Sandringham School
'Everybody can be Somebody'

EPQ Summer Work

"Wonder is the beginning of all wisdom"
-Socrates

1.**Sign up for FutureLearn:** Join this free course led by the University of Southampton, designed to guide you step-by-step through the introductory phases of your EPQ:

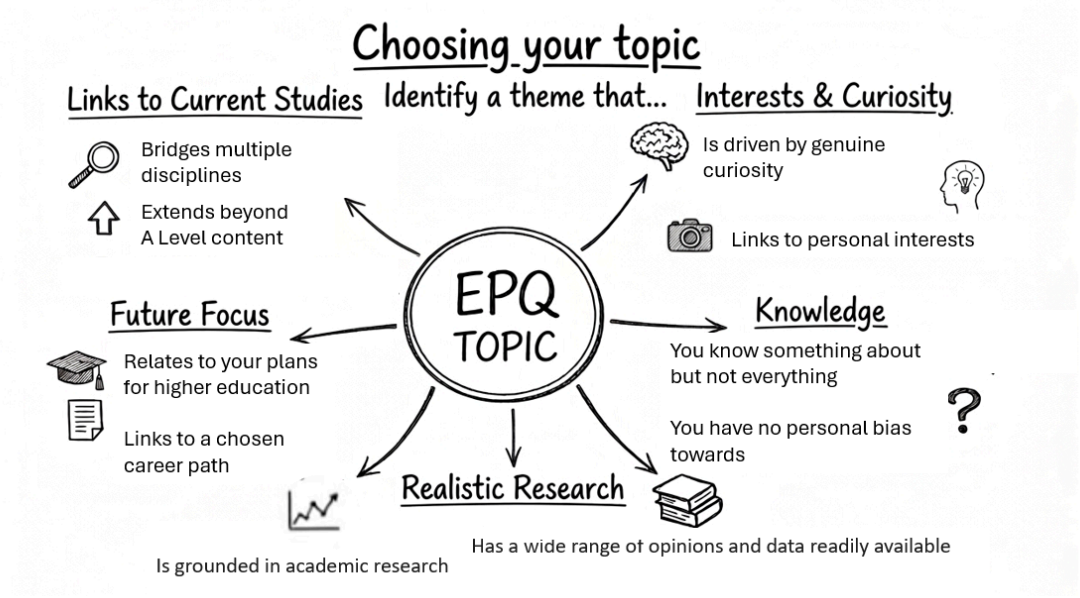
https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project

One of the best things about the EPQ is that you can choose to study absolutely anything. It is a fantastic opportunity, and probably quite unlike any project you have done at school before. If you already have a topic in mind, this blank canvas is incredibly exciting; however, if you are unsure, the sheer range of possibilities can feel a bit daunting.

To get the most out of your project, **avoid recycling topics** you have already covered in school, such as revisiting the exact same period of history you studied at GCSE. Crucially, your EPQ **must not overlap** with any research, coursework or fieldwork that you will submit for your other **A Levels** or equivalent qualifications.

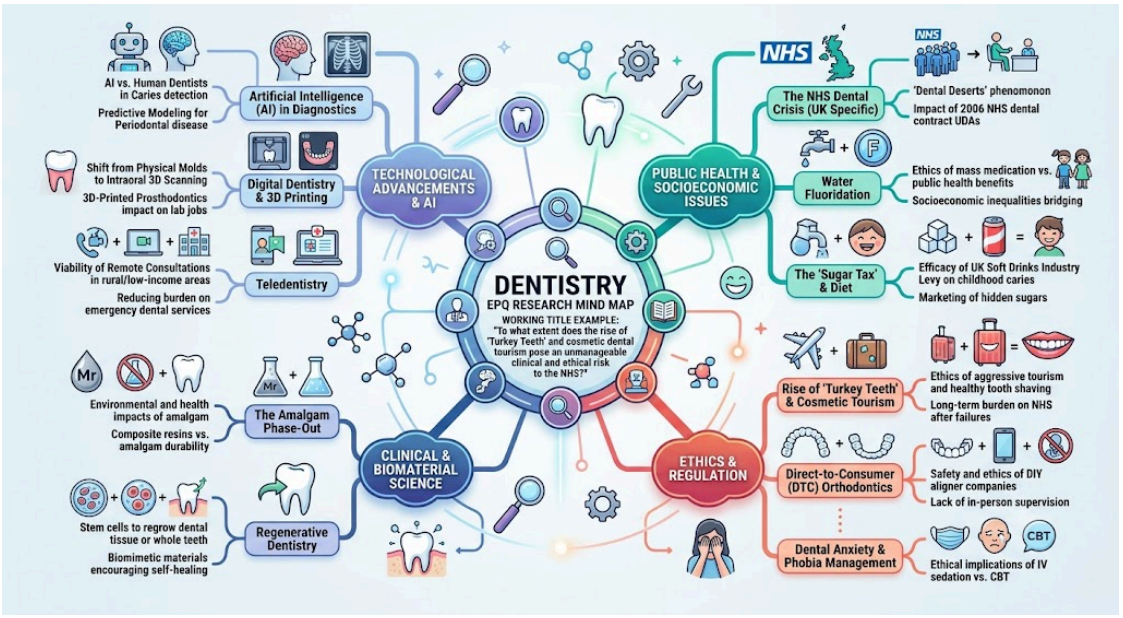
At this early stage, it helps to **cast a wide net**. Explore a broad range of options before you dive in. You will be dedicating a significant amount of time and energy to this project over the coming months, so it is vital to choose a topic you are genuinely passionate about.

2. Create a digital mind map that maps out the key themes and topics that genuinely interest you. When exploring ideas, think about how you can use this freedom to your advantage. This is your chance to study a **fascinating topic** that isn't covered in your A Levels. You may also consider aligning your project with your future goals. Could you use the EPQ to explore a subject relevant to your ideal university course or future career?



3. Once you have narrowed down a topic, start exploring the general subject and **keep a digital log of everything you read or watch**. Tracking your sources early will save you massive amounts of time when building your final bibliography. To ensure a well-rounded foundation, aim to find a diverse mix of introductory material, including at least one book, one newspaper article, one documentary and one relevant TED Talk.

4. Next, create a **focused digital mind map for a single, specific topic area** to explore various lines of questioning and potential research angles. If you have a few different ideas competing for your final choice, feel free to produce more than one map. Ensure that each map focuses strictly on one individual topic. This targeted approach will help you drill down into specific avenues of questioning and find the perfect angle for your project.



5. **Create a dedicated digital folder** to save and organise all of your EPQ work over the summer. Your initial mind maps, research log and notes are crucial evidence of your early planning stages, which counts toward your final submission. Happy researching!