



The Elements of the AQA Bacc

A-levels form the foundation of the AQA Bacc, with three more elements providing a broader academic and life-skills education.

<p style="text-align: center;">Broader Study ></p> <p style="font-size: small;">One AS-level from a choice of subjects, to develop analytical thinking and learning skills</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Enrichment Activities ></p> <p style="font-size: small;">Formal recognition of non-academic pursuits that develop valuable skills, and qualities, such as initiative, teamwork and leadership</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Extended Project ></p> <p style="font-size: small;">Development of independent learning, self managing and research ability through completion of an extended project</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Depth of Study ></p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: white;">Any three A-level subjects, to provide in-depth, academic study and to test knowledge, understanding and application</p>		

How is the AQA Bacc awarded?

The AQA Bacc is awarded on consistency of achievement.

Students meet the fulfilment criteria by achieving at least a grade E in each of their three A-levels, a broader study AS-level subject and in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); and a minimum of 100 hours of enrichment activities.

The AQA Bacc is awarded with a Pass, Merit or Distinction; the level is determined by each student's A-level and EPQ grades.

AQA Bacc Award	Pass	Merit	Distinction
Depth of study - three A-levels	E or above	C or above	A or above
Extended Project Qualification	E or above	C or above	A or above
Enrichment activities	Pass	Pass	Pass
Broader study AS-level	Pass (E or above)	Pass (E or above)	Pass (E or above)

Universities will continue to make their offers based on the various elements of the AQA Bacc – Successful students will receive an AQA Bacc certificate as well as their A-level, AS-level and EPQ certificates.


>What is broader study?

Along with many others, may already offer AS-level subjects that encourage students to develop their powers of **analytical, critical and logical thinking**.

These multi-disciplinary skills are important to success in students' current studies, as well as in higher education, work and life.

To develop and demonstrate such skills, the AQA Bacc requires students to pass an **AS-level in one of the following** subjects, from any awarding body.

- **Citizenship** – students address the relationship between the individual, the law and the state and the nature of identities; in doing so, they develop a range of skills that can be applied far beyond the study of Citizenship
- **Critical Thinking** – students develop their skills of analysis and evaluation, and have the opportunity to display their reasoning skills in presenting their own arguments

- 
- **General Studies** – students discuss the nature of knowledge, truth and belief; analyse data; information, ideas, opinions and argument; examine questions, form values, make judgements and draw conclusions

>What is Enrichment?

Enrichment acknowledges the extra curricular activities and experiences students already enjoy and do outside of school or college. Enrichment broadens horizons, develops new skills and contributes to students' personal and social development.

You can design an enrichment scheme to match your centres' educational aims and values by selecting which **eligible activities** to offer to your students. Enrichment fits easily into your timetable and can be offered internally or externally through **Enrichment providers**, such as Duke of Edinburgh's. To ensure a broad mix of activities, we have divided eligible enrichment activities into three core areas:

- **work-related learning**
- **community participation**
- **personal development.**

By taking part in different types of activities, students gain and develop important skills such as commitment, good citizenship, initiative, leadership and team spirit, all of interest to employers and universities.

How is the enrichment element assessed?

The most important assessment is done by the student themselves by reflecting upon and communicating what they have gained from enrichment.

Formal requirements

Students must complete at least 100 hours of eligible enrichment activities, across two or all three of the core areas and keep a record of these activities including reflections on what has been gained. However, students who invest more time in enrichment will achieve more and realise the full benefits.

>What is the Extended Project Qualification?

Universities and employers value a student's ability to research and analyse material independently. Promoting independent learning is also central to the ethos of the AQA Bacc and is gained through the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Universities support and value the EPQ as evidence of a student's ability to use a range of skills that are vital for successful study in higher education. The EPQ:

- gives students the opportunity to **choose their own topic**
- makes students **responsible** for their own learning and development
- **inspires and motivates** students – completing the project gives them greater confidence and a sense of achievement.
- teaches new skills, such as, **independent research, project management, reflection** and **self-directed learning**
- awards **70 UCAS points** for an **A***.

How is the EPQ assessed?

Students are assessed on their ability to manage, develop, record and realise their projects. If students are already taking the EPQ with another awarding body they can still sit the AQA Bacc. The EPQ is graded on an A*–E scale; with the grade contributing to the level of AQA Bacc awarded.

>Need more information in school?...come and talk to Mrs Butcher or Ms Sullivan.

<http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/bacc-updates.php?id=01&prev>