

ISEB
Independent Schools Examinations Board

Discover the ISEB Project Qualification (iPQ)

How enquiry-led, skills-based learning can transform pupil motivation, engagement, and achievement

www.iseb.co.uk/iPQ


“TO SAY THAT WE HAVE LOVED BEING INVOLVED IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. IT IS INCREDIBLY REWARDING TO SEE PUPILS PURSUING SOMETHING THEY ARE INDIVIDUALLY MOTIVATED BY... IF SCHOOLS HAVEN’T EXPLORED THE iPQ, THEY REALLY SHOULD.”
Ross Borthwick
iPQ Lead and Head of Sustainability and History at Cottesmore School, UK

What is the iPQ?

The ISEB Project Qualification (iPQ) provides a framework for teaching and assessing the development of independent, pupil-led project-learning skills, taking the form of a 15-20 hour-long project. It can be used as a stand-alone addition to an existing curriculum, or as an alternative to one or more curriculum subjects. The iPQ can be completed by students in Year 5 through to Year 8.

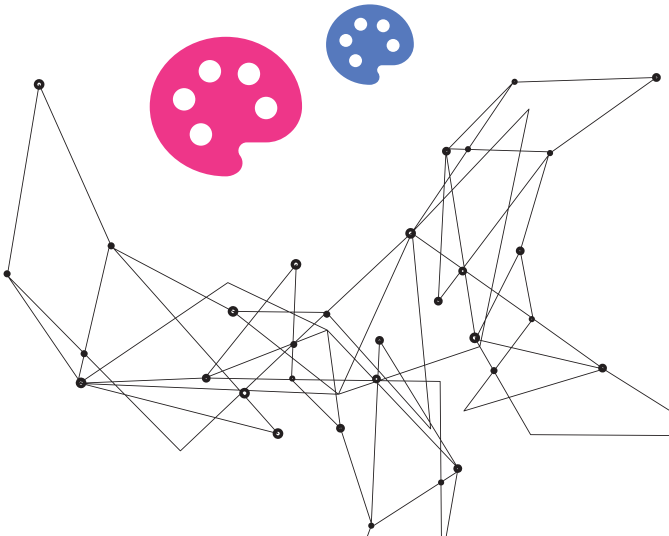


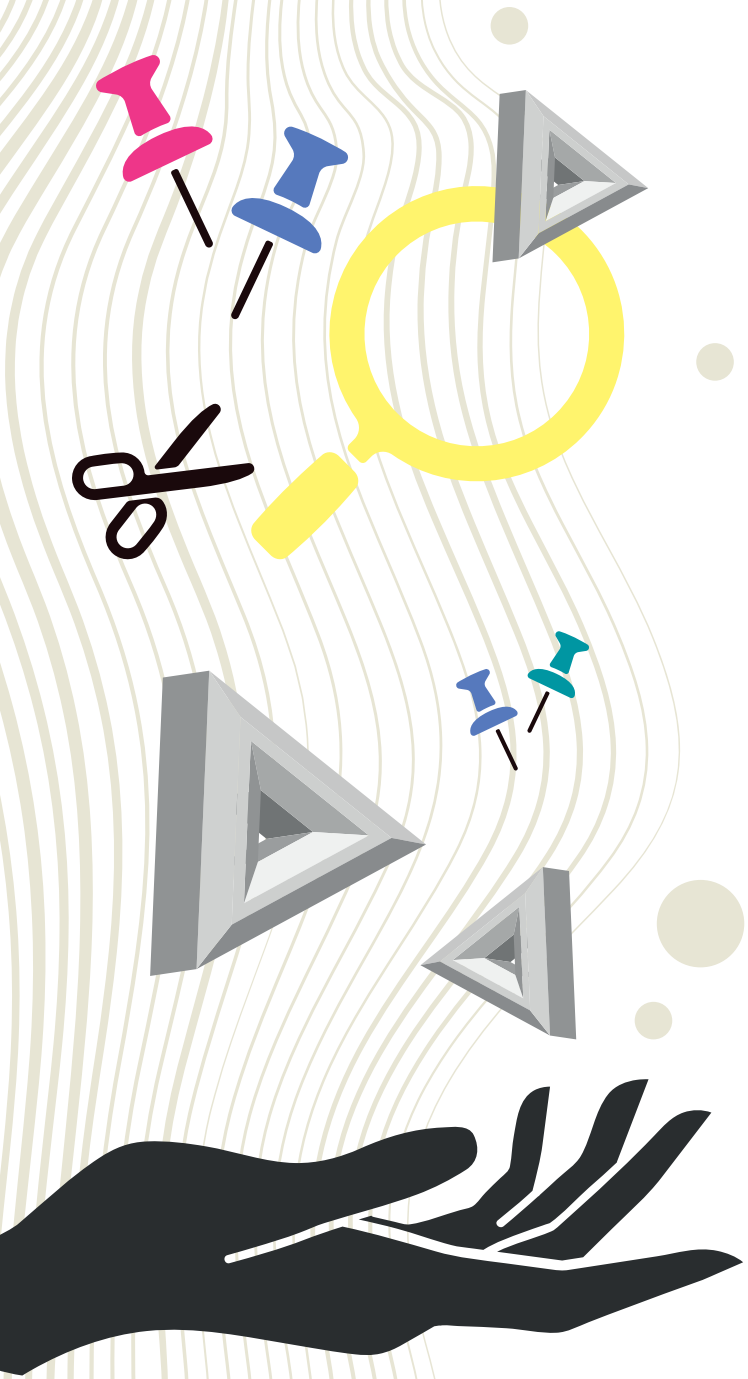
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Project work is submitted to ISEB in the form of a record of the project process, the project outcome, and evidence of a final presentation. Projects are collaboratively ranked by a group of judges using cutting-edge technology against set criteria, resulting in a reliable, fair, transparent and highly accurate outcome. Schools are provided with insightful data reports, and pupils are awarded a certificate from ISEB.

