successfully.

I have learnt that when I focus, and I apply myself to something I am a lot more efficient at doing the work than when I do not. I also learnt that I do have the ability to do an extended project.

NATHAN HARRISON

Analysing different parts of a go kart to help improve performance



A go kart is a small racing car with a lightweight or skeleton body. In my EPQ, I will investigate and evaluate three areas as they relate to the performance of the go kart: the aerodynamics of various parts of the body work, comparison of different materials to use for the shell, and how an engine works with parts that can be modified to help produce more power and increase efficiency, thereby helping to improve the go karts performance. Good performance means being able to perform to the highest standard possible. In the case of a go kart it will mean being able to reach the highest speeds or get the fastest lap times possible. In my project I'm looking at how to maximise the performance of different parts to help achieve the faster lap times to increase the probability of winning races.

In doing this project I have massively improved my knowledge on how vehicles work. I have also gained many skills such as time management, essay structuring and improved my research skills. I am also interested in taking engineering at university, so doing my EPQ on this topic is useful to see if I would like to study the topic any further. I have found this process very beneficial, as it has

helped me massively improve my researching and essay writing. It has given me skills that will always be useful at all levels of my education. By doing an EPQ, I have learnt that doing a big research project on your own is not as easy as I thought and at the beginning my research skills were very poor.

KARTIK KANTHI

Is third wave feminism a wave too far?



My topic is on third wave feminism, 3rd wave feminism was derived from the perceived failures of 1st and 2nd wave feminism, the founders felt that people of colour were not properly represented in the previous brands of feminism and so created a new wave to address this. My project will look at what 3rd wave feminists want to achieve and how they go about achieving it, I will consider what they are fighting for and make a judgement based on evidence and statistics as to whether this has been achieved already. Finally I will conclude whether or not 3rd wave feminism is still needed in this society and where it has benefited society. In a piece of this nature I have to take into account bias that is very prevalent and make informed decisions whilst navigating around this bias.

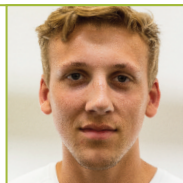
I have found EPQ very beneficial; it helped me to improve my time management as well as my research skills. It has meant that I am more comfortable when I am trying to get information about a topic, in addition to this it has meant that I am able to identify bias very quickly and easily in any pieces of research that I have done. With this knowledge, I can take information with a pinch of salt when I know that there is likely to be bias in a piece of work. I have enhanced

my confidence and communication skills which is one of the areas I wanted to improve on.

I have learnt that I am a very laid back person and while this is good in some areas, when there are deadlines to meet and projects to complete this can mean that I do not get my work done to the deadline. However, I feel that once I set my mind onto something that I need to complete, I will not rest until I have completed it, which I feel is one of my strengths.

JASPER KING

What makes a photograph powerful?



Many people and many organisations strive to create the 'perfect' photograph, I set myself the challenge of discovering what makes the perfect photograph and why this occurs. Many people from a wide variety of areas are getting bored of the same old photographs, so I decided to explore why one photograph didn't suit everyone in all different areas of England. This ended up with me creating the perfect photographs for different areas. Photographers have been trying to take the perfect photograph for many years, I believe they have the wrong approach when taking a photograph, my project reflects my thought process when discovering that a photograph isn't just about how it looks.

The EPQ project has been a very beneficial process for me. I have learnt how to properly form independent research and conduct my results well. I have drastically improved my ability to approach people and question them. I have improved my presentation skills and my ability to organise data correctly. Along with my improved time setting skills, I have developed my ability

to look deeper into data and look for patterns within the data. I have learnt many things about my topic and myself, including that I am a lot more capable than I thought I was. I have also learnt how much work I can get done in a short space of time and how creative I can be when I have the right mind set.

ISABELLA PINI

Explore how Plato's theories on reality have influenced films



This project examines the ideas the philosopher Plato had in regards to the nature of reality and how these ideas have impacted and been reinterpreted and used in films. I explored the theories of Plato as well as those which stemmed from his original ideas and analyse their use in the films *The Matrix* (1999), *The Truman Show* (1998) and *Inception* (2010). I used secondary research and data to collect information, such as peer-reviewed articles, and also websites, such as Encyclopaedia Britannica and Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy. In addition, I looked at sources from popular culture including blogs such as CinemaBlend. I found that these films had clear links to Plato and from my research I was able to conclude that Plato's work on reality is still influential even in the 21st Century with all sharing key themes with strong similarities and differences between them. This study shows that film directors are aware of Plato's theories of reality and that they have a vast real-world application. It shows that these concepts are explored in films as they appeal to fundamental questions everyone asks themselves about the world and are impossible to rule out as untrue.

