



BRONZE AWARD PROJECT IDEAS



typically 10 hours of project work



Design a game controller

There are loads of different games consoles on the market – and even more controllers for them. In this project, you need to research all the various types of controllers available and set about designing your own. You're not expected to be able to design and make the electronic circuitry to make them work, but you can make a scale model of your design.

Getting started

First, choose a console that your controller will be for. This way, you can find out things like how many buttons your controller will need. Have a look on the internet and in shops at all the different games console controllers and compare the different layouts.

Carry out some market research. Ask as many people as you can which sorts of controller they prefer. You could use pictures of different controllers to see which one's people prefer the look of. Find out about 'ergonomics' and how it has been used to design console control layout

Designing your own

Design your own ultimate console control layout. You could use the results of your market research to try to design a controller for a specific group of people, for example, one that fits the preferences of boys aged 11-14, or for girls aged 18-24, etc. Or you could make a bespoke controller, one that's designed specifically for one person – perhaps for a person with a disability?

Sketch lots of different ideas and go back to your target audience to see which they prefer. Whittle your ideas down to two or three of the most popular. Create some detailed engineering drawings of these showing all the exact dimensions and colours etc.

Modelling your design

Use different modelling techniques to create a model of your design. If you're making a bespoke controller you should work closely with the person it's designed for - this might be yourself, which is nice and easy! You should make sure the controller fits their hands perfectly. Perhaps you could ask them to loosely grip a piece of clay. This will give you the perfect shape.