

EPQ Summer Work

Your task over the summer is to do some preliminary thinking about some possible topics for your EPQ project.

Use the Oxplore Website for inspiration at the start:

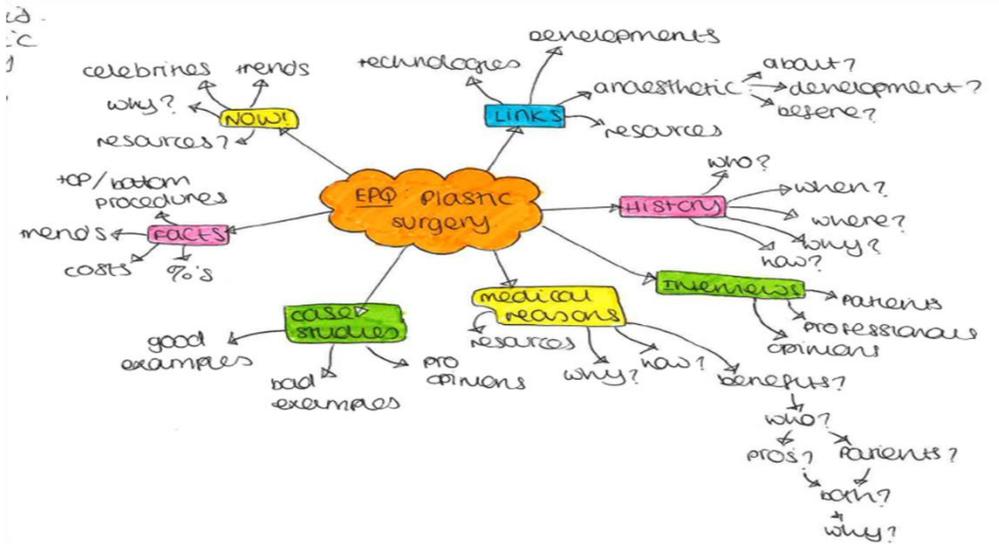
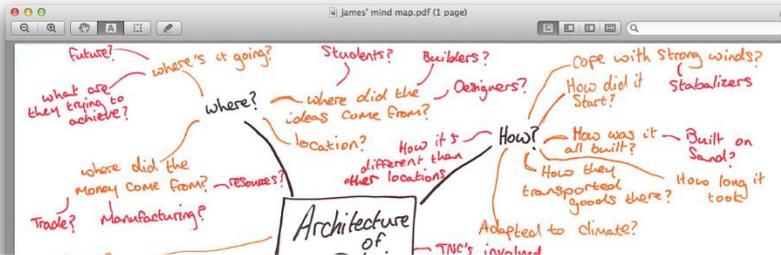
<https://explore.org/>

Use this website to explore possible topic areas and get you thinking.

In September you are to come to school with 3 possible areas you may wish to focus on.

1. Use the information on this document to help you create 3 mind maps of different topic areas you may want to study.

2. For each topic area can you think of a possible question or artefact brief?



Choosing a topic

The extended project allows you to develop and **extend** a specific area of your studies, a personal interest or activity set aside from your normal main programme of study.

“What should I write about?”

When choosing a topic you may wish to consider:

- Do you have a favourite subject?
- Hobbies, interests, activities?
- Is there a topic you wish to find more about?
- Is this a topic you wish to study at university?
- You can't resubmit a piece of work that you have already completed as part of another examination
- You can't reuse a project that you have already completed as part of another course of study

- You must have no emotional or personal interest in your topic that may affect your ability to remain balanced and unbiased.
- “Don’t re-invent the wheel”. Build on what has gone before, select a topic:
 - that is already well researched
 - that you can discuss with a teacher within school (ask an expert!)
 - in which you can bring a different perspective

Your summer task:

1. Look at the list of suggested topics below. Choose 3 that interest you and mind map them.
2. Choose one of the topic areas and come up with 3 possible questions – there are examples of past questions at the end.
3. Bring all your work in September.

The following is a list of suggested topics which may be useful to generate a list of ideas.

Arts & Entertainment

Advertising and children
Architecture
Arts education
Art therapy
BBC licence fee
Celebrity culture
Censorship
Ceramics

Diversity and the media
Entertainment law
Fashion
Freedom of the Press
Identity
Images of Women
Interior design
Media and public opinion
Music

Painting
Paparazzi
Performance art
Youth culture
Photography
Political use of the media
Propaganda
Public art
Public subsidies 'the arts'
Reality TV

Environment & Construction

Affordable housing
Airport expansion
Animal welfare
Architecture
Buy-to-let market
Carbon footprints
Climate change

Community cohesion
Community safety
Congestion zones
Environmental impact
Eco-housing
Eco-towns
Energy efficiency
Greenbelt
Graffiti
Habitat destruction

High rise housing
House prices
Local planning
Out-of-town shopping
Public housing
Rainforest
destruction
Renewable energy
Road building
Road pricing
Second homes