LEVELS

iPQ Year 5, iPQ Year 6, iPQ Year 7 and iPQ Year 8 focus on developing skills such as collaboration, independent enquiry, leadership and problem solving through real-world projects.







Why the iPQ?

Play to pupils' strengths – the iPQ is about the process, not the outcome, so pupils can select topics, investigations, talents, or activities in which they are interested in or excel at. The iPQ is an excellent complement to traditional exams, developing additional skills that add to a child's portfolio of recognised achievements.

"ONE OF THE THINGS I REALLY LIKE ABOUT THE iPQ IS THAT CHILDREN WHO DON'T ENJOY WRITING EXAM PAPERS BUT ARE GREAT MUSICIANS OR ARE INTERESTED IN ARTS CAN USE THEIR TALENTS IN A DIFFERENT WAY – LINKING UP THE INTELLECTUAL RIGOUR AND RESEARCH WITH THEIR PARTICULAR INTEREST AND TALENT."

Stephanie Donaldson, Deputy Head Academic at Kenton College, Kenya



The **Skills**

The iPQ framework takes pupils through five defined learning stages, in which they explore a question and present their findings. The flexibility built into the design gives schools broad scope to fit the project and assessment to their curriculum and pupils' needs.

DEFINE → REVIEW → CREATE → PRESENT → REFLECT

The **sky** is the **limit**

THE iPQ IN ACTION

Join the fast-growing number of schools already working with the iPQ across the UK and beyond.

Embracing independent learning at The Banda School in Nairobi, Kenya

The Banda School adopted the iPQ as a way to embrace independent learning during the first Coronavirus lockdown. After seeing positive results including improved pupil motivation and well-being, and opportunities for teachers to guide individual learning journeys, it became a key part of the curriculum for year 7.

"CHILDREN HAVE ASKED INTERESTING QUESTIONS... TAPPING INTO THE EXPERTISE OF MANY BUSINESSES AND INITIATIVES IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITY. THE iPQ EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE CLASSROOM."

Katie Thwaites, Head of English

Championing sustainability at Cottesmore School in West Sussex, UK

The iPQ was first adopted by Cottesmore School as a leavers project for a group of Year 8 pupils in 2019. It is now completed by all of Years 7 and 8 with a focus on sustainability, encouraging pupils to think widely about how sustainability links to their everyday lives and interests. The school sees the iPQ as a great way to help pupils develop a range of soft skills such as research, teamwork, and public speaking.

"THESE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT WOULD NOT HAVE EXISTED WITHOUT THE iPQ ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AND RICH."

Ross Borthwick, iPQ Lead, and Head of Sustainability and History

Read the full case studies on the ISEB website **www.iseb.co.uk/iPQ**



Promoting lateral thinking and providing new challenges at Hall Grove School in Surrey, UK

At Hall Grove School pupils complete the iPQ in Year 8, following a preliminary project utilising the iPQ structure in Year 7. Children are encouraged to think widely about their project questions, and greater importance is placed on the process of seeking answers and overcoming challenges rather than on the answers themselves.

"IN THE MODERN WORLD, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENT THINKING AND CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING, WHICH IS WHY THE iPQ IS THE BEST PREPARATION PUPILS CAN HAVE."

