

Computer Science - A level Transition - Mini EPQ

Introduction

Over the course of your A levels and definitely beyond, most subjects that you may choose to study, will expect you to develop better research skills and from this the ability to create longer pieces of writing based upon your research. Some students at A level choose to do an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification ([link here](#))) where they need to decide on their own project. If you study Computer Science, in year 13 you will need to complete a programming project of your choosing, where you will be required to analyse, design, create, test and evaluate your software product.

As part of your sixth form transition we would like you to decide upon a theme and research this topic, the output from this will be an extended piece of writing (See How this should be structured below). We would like you to choose a theme you are interested in, ideally this theme would explore areas such as cutting edge technology e.g Quantum Computing and its impact on current security measures such as encryption and/or something that can be controversial and evaluative e.g. Could violent video games be beneficial to society? Received wisdom would suggest the answer is no - but what does the evidence say? ([link here](#)). Of course these are just some suggestions but we want you to pick a topic you are genuinely interested in pursuing so we are very flexible about what you decide to do - be creative!

How should this be structured

Summary (max 150 words). Academic papers often include a summary as people are busy and may not have the time to read everything you have written. What are the key findings from your research? What are your conclusions?

Main Text (minimum 1000 words - Maximum 2000 words)

In this you will explain your topic and look at evidence that supports your case. It would be beneficial if there was some balance with counter arguments being explored and critiqued if appropriate.

Sources

Getting into the good habit of quoting your sources of information will be beneficial to you in the long run. Failing to quote sources can lead to accusations of plagiarism but fair use of other people's work and ideas is normal and natural. The most common form of referencing is called Harvard Referencing and here are some links to help you with this, many others also exist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDgqqPvMn0U> (watch this first)

<https://www.citethisforme.com/citation-generator/harvard>

Suggested sources for generating ideas

N.B. Some of these sources may include areas that are not directly focussed on Computer Science but more technology in general - please pick something from here that is truly relevant to CS.

<https://www.ted.com/talks?sort=newest&topics%5B%5D=Technology>

<https://www.wired.co.uk/topic/long-read>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology>

https://www.documentarymania.com/results.php?pageNum_Recordset1=0&totalRows_Recordset1=95&search=Computer%20Science&genre=

Handing in your work

Please email your Mini-EPQ to the following email address: m.halfyard@sevenkings.school by 05 September 2022. If you would prefer to receive feedback you can email this before the date. We will discuss this when you bring and good examples will be shared with the groups