Through doing my EPQ I have been able to study philosophy without taking it as an A-level, and gain a qualification that will help me in my application to university, as well as giving me a good topic to discuss in interviews and my personal statement. I enjoyed that I was able to explore philosophy through more unconventional media as if I had been studying it as an A-level I would have had to learn from a textbook. It also allowed me to explore more modern views and interpretations of philosophical ideas. Additionally, EPQ has prepared me for what university life will be like as it has allowed me to experience an environment of independent learning and studying, where I have had to set my own deadlines and adapt to my plans

to challenges and obstacles. The skills that I have learnt through EPQ such as time management and organisation will be applicable throughout my life, even helping me with my A-levels as I have used what I have learnt about referencing geography NEA and used the planning skills when writing my essays. Furthermore, I learnt the importance of bias and checking that all my information is reliable especially through evaluating my sources. To assist me in my geography NEA and used the planning skills when writing my essays. Furthermore, I learnt the importance of bias and checking that all my information is reliable especially through evaluating my sources.

WILLIAM PRATT

Does listening to music benefit physical performance in teenagers?



In this project I seek to find an answer to an argument I had with my friends. I break the idea of music and physical performance down and delve into many different scientific areas to try and find an answer to my question. I encounter many hurdles and have to evaluate the usefulness of my sources that I use. I also look at counter arguments to my findings and decide how I tackle them.

From my project I learnt how to manage my time effectively and also how to make a plan which was adaptable and flexible. For me I have benefitted from this project greatly as it improved the quality of my writing in

longer answer questions in exams. I have learnt that I can balance other studies along with my main subjects and I am much more confident presenting in front of others thanks to the EPQ.

EMILY RAWLINSON

How Social Media damages young teens perception of happiness within their own skin



Social media is increasingly taking over our lives. Throughout this project I identified the impacts of social media on young people. The question of does social media have an impact of young people's perception of happiness within their own skin, is something that I believe is not asked enough, or even talked about enough. I collected primary data from an sample of junior school children to investigate different opinions, from different age groups. My findings exposed that pupils as young as 9 years old already have concerns about certain aspects of their body image.

I chose to create an artefact, in the form of a video which could be used to raise awareness of the issue, because I feel as though it is an impactful way to get a message across. I wanted to produce something, that would stick in people's minds and something to which they could relate. Throughout my EPQ project, I realised the importance of choosing a topic you know you will be invested in and have the effort to fulfil research tasks to a great length. I was able to discuss my EPQ at a great length with both teaching staff and my supervisor; and it gave me the

opportunity to show my enthusiasm for the subject I chose. The process was a huge confidence boost and it allowed me to develop skills I never thought I would. The skills I have learnt from completing my EPQ will be invaluable at university, in terms of time management and the importance of effective planning to ensure everything I wanted to do was finished by the appropriate date. As well as to face challenges with a positive attitude and overcome them in a confident manner.

TRAVIS SACOOR-WILLIAMS

How to re-engineer a pre-designed Go-kart



A Company's main goal is to make a profit and sometimes in order to do this they have to reduce quality and sometime change the design so lesser materials are used. Originally I intended to build a go-kart from scratch but realized that this was not possible in the timeframe or cost. Throughout this project I will be exploring how to improve a pre-designed go-kart on a budget. I did primary research, ie did this myself, as this gave me the best knowledge of what I needed and how to build and test my ideas to make it more aerodynamic and safe.

I did an EPQ as because it could be on anything I wanted therefore I wanted to challenge myself, not realising that to pick a topic was going to be a challenge in itself! My title got changed many times throughout the process as my ideas developed. When I started I didn't realise how much time and effort that I would have to put into to finish. The research took more time than anything else! Although people do EPQ to gain UCAS points which is a

big motive for them. I wasn't in it for the points, I did it because I knew I would learn new techniques that would help me later in life. One of the biggest things that I learnt and improved on was my presentation skills, which are so important in modern times. After finishing my project there was a sense of achievement and I was proud of my finished work.

