

ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification: Abridged Specification

Qualification number: 603/3495/2

ASDAN qualification reference: EPQ

Extended Project Qualification: Abridged Specification

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Section 1 – ASDAN

1.1 Introduction

ASDAN is an education charity and awarding body. We provide curriculum programmes and qualifications to equip learners to thrive in 21st Century education, work and life. Developed and managed by practitioners, ASDAN grew out of research work at the University of the West of England in the 1980s and was formally established as an educational charity in 1991.

ASDAN provides support to thousands of registered learners and centres (mostly schools and colleges) throughout the UK and in other countries. We publish more than 200 learning resources, develop valid and reliable assessments for all our programmes and develop new curriculum programmes and qualifications in response to the needs of learners and employers.

1.2 Qualification Specification

The aim of this abridged qualification specification is to provide learners and centres with information about the content, which includes the purpose, details of the qualification, learning outcomes and the assessment objectives of the qualification. This is a live document and, as such, will be updated when required.

The full qualification specification covers the qualification objectives in detail, along with the assessment principles, mark scheme and assessment requirements. The full qualification specification is available from the ASDAN website.

1.3 Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this qualification should be addressed to:

ASDAN Main Office, Wainbrook House, Hudds Vale Road, St George, Bristol BS5 7HY

Tel: 0117 941 1126

Email: info@asdan.org.uk

Website: <https://www.asdan.org.uk>

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Section 2 – Qualification information

2.1 Qualification Purpose

The ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides learners with the skills that employers and higher education are looking for, by encouraging independent study, critical thinking and teamwork. It may also be useful when they are applying for a job or to university as it provides evidence of their ability to develop valuable skills. Undertaking the Extended Project Qualification encourages learners to apply appropriate skills in their studies and it is ideal for improving transferable skills such as planning, research, analysis and evaluation.

2.2 Qualification number

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2.3 Qualification Level

This qualification has been listed in England on the Register of Regulated Qualifications at Level 3.

2.4 Location of the qualification within the subject/sector classification system

14.1 Foundations for Learning and Life

14.2 Preparation for Employment

2.5 Who is this qualification intended for?

The ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification is designed for 16-19 year olds who are studying full time and sits alongside their other Level 3 academic or technical qualifications. There are no formal entry requirements, but it is anticipated that learners would have achieved four GCSEs including English and mathematics (grade A*-C for current grades or grade 9-4 for the new grades).

Whether learners are intending to undertake further study or enter the workplace, this qualification will allow them to develop a range of skills. The qualification might be appropriate if learners:

- have previously studied a range of Level 2 qualifications
- wish to develop skills relating to project work
- would like to have a focus in their work experience
- would like to develop a deeper understanding of an area of interest
- would like to complement their existing studies for further study in further or higher education
- would like to demonstrate their understanding of a chosen career path

Learners must produce a design, artefact, performance, report or dissertation on their chosen topic.

2.6 Total Qualification Time

Total Qualification Time (TQT) is an estimate of the number of hours an average learner would reasonably be expected to need in order to achieve the qualification.

The ASDAN Extended Project Qualification contains:

- Total Qualification Time (TQT) of: 120 hours
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH) of: 30 hours

2.7 Review date

This qualification will be reviewed every three years.

Qualification review date: 28/02/2021

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2.8 Progression

The ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification gives learners the skills and experience required to succeed in employment or further study.

2.9 Age range

Suitable for age range: 16–19 years

2.10 Structure of the qualification

To achieve the ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification, learners must achieve the following four assessment objectives:

Assessment objectives		Weighting
AO1. Manage	Identify, design, plan and carry out a project, applying a range of skills, strategies and methods to achieve objectives.	20%
AO2. Use resources	Research, critically select, organise and use information, and select and use a range of resources. Analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any links, connections and complexities of the topic.	20%
AO3. Develop and realise	Select and use a range of skills including, where appropriate, new technologies and problem solving, to take decisions critically and achieve planned outcomes.	40%
AO4. Review	Evaluate all aspects of the extended project, including outcomes in relation to stated objectives and own learning and performance. Select and use a range of communication skills and media to convey and present evidenced outcomes and conclusions.	20%

Please note: All assessment objectives must be attained to achieve the ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification.

2.11 Taught element

Delivery of the ASDAN Extended Project Qualification in centres will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the learner's progress. It is expected that 30 hours will be required for the taught element.

2.12 What the learner needs to do

Learners must select a topic then plan, research and develop their idea which will be presented as one of the following:

- a dissertation – a research-based written report (approximately 5,000 words)
- a performance* – a development of practical skills, for example, music, drama or sport
- an artefact* – designing a piece of furniture or a garment, creating a website, solving a problem, for example, in engineering or construction or producing a piece of graphic design

(*This must include a written report of approximately 1,000 words)

The whole project will conclude with a presentation by the learner.

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Group projects will be allowed, however, all learners must contribute at all stages of the project including:

- an individual written report
- an individual presentation on the group project
- achievement of every assessment objective

The ASDAN Level 3 Extended Project Qualification is internally assessed and marked by the centre and externally moderated by ASDAN's external moderator.

2.13 Grading

This qualification is graded A*/A/B/C/D/E. The qualification is graded overall; the components of the qualification will not be graded.