Business & Engineering
Advertising

Banking
Biofuels
Carbon footprints
Carbon offset
Consumer rights
Corruption
Economic
development

Fossil fuels
Global energy
Marketing
Money markets
Nuclear power
Pollution taxes
Product design
Quality of life
Cyber bullying

Renewable
technologies
Recycling
Supermarkets
Sustainability
Sustainable materials
Wind farms
Women engineers
Identity theft
Impact of IT on
society
Transplantation

Science & Technology

Animal
experimentation
Cloning
Computer gaming
Control of the
Internet

DNA
Data protection
Electronic tagging
Genetic engineering
Gene therapy
GM crops

Internet and
terrorism
Internet safety
Medical ethics
Pesticide use
Social networking

Health, Medicine & Society

Ageing population
Age discrimination
Alternative therapies
Binge drinking
Care of the elderly
Community
punishments
Community safety
Crime
CCTV
Disability issues

Discrimination
Diversity and equality
Drinking laws
Eating disorders
Gang culture
HIV/Aids
Hospital infections
Human rights
Justice system
Immigration
Mental health
Obesity
PCSOs

Parental
responsibility
Pensions
Child Protection
Race discrimination
Sex discrimination
Sex education
Smoking
Substance abuse
Teenage pregnancy

Sports & Leisure

Air traffic pollution

Carbon footprints

Carbon offset
Commercialisation of sport
Congestion
Drugs in sport
Eco-tourism
Exercise

Facilities for young people
Fitness
Football
Football related violence
Gambling

Gap years
Goal-line technology
Loss of parks/fields
Money in sport
Olympics
Public transport
Tourism

Languages and Global Issues

Child labour
Drugs
Economic development
Education
Energy generation
Food production
Fossil fuels
Global warming

Globalisation
Habitat destruction
Human Rights
Homelessness
Language learning
Migration
Mines
National identity
Overpopulation
Pollution
Poverty

Religion
Slavery
Terrorism
United Nations
War and conflict
Waste water

Here are some past titles to give you ideas:

Art and Design

'How the development of animal art has influenced Kim Thompson and how I can take inspiration from these sources in developing animal art of my own?' - Essay plus Artefact: Painting

To what extent do Louise Bourgeois's Cells installation pieces reflect the concept "fear is pain"? – Essay plus Artefact: art-work, sculpture.

To what extent can we translate Angela Carter's work into a visual medium? – Essay plus Artefact: photographs, sketches and clothing relating to an Angela Carter-inspired fashion range.

Should we lessen the significance of money in society? – Essay plus Artefact: piece of art exploring the topic of money.

Computing

Are passwords an out-of-date technology for authentication?

Creative Writing

To what extent can the genre of 'dark fiction' allow for an exploration of feminist concerns? – Essay, plus Artefact: book of six short stories, 'The Coming Hour'.

How far can the concept of a school allow for an exploration of broader themes in creative writing? – Essay plus Artefact: three act play, 'Ritual'.

Dance

To what extent has Hip Hop dance evolved and changed from its origins? – Essay, plus Artefact: video of dance choreography.

Economics

Why are transfer fees and wages increasing, and what impact are they having on the football community?

Is the payday loan market ethical and how should it be regulated?

Is digital piracy a question of ethics, law or economics?

How large is the UK's capacity to accommodate more immigrants?

Geography

Is hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) a good idea for the UK?

History

Has British imperialism in Uganda done more harm than good?

How important was Bletchley Park to the Allied Victory of WW2?

Law

Is the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 deserving of the criticisms it has received?

Does the act of banning supposedly ‘dangerous’ books limit freedom of expression and can it be justified?

Should we be criminalised for what we say in the UK? Hate speech and the law.

Does the freedom of the press outweigh the people’s right to privacy?

Surveillance culture in the UK – has it gone too far?

To what extent does the Afghan legal system protect the rights of women in Afghanistan?

Media/film

'Do film adaptations of Batman change society's perception of the character?' -
Essay plus Artefact: Documentary Film

Can the media change the perceptions of its audience? – Essay plus Artefact:
film script and film.

Medical sciences

Are alternative treatments a 'real' alternative to conventional drug treatments in the management of pain?

To what extent can current immunological research advance cancer treatments?

Could stem cell research lead to a viable cure for Alzheimer's disease?

To what extent can the physiological and anthropometric traits required to succeed in professional rugby union be identified?

Physics

Can we send humans into the distant future?

Does the model of the atom need to be altered so that it satisfies Quantum Mechanics?

To what extent do the principles of Quantum Mechanics affect the physical world?

Politics and Philosophy

Can Britain in the 21st Century still be regarded as a patriarchal society?

Is William Beveridge's Welfare State an appropriate model for 21st Century Britain?

To what extent does the field of aesthetics provide an understanding of the emotive qualities of music?

Could robots experience emotions?

Psychology

To what extent do we understand the relationship between olfaction and the recall of evocative experiences? How far has research gone?

Should hypnotherapy be funded by the NHS?

Sciences

Is there a case for regarding biofuels as the fuels of the future?