



**future  
ready**

**Your guide to the  
Project Qualification**

**Are you future ready? >**

# ➤ Broaden and enhance your curriculum

## What does it mean to be future ready?

Employers frequently express the opinion that education needs to evolve in order to meet the challenge of preparing young people for a future that is being shaped by forces such as the march of technology, a changing political climate, the globalisation of the economy and concerns about the sustainability of our way of life.

In response to this, the 2017 Pearson/NESTA report addressing future demand for UK occupations identified the top five most important skills and abilities as:

- Judgment and Decision-Making
- Fluency of Ideas
- Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Originality Abilities

➤ **Explore our Future Ready Framework**

There is a challenge here for education: how should future skills for employability be taught?

The Pearson Future Ready framework sets out learning outcomes for higher order cognitive, information age, communication, interpersonal, leadership and teamwork skills. We believe that Project Learning is perfectly suited to the teaching and learning of these Future Ready skills.

### About this guide

In this guide, we'll outline how the **Pearson Edexcel Project Qualification** helps today's learners develop **Future Ready** skills to flourish in higher education and tomorrow's world of work.

We'll cover the support we offer, every step of the way.

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## ➤ What is the Project Qualification?

Our Pearson Edexcel Project Qualification help students of all abilities and interests to acquire independent learning skills, by exploring an area of study that interests them. Learners can use these new skills in their existing study, as well as to prepare for higher education and working life.

The Project Qualification gives learners the opportunity to:

- explore an area that interests them, aligned to an area of the curriculum or a hobby or interest
- research a subject that might not be available through other qualifications
- develop independent research and project management skills
- become future ready by learning skills that will help in further study, higher education or the workplace.

## ➤ How does it work?

The Project Qualification has been designed so that learners can choose a project title that relates to their current study or a topic that they are personally interested in or passionate about.

There are three levels of Project, all designed to stretch, challenge and motivate students. Level 1 Foundation Project Qualification (FPQ) and Level 2 Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) are equivalent to half a GCSE, while Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is equivalent to half an A level. The EPQ is also worth up to 28 UCAS points.

We'll cover this in more detail later.

# > Why choose Pearson?

## Developed with teachers

We've developed our Project Qualification with feedback and insight from teachers, and according to best practice, to ensure they are backed by a robust quality-assurance process.

## Links to subjects and organisations

Project Qualification titles can relate to anything, from traditional subjects to personal interests. To help you narrow down your choices, we've developed starting points and ideas for topics linked to GCSE and A level subjects, as well as issues related to the wider world.

## Demonstrated experience

At Pearson, we have a well-established history of developing portfolio-based qualifications, so you can feel confident that we have the experience and knowledge to support you through our Project Qualification.

## Resources and support

Teachers can access a wide range of exemplars, commentaries and web resources, including detailed examiner reports and a comprehensive teacher's guide. Our new Future Ready online hub also provides an exclusive and wide range of support materials for Project learning, for both students and teachers. All of our support is included in your entry fee.

# ➤ The Level 1 & 2 Project Qualification

Our Pearson Edexcel Level 1 FPQ and Level 2 HPQ are ideal for students who want to explore an area of interest – and develop key skills at the same time.

Through a flexible, study-based approach, the Project helps students to develop as inquisitive, independent learners. Students work independently and with a tutor-assessor to plan, manage, complete and evaluate a single piece of work, which can take the form of a report, an artefact, a design or a performance.

## **The Level 1 & 2 Project Qualification:**

- can be taken at Key Stage 3 and at Key Stage 4 alongside GCSEs and BTECs, ensuring a broad and enhanced curriculum.
- encourages students to develop essential future skills such as independent learning, and prepare them for their next steps towards A level or an EPQ.
- is enhanced by our Future Ready support for Project learning, offering a wealth of support materials and guidance, including input from industry and educational experts.
- can be delivered as an 'Express' option (FPQ or HPQ Express), giving students the option to develop new skills and build on their knowledge in a focused period of time.

## Grading and GCSE equivalence

The Project is graded A\* to B at Level 1 and A\* to C at Level 2. Both levels require 60 guided learning hours, and there is a single unit entry for the Foundation and Higher Projects, which covers all potential outcomes.