2.14 UCAS Points:

The EPQ is a stand-alone qualification that is worth up to 28 UCAS points in the new tariff (equivalent to 70 UCAS points in the old tariff).

2.14 Language

ASDAN qualifications are published and assessed in English only.

2.16 Regulation

This qualification is regulated by Ofqual (the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator) in England.

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Section 3 – Qualification learning outcomes

Learning outcome AO1: Manage a project

Level: 3

Learning outcome aim

This learning outcome provides learners with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of the design process and of how the planning and design phases are co-ordinated and managed. Learners must identify, plan and complete an individual or group project, developing a range of organisational skills and strategies to meet agreed objectives.

Assessment method:

Project to include:

- project proposal
- project proposal authorisation
- initial, mid-point and final project reviews
- project plan
- project activity log
- work experience records
- written report/dissertation of appropriate length
- presentation including additional evidence e.g. handouts etc.

Learning outcome The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1. Be able to identify a topic of interest	1.1 Select a topic of interest 1.2 Prepare a project proposal 1.3 Negotiate with teacher/tutor/assessor a suitable topic
2. Be able to plan/design the project	2.1 Prepare a plan or design proposal 2.2 Identify project aims and objectives 2.3 Identify the proposed activities to be undertaken for the project 2.4 Identify the proposed resources needed for the project 2.5 Identify contingencies that may be required 2.6 Evaluate how the planning and design phases are co-ordinated and managed
3. Be able to carry out and manage the project	3.1 Manage the project through its lifecycle 3.2 Monitor the progress regularly 3.3 Use organisational skills and strategies to ensure all objectives are met 3.3 Review progress, acting on the outcomes 3.4 Adapt plan and timescales to ensure the project is completed

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Learning outcome AO2: Use resources to inform the project

Level: 3

Learning outcome aim

This learning outcome provides learners with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to plan and carry out independent research, select appropriate information and analyse the data collected. Learners must obtain, critically select and use information from a range of sources and apply and demonstrate understanding of the linkages, connections and complexities of the topic.

Assessment method:

- project proposal
- project proposal authorisation
- initial, mid-point and final project reviews
- project plan
- project activity log
- work experience records
- written report/dissertation of appropriate length
- presentation including additional evidence e.g. handouts etc.

Learning outcome The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1. Be able to undertake independent research	1.1 Identify the most appropriate resources to use for their project 1.2 From a range of resources, select appropriate information to meet objectives
2. Be able to obtain and select information from their research	2.1 Collect evidence and select information using appropriate methodology 2.2 Recognise any appropriate links, connections and complexities of the topic 2.3 Record the source of information relevantly 2.4 Produce a bibliography which uses an appropriate and consistent format
3. Be able to analyse data collected	3.1 Distinguish between primary and secondary sources 3.2 Differentiate between facts, speculation and subjective opinion 3.3 Extract, interpret and summarise information 3.4 Present the research in a coherent, well-organised manner

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Learning outcome AO3: Develop and realise the project

Level: 3

Learning outcome aim

This learning outcome provides learners with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop and realise a project; including problem solving; making decisions critically, creatively and flexibly; keeping records; and working with others.

Assessment method:

- project proposal
- project proposal authorisation
- initial, mid-point and final project reviews
- project plan
- project activity log
- work experience records
- written report/dissertation of appropriate length
- presentation including additional evidence e.g. handouts etc.

Learning outcome The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1. Be able to select and use a range of skills to solve problems and to take decisions critically and flexibly	1.1 Take responsibility for planning, organising and carrying out tasks for the project 1.2 Interpret evidence gathered to inform the project 1.3 Use problem solving and project management techniques 1.4 Select and use relevant techniques, tools, equipment and technologies 1.4 Keep records which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • document progress • document activities undertaken • record the decision-making process 1.5 Check progress regularly as detailed in the plan/design
2. Be able to work with others	2.1 Work with others including the teacher/tutor/assessor 2.2 Collaborate with others to work towards common goals, reach agreements, managing discussions to achieve results
3. Be able to achieve planned outcomes	3.1 Present the research in a coherent, well-organised manner using an appropriate style and structure for the project 3.2 Provide evidence for each aspect

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Learning outcome AO4: Review and evaluate the project

Level: 3

Learning outcome aim

This learning outcome provides learners with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills of reviewing, evaluating and drawing conclusions for the project, before presenting their findings to an audience in an appropriate format using a range of communication skills and media.

Assessment method:

- project proposal
- project proposal authorisation form
- initial, mid-point and final project reviews
- project planning form
- project activity log
- work experience records
- written report/dissertation of appropriate length
- presentation including additional evidence e.g. handouts etc.

Learning outcome The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1. Be able to review and evaluate the project	1.1 Analyse project outcomes 1.2 Evaluate the project 1.3 Draw relevant conclusions from the evaluation 1.4 Evaluate own learning and performance
2. Be able to select and use a range of communication skills and media	2.1 Use a range of communication skills and media appropriately, to present their project
3. Be able to present evidenced outcomes and conclusions	3.1 Present the project outcome and conclusion effectively to a previously defined audience 3.2 Engage with the audience 3.3 Respond to questions

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