



AQA

ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE



City &
Guilds

Extended Project Qualification

Carol Hibbert



A bit of background

- Greenhead College is a 6th form college in Huddersfield,
- with ~ 1800 students.
- Entry requirements is 5 Grade Cs at GCSE
- All A2 students take at least 3 “A” levels + GS + Enrichment
- Currently EPQ, along with Critical Thinking is an “AS” extra
- We are not intending to do Diplomas or IB but we do offer AQA Bacc

How were the students recruited?

- Posters around college
- Bulletin
- No academic restriction
- Required to complete registration form signed by tutor and subject link person (if appropriate)



Teacher involvement.....

- 1 Co-ordinator/supervisor + 5 subject specialist “volunteers”
- This year 1 co-ordinator + 2 supervisors + link person from each dept.
- **ADVICE: STAFF MEET WEEKLY**

How was the student time organised?

- 1 session per week - as an individual or in small groups
- This could be for teaching research skills, subject advice, general organisational skills
- YOU NEED TO KNOW THE STUDENTS REALLY WELL TO ASSESS THEM ACCURATELY
- YOU NEED TO MAKE NOTES ON THEIR PROGRESS



Getting Started

- Introductory meetings involved looking at overall requirements including log book and marking criteria
- Initial individual meetings are crucial to develop a **title**
- Some titles from 2007/8:

Cystic Fibrosis – Is gene therapy the answer?

Tipping the Balance – Terrorism and the 2004 Spanish General Election

A Linguistic Exploration into 17th century Religious Sonnets

Response to Population Pressures

Individual Sessions

Extract from student's log re teacher advice:

- - One's emphasis should be on analysis and evaluation, rather than mere description.
- - The project should aim to target a multitude of high level sources, both book and web based.
- - I should create and maintain a record of the work undertaken.
- - I should discuss ideas with my geography teacher. Her response was that I should concentrate on four countries and ensure I explained and evaluated the role of the theorists Malthus and Boserup. Religious Sonnets

Individual Sessions

- STUDENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE “WHOLE PICTURE” FROM THE ONSET
- THAT THEY WILL BE ASSESSED ON THE **PROCESS**
- USEFUL TO HAVE EXEMPLAR MATERIAL + RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION ON MOODLE
- As part of the Pilot 15 students took EPQ. 13 obtained Grade A.



Structure & Deadlines:

- For presentation date to be decided 29th Feb.
- For draft written report 7th March
- For actual written project 20th March
- For presentation 25th April
- Board deadline 15th May

Students' Experiences

- “ This is the first piece of work I’ve been wholly in charge of”
- “ EPQ gives me the opportunity to get credit for all the research I have done”.
- The EPQ has really helped enhance and in some areas develop my abilities to obtain and select relevant information from a number of different sources.
- I find that the skills I picked up on from the EPQ are making the transition from being spoon-fed at college to coming to a course like this much easier.
- I would definitely recommend the EPQ to any student wishing to continue into higher education as there are a lot of aspects of the qualification, particularly planning and organisation, which will help students settle into their university course more easily."



The “problems”

- Time management
- Keeping the log book up to date
- Organising the research findings



Finally

Advice to future candidates

- Firstly, you should research the general concerns relevant in your project and ensure that you note any relevant topics you hear in the media.
- Secondly, you should try to keep to deadlines, but if you miss any don't panic! Instead you should actively consolidate your work and remember never to get stuck on a complex issue for too long –
- instead **you should seek help from your project supervisor.**