DARSHAN SOLANKI

Are domestic animals more susceptible to respiratory problems than wild animals?



The domestication of dogs and cats has occurred in the last 100 years or so, whereas wild animals are the product of millions of years of evolution. I investigated the impact of this specifically on respiratory problems in domestic and wild animals to determine which are more susceptible. Susceptibility is influenced by the way they have been bred, their ability to heal, the respiratory diseases they get and environmental factors. Brachycephalic syndrome due to artificial breeding has had an impact on all of these sections, which is why it is so significant in my EPQ. The information regarding domestic animal respiratory problems was over-abundant whereas that regarding wild animal respiratory problems was somewhat lacking. There is overwhelming evidence that domestic animals are more susceptible to respiratory problems than wild animals.

Throughout this process I learnt and used many qualities and skills to complete my EPQ, including how to critique sources to identify reliability, relevance, validity and bias through properties of the source. I learnt how to make a time plan via a Gantt chart, which had to be modified and managed. Lastly I learnt to identify gaps in my research, and how to formulate this into questions which I then asked to a vet in a formal interview – another skill I have learnt.

I have learnt many things about myself. My strengths lie in researching skills, as I am able to look at a wide variety of information, what I have struggled with, is the ability to synthesise the large volume of information into a

manageable amount, and this was the most difficult part of my EPQ. I found the role of the supervisor to be very useful, our discussions allowed me to realise parts I may have been missing, or could improve on. This process has put me out of my comfort zone and has led me to be a more independent individual. I have found the EPQ to be definitely beneficial, as it has not only taught me to learn things myself but has also allowed me to discover how I learn, skills that cannot be taught. I have enjoyed doing this and put the level of effort into my EPQ because I was able to choose a topic that I found interesting.

MATTHIAS TEMMINK

To what extent is the increased Chinese investment into Africa a mutually beneficial strategy or a reflection of neo-colonialism?



The purpose of my investigation is to explore the increasingly important and controversial human and economic relationship between the People's Republic of China and the economies of the African continent. This purpose is represented by the overarching investigative question, "To what extent is the increased Chinese investment into Africa a mutually beneficial strategy or a reflection of neo-colonialism?". Within this essay I focus on how the developing economic change manifests itself through investments, with additional detail on named African economies for the purpose of establishing a representative image of investment impact across Africa as a whole. Throughout the investigation, the main question is adapted to form three major elements: Can Chinese investment be considered neo-colonialist in nature, according to impacts and motives? Does this Chinese investment provide a net benefit to Africa? And how could Chinese investment be managed to provide maximal benefit.

The investigation concludes that the investment made by the Chinese into infrastructure is much more favourable for African people and economies than investment motivated by resource acquisition. Investment for purposes of resource extraction and acquisition. However, is extremely unfavourable and poses extreme threats towards both economic stability and quality of life for inhabitants. This essay also presents data evidencing that Chinese influence strongly reflects aspects colonialist behaviour both through investment motives and a depressive impact on African economies and people. Although recipient African nations benefit from certain investment inflows, China-African relations must be managed in a way that maximises productivity of a unified African strategy minimising loss of power to Chinese dependency.

I am hoping to pursue economics and international relations at university and completing an EPQ based around economics and investment provided a great way to explore the subject further. During my project I have been able to explore economic concepts and build on my existing knowledge; strengthening my ability to interpret complex theories. I found the process of creating my piece extremely beneficial as I could use my project as a way of completing further reading on top an A-level in which I already had a great interest. My EPQ taught me new skills which I am already applying to my studies, such as proper researching and planning techniques for large essays/compositions. Overall, my EPQ was a great way to challenge myself and develop knowledge, skills and the ability to work independently.

LACHLAN THOMPSON

Poe, Lovecraft and King: A Convergence of Horror



Edgar Allan Poe, H.P Lovecraft and Stephen King are three authors who have shaped what horror is for us today. Each one of them influenced a generation of horror authors, and contributed to how we perceive horror. In order to chart this evolution through the three authors, the thematic shift must be analysed.

Poe defined and pioneered the Gothic genre in the United States, introducing themes of insanity, mental illness, and other Gothic tropes to the American horror scene. He presented insanity from a personal perspective, creating an empathetic horror which causes the readers emotions to mirror those of his characters. It is this unique presentation of horror that laid the precedence for what horror is today.