Elizabeth Locke, iPQ Lead

Aims of the iPQ

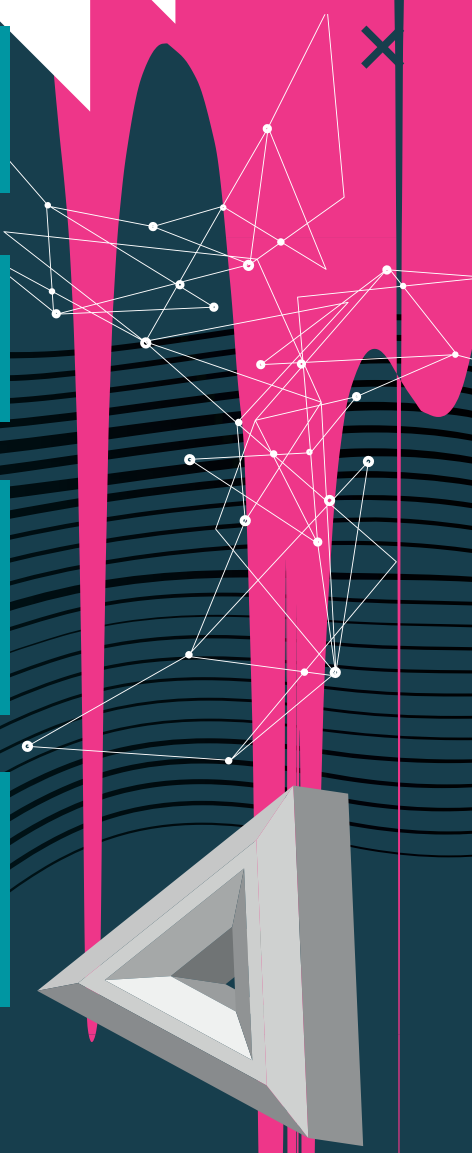
Strengthens a diverse curriculum
Culture, experience and thought

Champions children's interests
Recognises different interests and paths

Inspires pride and ownership
Children invest themselves in their projects

Spotlights leadership skills
- Project planning
- Innovation
- Communication

Begins a path to adult learning
- The same DNA as KS5 programmes
- Real-world problem solving
- Multi-model student-led



Asking the **big questions**

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Can I build a hovercraft from scratch?
Design & Build | Benjamin

How have punishments changed throughout the ages?
Shadow Puppet Film | Rose

How technology can help with mental health
Website | Josh

Am I able to teach my teachers how to solve a Rubik's Cube?
Training & Method | Nina



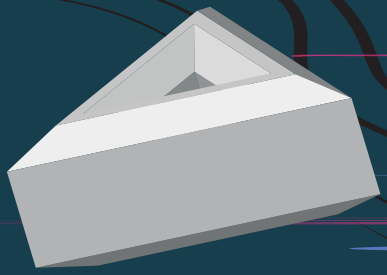


HOW TO GET STARTED

Schools can register pupils for the iPQ between September and June. Pupils should be registered in the same academic year in which they will complete the iPQ. Registration is completed on the ISEB website, which can be found via this link **www.iseb.co.uk/assessments/ipq**. If your school already has an ISEB School Account for the website, you can log in with your existing account to register pupils for the iPQ. If you do not have an account, you can apply for one at **www.iseb.co.uk/register**.

DOCUMENTATION AND SUPPORT

Full iPQ documentation is provided to schools once they have registered pupils. The iPQ synopsis and a range of other supporting documents including case studies and project examples are available at **www.iseb.co.uk/iPQ**



"THE iPQ UNDOUBTEDLY GAVE OUR YEAR 8 PUPILS AN IDEA OF WHAT IT IS LIKE TO WORK WITH GREATER INDEPENDENCE AND TO DIRECT THEIR OWN LEARNING."

Stephanie Donaldson
Deputy Head Academic at
Kenton College, Kenya

ISEB
Independent Schools Examinations Board

Your trusted partner for reliable pupil assessment since 1904

ISEB Pre-Tests
Online adaptive tests used by senior schools as part of their admissions processes.

Common Entrance (CE)
Written examinations and practice papers at 11+ and 13+, available in 12 subjects.

ISEB Project Qualification (iPQ)
Enquiry-led project qualifications that champion independent learning.

Common Academic Scholarship Examinations (CASE)
Written examinations and practice papers at 13+ designed to stretch and challenge pupils, available in eight subjects.

ISEB
Independent Schools Examinations Board

To find out more about the iPQ and how it can benefit your school, visit **www.iseb.co.uk/iPQ** or contact us at **iPQ@iseb.co.uk**

@ISEBAwards