



Extended Project Interim Examiners' Report

Summer 2024

Introduction

This report provides a summary of candidates' performance, including the assessment objectives/skills/topics/themes being tested, and highlights the characteristics of successful performance and where performance could be improved within the qualification as a whole.

A final report providing detailed commentary on candidate performance in each unit will be provided by 30th September 2024.

Subject Officer's Executive Summary

Entries for the Extended Project qualification for the Summer 2024 series were 983 candidates from 46 centres.

The main findings from the series were as follows:

Extended Project Summary

- As in previous years, the vast majority of candidates chose the dissertation route as the format to present their Extended Project. There was a small amount of artefact projects presented.
- This year's moderation highlighted once again the great diversity of research interests pursued by candidates. Moreover, it appears to be an increasing trend that candidates are choosing topics that relate to their Higher Education ambitions, thereby ensuring the motivation required to complete the qualification. It is therefore clear that both educational providers and students continue to value the qualification in terms of preparation for the demands of independent undergraduate or apprenticeship study.
- Setting an effective title for the Extended Project leads candidates into exploring and evaluating their chosen topic. 'To what extent' questions allow candidates to explore the different aspects of a central issue in terms of the available research material, before reaching a valid, evidence-based judgement. Less successful projects seen were largely due to a flawed question. 'What are' questions should be avoided as they lead candidates to a narrative description, rather than an evaluative, explorative outcome.
- There is a need for candidates to explicitly evaluate their sources, prior to the writing of their project. The best projects provided critical evaluation of both source reliability (credibility) and utility (content). Some candidates chose to do this in the form of a separate table, whilst others embedded it in either the literature review or separate footnotes.
- Fusing evidence from different sources in the same paragraph to develop a coherent and individual line of argument is a skill that candidates must develop, for them to fully understand how their research can be integrated to form a cohesive piece of extended writing. Another, if simpler, element to a coherent argument regards paragraph structure. A number of dissertations this summer suffered from an excessively fragmented format with virtually a new paragraph started after a couple of sentences. This is an area that centres can develop with their candidates.
- The 5,000-word guidance is an approximate requirement. However, dissertations below 4,500 words are not meeting the requirements of the Specification. At the other end of the spectrum, there have been projects seen this year that go beyond ten thousand words; double the suggested length. Such dissertations are usually found to have one or more of the following flaws:
 - Unnecessary descriptive detail
 - Factual material that is less relevant to the central question
 - Repetition of material

Administration Requirements

- This year's entries included a number of centres using the old Learner Record documentation whilst others had successfully adopted the new Candidate Production Record and Candidate Assessment Record paperwork.
- For the Summer 2025 entry, all submissions must be in the format of the Candidate Production Record and Candidate Assessment Record.

Using Surpass - E-Submission Platform

- The upload of candidate evidence was well managed by the majority of Centres.
- The organisation of candidates' evidence within the uploaded folders was an issue for some Centres. For future series, centres should upload documents with explicit titles e.g. 'Dissertation', 'Presentation', 'Source evaluation', rather than simply number the documents.

Professional Learning training 2024/25

The focus of the Professional Learning event for 2024/2025 will be exemplar projects in the new Candidate Production Record format from this Summer 2024 series. The redacted training material will include both dissertation and artefact-based exemplars, across the full A* to E standard. It is hoped that the planned Professional Learning event will give centre staff the confidence to develop effective use of the new documentation. As always, details on the 2024/25 training will be available on the open access [WJEC website](#) at the start of the new academic year.

Thank you again to everyone involved in the submission of EPQ entries this summer and we look forward to seeing similarly well researched and thought-provoking projects in 2025.

Supporting you

Useful contacts and links

Our friendly subject team is on hand to support you between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: 01443 845612

Email: epg@wjec.co.uk / epg@edugas.co.uk

Qualification webpage: [WJEC – Level 3 Extended Project](#) / [Edugas – Level 3 Extended Project](#)

See other useful contacts here: [Useful Contacts | WJEC](#)

Please find details for all our courses here: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/>

WJEC Qualifications

As Wales' largest awarding body, WJEC supports its education community by providing trusted bilingual qualifications, specialist support, and reliable assessment to schools and colleges across the country. This allows our learners to reach their full potential.

With more than 70 years' experience, we are also amongst the leading providers in both England and Northern Ireland.



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