

## EPQ Summer Work

*"Wonder is the beginning of all wisdom"*  
-Socrates

1. **Sign up to FutureLearn** and join this free course led by the University of Southampton to guide you through the introductory phases of the EPQ:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project>

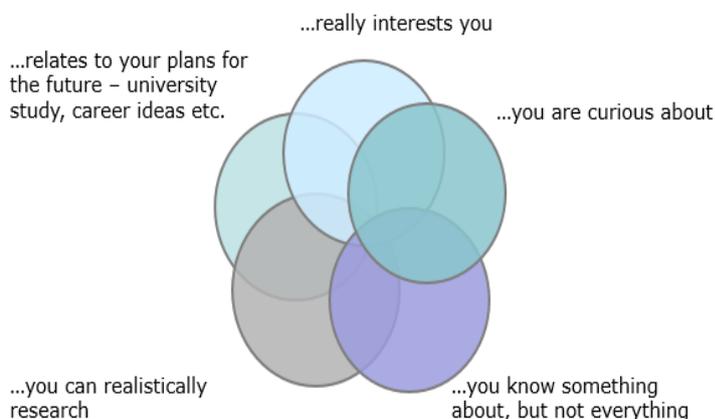
For your EPQ you really can work on anything at all. In this regard it's a great opportunity, probably quite unlike anything you're used to doing at school. This might be really exciting, especially if you already know what topic you'd like to focus on. However it might equally be a bit daunting – the range of possibilities can seem overwhelming.

You will benefit most from the project if you don't try to recycle things you've already explored in your education to date – for instance looking again at the same aspect of roman history that you did for GCSE. You also need to avoid drawing on the same research or fieldwork that you will be submitting for another A-level or equivalent qualification.

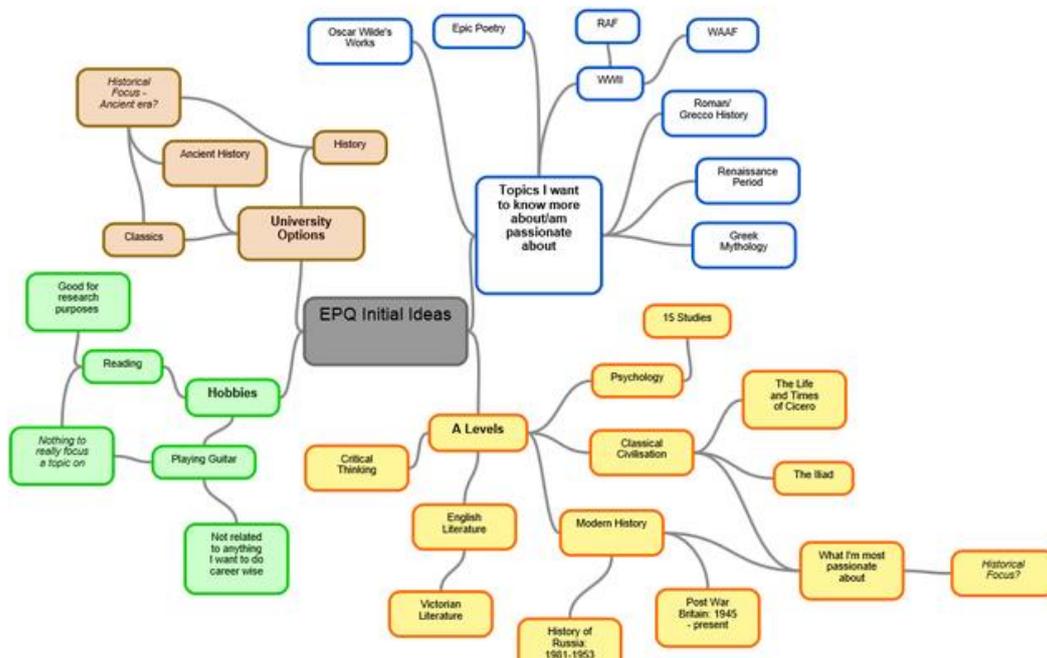
It's good to think broadly to begin with, so that you really explore your options before diving in – this is something you'll be spending a lot of time and energy on so you want to make sure you ultimately focus on the right topic. The EPQ may be something you're doing just because it sounds really interesting and challenging.



### Choosing your topic Identify a theme that...



2. **Produce a concept map that identifies some key themes that interest you.** For instance, you may want to use it to explore something that isn't on your subject curricula. But you may also want to think a little more strategically about it – could you maybe use it to explore a topic that will be relevant to your choice of university course or a job after school? You can **handwrite/sketch** or use a digital format to do this:



3. Once you have narrowed down a research topic idea – **start to read around the general topic** – **keep a record of your research**, note down any articles or books that are useful. You should aim to have at least one book, one newspaper article, one documentary and one relevant TED talk.

4. Create **an initial ideas map** to include a variety of different avenues of questioning, thinking of potential areas for your research project. Again, you can handwrite/sketch or use a digital format to do this:

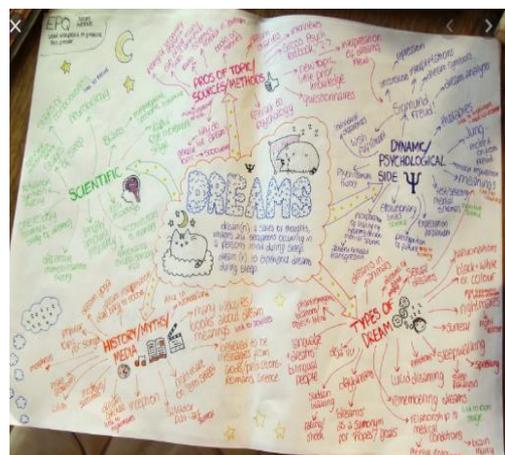


#### Exploring Question Words

Before deciding on your research question you need to consider the different *types* of question you can ask

Take your bundle of question words

- Identify which words would be most or least helpful in forming your question.
- As you go along, consider why some will be more or less appropriate



5. **Create an EPQ folder** to save and keep a record of all of your EPQ work over the Summer. Mindmaps, sketches and notes can be used as evidence of your initial planning stages.

Happy researching!