

LEVEL 3 EXTENDED PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

The Level 3 Extended Project is a new A-Level equivalent qualification introduced as a pilot in 2008 and is now available to all students from September 2009. It is a one-year course completed during Y12 only, offering students the chance to develop many of the skills expected of high level study.

As the title suggests, this option allows students to complete a substantial dissertation based project over the course of an academic year. The whole process of the completion of the project is assessed in addition to the final result. Students have a free choice of their choice of project title, with some recent titles including:

“Is it ethical to genetically engineer babies for designer purposes?”

“Do violent computer games contribute to anti-social behaviour?”

“Should businesses change their practice to respect the environment?”

“What are the long term health effects of binge drinking?”

“How do our senses affect our food preferences?”

“Is there a perceptible difference between organic and non-organic food?”

“Will we find life in the solar system?”

“Can we justify human space exploration?”

This qualification is ideal for students aiming to attend University as it clearly demonstrates the independent learning and advanced study skills required for successful continued study. It consists of around 2/3 periods per week of study.

COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of three components.

- 1) Initial taught element of around 12 weeks. Students learn the skills required to be successful learners. These include research skills, referencing skills, reading techniques, dissertation structure, avoiding plagiarism and creating effective arguments.
- 2) Tutorial format for around 10 weeks. Students meet in small groups of around 4-5 with their tutor and discuss, review and evaluate their progress so far.
- 3) Second taught element of around 6 weeks. In this section presentation skills are taught and developed as well as completing review activities on the actual dissertation.

ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed in three ways.

- 1) The completed dissertation (approx 6000 words).
- 2) The oral presentation (10-15 minutes) and Q&A session.
- 3) Progress logs and records from weekly tutorials.

The course has no written exam and all work is finished by early May.

OPPORTUNITIES

This course carries UCAS points (up to 60) and is an excellent way of demonstrating the ability to be an independent learner. The tutorial format of the centre of the course is ideal preparation for many University courses.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be successful at this course, students need to be self motivated to complete the majority of work themselves, under guidance from their tutor. The entire process of how they complete the course is assessed in addition to the final written dissertation and presentation so students need to be focused on this course from day 1.

We anticipate that this course will appeal to students already taking 4 AS levels and aiming to go to university after the sixth form. Students require a B grade in English and in their chosen area of study for the course.

For further information contact Mr Pinder or Mr Drew