



## Level 2 Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)

Course code: AQA 7992

This course is *not* part of the pathways process and would be studied after school depending on the timetable.

The AQA Level 2 Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) is an independent research project worth half a GCSE. Students choose a topic they are interested in, carry out research, and produce a written report and presentation. It helps them develop skills essential for GCSEs, A-Level, university and the workplace.

### Aims:

- Identify, design and complete an individual project, applying a range of organisational skills and strategies to meet agreed objectives.
- Obtain, critically select and use information from a range of sources. Analyse data, apply it relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of the topic.
- Select and use a range of skills, solve problems, take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, to achieve planned outcomes.
- Evaluate outcomes both in relation to agreed objectives and own learning and performance.
- Select and use a range of communication skills and media to present evidenced outcomes and conclusions in appropriate format.

### Content:

- Research skills, including locating, evaluating and selecting appropriate sources of information within the chosen topic.
- Practical and technical skills required to carry out the project safely and ethically, including risk assessment, use of appropriate research methods and consideration of ethical implications.
- ICT skills that support effective research, organisation and presentation of the final report.
- Project management skills, including time management, organisation of resources and coordination of tasks.
- Understanding of academic conventions, including the structure and style expected in formal research reports.

### Curriculum Map

Year	Curriculum Overview	Assessment
Year 10	Students learn core skills including research, independent study, planning, evaluating sources, note-taking, academic writing, synthesising information and project evaluation. They apply these skills to develop a focused question, research effectively and produce a well-structured written report.	Non-examined assessment comprising a production log and a written report of 2,000 words.
Year 11	Students learn to prepare and deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience, developing clear and confident oral communication skills. They also develop the ability to reflect on their learning and progress.	Non-examined assessment comprising of a presentation to a non-specialist audience.



### Assessment:

The HPQ is assessed entirely through coursework, with no formal written examinations. Students are assessed by their supervisor, who provides guidance and support without directing the project.

The evidence for assessment will comprise the following:

1. A completed Production Log.
2. The final project product: a 2,000 word written report and any additional evidence appropriate to the student's topic.
3. A presentation delivered to a non-specialist audience.

### Extended Learning:

Independent study is an important part of the HPQ. Students are expected to take responsibility for developing their project outside of lesson time. This includes researching their chosen topic, gathering and evaluating information, planning their next steps and refining their work as it progresses. Success in the qualification relies heavily on a student's ability to self-manage and stay organised.

### Connection to the JTFS Approach

Whole School Theme	How does <i>HPQ</i> support this?
STRIPE	The HPQ requires students to work independently outside the classroom, researching and developing their chosen project. This helps them to self-manage their time, show resilience when facing challenges, and demonstrate key STRIPE values such as independence, perseverance, and responsibility.
STEAM	The HPQ offers excellent opportunities to explore STEAM through independent projects that combine creativity, research, and problem-solving.
Literacy	Students use subject-specific vocabulary and academic terminology throughout the research and writing process, strengthening their literacy skills.
Numeracy	Students develop their ability to gather, interpret and apply data effectively to support their arguments and conclusions.
SMSC, British Values and Citizenship	The HPQ develops British Values by encouraging independent choices, ethical research practice and responsible expression of ideas. Students engage with diverse perspectives, promoting mutual respect, tolerance and reflective citizenship.