H.P Lovecraft is the most obscure of the trio, being unknown during his lifetime and retaining a niche following after his death. However, his work inspired a generation of authors, such as Stephen King. Lovecraft created cosmic horror, a type of horror which focuses on the fear of the unknown and rejects the notion of anthropocentrism, drawing on Poe's presentation of personal horror and madness, as well as his Gothic conventions, to create a type of horror that would go on to influence the next generation of horror authors. Stephen King is the most well-known modern horror author,

and has inherited a literary tradition shaped by Poe and Lovecraft. King used Poe's Gothic conventions and themes as well as Lovecraft's concepts of cosmicism and ancient evil, weaving them together with his societal themes to create a modern horror which explores deeper themes relevant to society today. In this way, King's horror can be read from many angles, with a deeper meaning that can be uncovered by a close thematic analysis.

Undertaking the project has taught me many valuable skills, such as academic writing, effective research and referencing. The EPQ is an excellent way to prepare for university-level work, and anyone who completes it will no doubt feel the same way. Additionally, I feel that the project has improved my time-management skills. My supervisor and the coordinators helped me to effectively plan out my workload, and I have become a much more effective and efficient student as a result.

SOMTOCHUKWU UNIGWE

To what extent is an artist's mental health an influence on their work?



Many studies have been made highlighting the benefits that art poses on a person's mental health. This would mean that if a person's mental health is impacted by art, their art may be impacted by their mental health. So, to what extent? Thus, the purpose of this study is to investigate this correlation and discover the extents to which it proves true. This would show that art can be a vital conduit through which feelings materialise and are expressed. It can reflect an aspect of life that may, otherwise, never breach the parameters of a person's thoughts, thus enabling them to better understand themselves, and others.

For this study, I conducted interviews and surfed through many websites to compile both facts and opinions. This taught me how to get in contact with reliable sources, such as university professors, in order to interview them, and how to properly make, and use, a bibliography to increase efficiency of referencing and ease of research.

This study definitively answers that the extent to which an artist's mental health influences his art is impacted by factors such as necessity and want, meaning that it

cannot be defined for each person. However, the common thread is that, to each person, their mental health can influence their art to the extent that they need it to.

Along with the fore listed benefits received from doing EPQ, I have also learned how to plan, schedule, and follow through with deadlines in order to complete a task. Thus, I learned the necessary steps that lead to the satisfying completion of an essay writing task, and I will continue to implement and improve on these steps.

LOGIE WEBSTER

Should gambling be applied to video games?



The aim of my EPQ is to analyse and evaluate the pros and cons of applying gambling laws to video games and conclude whether or not gambling laws should be applied to video games. I investigate both the advantages and disadvantages of applying gambling laws, the diverse laws from different regions, as well as touching on the psychology behind addiction. Some of the points covered include, which gambling activities are in video games, the benefits of taxing video game gambling, the issue of different regions, protecting players from gambling addiction, improving player experience and what has already been done to combat this issue. This project could be used to help evaluate the actions that could be taken to tackle this issue in future as it provides a detailed analysis of the pros and cons of applying gambling laws to video games. It could help to judge whether or not a change in the law would be beneficial or whether the situation is too complex and would cause more problems, both to the gaming industry and society, than benefits.

Completing this project has opened my eyes to many different areas and topics that interest me. From the gambling laws of different countries to the psychology behind addiction. Additionally, I have learnt many new research and writing skills which will help me my future studies and the workplace. I now have an increased understanding of how to effectively research, choose and evaluate sources when looking for information on a topic, a skill which will undoubtedly be useful in my future school work.

Furthermore, this project has helped improve my general work ethic and study skills. My time management has vastly improved as a result of completing my project as I have learned that to be effective it is a good idea to plan and set deadlines for myself. I have significantly improved my time

management since beginning this project and as result, I have also seen an improvement in my work. Crucially, this project has given me an increased understanding for what it is like to complete a solo research project. The development of this skill will be essential for future work such as my A level history coursework or potential university research that I may have to conduct.

EPQ has given me several research and writing skills that will benefit me in future. Upon starting the project, I believed that I would not enjoy taking on such a large piece of work and that the effort I put in would not be worth it. However, after completing the project I have realised that I am capable of completing such a task and it has in fact benefitted me greatly and will be extremely beneficial for my future.

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