HPQ (Level 2)

Grade	Equivalence
A*	half a GCSE at grade A*
A	half a GCSE at grade A
B	half a GCSE at grade B
C	half a GCSE at grade C

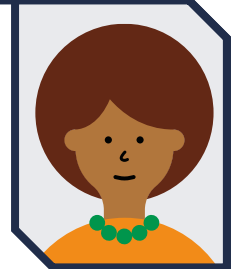
FPQ (Level 1)

Grade	Equivalence
A*	half a GCSE at grade D
A	half a GCSE at grade E
B	half a GCSE at grade F/G



## > FPQ and HPQ learner profiles

### Olivia



**Interests:** Climate change, social media, caring for animals

**Career goals:** Environmental engineer; Conservation officer; Sustainability consultant

#### **Potential project areas**

- An investigation project around pollution in the local area
- Produce a piece of jewellery made from recycled materials
- A report on whether businesses should do more to care for the environment

#### **How will this qualification help them?**

This qualification could help motivate and engage Olivia, as she'd have the opportunity to take a deep dive into one of her areas of interest that isn't fully covered in her school's curriculum. It will give Olivia the chance to gain some practical experience in this area, and to explore whether it's something that she wants to pursue a career in.

As part of the qualification, Olivia could have the opportunity to be mentored by somebody in the science industry. This could give her some insight into real challenges and opportunities facing the sector, and connect the work she's doing in her project to the real world.

If Olivia decided that she wanted her project outcome to be an investigation, then she would gain technical skills in data collection and analysis, which are useful for her current career goals. Regardless of which project outcome she chooses, she will still gain vital Future Ready skills such as using different sources for research, manipulating data, self-reflection and critical thinking.

#### **Where can they go next?**

Olivia could go on to A levels in science and geography, BTEC National in applied science, apply for an apprenticeship or get started in an entry-level role in the science industry.



## Adil



**Interests:** History, politics, art

**Career goals:** Museum curator, teacher

### Potential project areas

- A report on what effect the media has on politics
- Design and make the prototype for a piece of public sculpture to be sited in a prominent public space that commemorates an event from local history
- Investigate diversity in the UK's history curriculum

### How will this qualification help them?

Adil may not have the chance to study all the subjects he is interested in as part of his school's curriculum, so he could combine his interests by completing a Project Qualification. This would give him the freedom to work on something he's passionate about, and could help him decide what he would like to continue studying post-16.

Adil will gain Future Ready skills in analysis of arguments and critically assessing sources, composing key messages and structuring presentations.

If Adil decides to create something for his project, this could form part of a portfolio of work that he can then develop and present in any interviews for a job or in further education settings.

### Where can they go next?

Adil could go on to A levels in history, politics and art, BTEC Nationals in art and design or art and design practice, apply for an apprenticeship or get started in an entry-level role in a relevant industry.

## ➤ The Level 3 Project Qualification

Our Pearson Edexcel Level 3 EPQ supports learners with the transition to higher education or into the world of work.

Enhanced by our Future Ready support for project learning, this qualification gives students the opportunity to develop critical, reflective, problem-solving and independent learning skills through the planning, research and evaluation of a self-selected project.

Throughout their in-depth study, learners will develop and apply skills creatively, resulting in one of four project outcomes: a dissertation, an investigation, a performance or an artefact.

The EPQ can be delivered as an 'Express' option (EPQ Express) too, giving students the option to develop new skills and build on their knowledge in a focused period of time.

➤ **The Extended Project carries UCAS points and is highly valued by many universities. Find out more about how it can help your students to progress to higher education!**

*“The skills that students develop through the Extended Project are excellent preparation for university level study.”*

- The University of Manchester

## Grading, UCAS points and A level equivalence

The EPQ is graded A\* to E and requires 120 guided learning hours. The EPQ is equivalent to half an A level and worth up to 28 UCAS points.

Grade	UCAS points
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

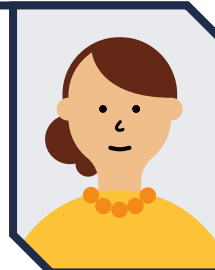
### Future Skills for Employability

Pearson's Future Skills for Employability is a 5–19 framework, suite of resources and a Level 3 EPQ designed to equip learners with the future skills needed to flourish in tomorrow's world of work.

➤ **Learn more and download the free framework online**

## > EPQ learner profiles

### Samia



**Interests:** Travelling, literature, podcasts

**Career goals:** Wants to go to university; Journalist; Writer; Editor

#### **Potential project areas**

- > A performance of a piece of literature
- > A documentary about an aspect of a particular country's culture
- > A report on the ethical issues raised by true crime podcasts

#### **How will this qualification help them?**

This qualification carries UCAS points and is highly regarded by higher education institutions. It could help Samia to get into the university she wants, possibly with a lower grade offer if she performs well in her EPQ.

This qualification will help Samia prepare for higher education and the world of work as she will develop relevant research and critical writing skills that are essential for her career goals. It could also help ease the transition from school to university, as she'll already be familiar with the type of work she'll be doing and the skills required. This includes skills such as creating and structuring arguments and counter-arguments, and writing and referencing a bibliography.

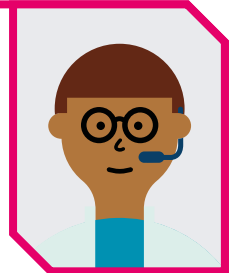
#### **Where can they go next?**

Samia could go on to higher education and work towards a degree in journalism or creative writing. She could also get started in an entry-level role in a relevant industry such as travel writing.

## Kai

**Interests:** Music, creating and editing videos, reviewing films

**Career goals:** Wants to go straight to work; Film composer; director



### Potential project areas

- Working as part of a group to create a short film
- Scoring a scene from a film
- Analysis on the impact music has on people's emotions

### How will this qualification help them?

Kai wants to go straight into the world of work after he's finished his qualifications; he doesn't want to go to university. If Kai produces a project related to his future career goals, it could give him a taster of the kind of work he would be doing in the real world.

This qualification will help Kai develop a range of skills that employers are looking for, such as time management and evaluation, which are both important skills for his current career goals. This qualification could give Kai experience of working in a group if he decides to do a group project, which will demonstrate that he's able to work collaboratively with other people - another important skill for his career goals.

There could be the opportunity for Kai to be mentored by somebody in the creative arts industry during the project process, too. This would give him some practical experience on how his work relates to the real world and offer him some insight from somebody currently facing real-life challenges in the sector. It can also give him a good network connection in the industry, so he'll be able to learn more about how the work he is doing relates to the real world - and make some connections for later life.

### Where can they go next?

Kai could get started in an entry-level role in the creative arts industry. He could also go to university if he changed his mind, and work towards a degree in film production or music.

## > The PQ Express

To help learners through school closures and exam cancellations, we launched the new Project Qualification (PQ) Express in April 2020. It's a fast-track approach to our PQ Level 1, 2 and 3 Project Qualification, giving learners the opportunity to develop new skills and deepen their understanding of a subject through project work. The Express approach is still available for any learner who wants to complete a PQ in a focused period.

### A school's experience

We caught up with the tutors and students at TLC Private School who shared their experiences of our EPQ Express, and how they used the qualification to develop skills and passions during the summer of 2020.

***“The EPQ undoubtedly prepares students for the next stage of their educational journey and introduces them to the skills needed in later life.”***

**- Catherine Lewis – EPQ Tutor (Year 11) and Tutor Assessor (Dissertation)**

***“I would definitely recommend the EPQ to any student. It has given me so many new skills and is an amazing qualification to have.”***

**- Lydia Wells (Year 11) – Dissertation**

> Read the case study

### **Getting started with the Project Qualification**

We know it can be challenging to integrate a new qualification into your curriculum. As the Project Qualification is skills-based rather than content-based, we want to make it as easy as possible for you to start teaching it.

### **Implementing the Project Qualification**

The course materials section of our website contains a range of documents offering guidance on integrating the Project Qualification into your school's curriculum, as well as support with the administrative side.

You'll find guidance on titles, assessment and submission in the teaching support pages for each level, as well as exemplars and on-demand training links.



## > Our new support guide

We've put links to all of our support into one handy document – so you can see at-a-glance what's available to help you deliver our Project Qualification. **Download it here!**

## > The future

### Help your students become Future Ready

Empower today's learners with the skills they need for higher education and the future world of work through project learning. We've created lots of support to help them get there!

### Project learning webinars for teachers

Learn about the principles and value of project learning in our five-minute webinars, presented by Dr John Taylor, Chief Examiner of the EPQ.

### Project learning webinars for students

In our 30-minute webinars, created in partnership with AccessEd and Act On It, students can learn key skills to help them with their project or think ahead to their university studies or future work.

### Future Ready Today podcast

What are today's teachers doing to prepare their students for the future?

We speak to teachers, examiners, employers and industry partners about how they are empowering today's learners for the future.

# future ready

## > Your next steps

Visit us online to:

- > **find out more** about our Project Qualification
- > **express your interest** via our short online form
- > explore our **Future Ready hub**.
- > **get in touch** with our consultants.

Are you future ready? >