

St John's inspire programme

30 MINUTES A WEEK TO HELP YOU GET READY FOR
UNIVERSITY



▶ WHAT'S THE POINT OF A
HISTORICAL VIDEO GAME?



▶ VIOLENCE IN VIDEO
GAMES



▶ SHOULD VIOLENT VIDEO
GAMES BE BANNED?

*How to design a successful
video game:
What can we learn
from video games?*

What's the point of a historical video game?



Have you ever considered what insights we might gain by playing video games set in the historical past? In her [article](#), Oxford historian Dr Philippa Byrne writes that video games can offer a range of different perspectives on a historical event, as well as giving players an immediate and immersive understanding of the past which cannot be accessed through textbooks alone.

For example, video games can give you the opportunity to experience life as a soldier in WWI, to lead a Roman legion or to be employed as a sheriff in the wild west.

Of course, not all video games will be entirely historically accurate. However, that doesn't necessarily mean that they are not useful for historians. Click [here](#) to read more about what video games might teach us about the past.

Any questions? Get in touch at: inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk

Violence in video games

In her [article](#), Philippa notes that there is a great deal of debate about whether certain historical time periods can be considered appropriate settings for video games. Is it suitable, for example, to set a game during WWI (a conflict in which millions of people lost their lives)? Are some elements of history too shockingly violent to be used as a means of entertainment? Click [here](#) to find out more about this contentious issue.

The controversy surrounding video games and violence does not stop there. In 2015, the American Psychological Association released a report claiming that there is a link between playing violent video games and aggressive behaviour in young people. However, is there really any strong evidence to suggest this is the case? Most people who play these kinds of games do not exhibit violent behaviour.

What do you think? Does the entertainment value of video games outweigh any potential concerns about the violence being depicted? Read this [BBC News article](#) and see what you think.

Enter this week's challenge for your chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher or a St John's goodie bag filled with sweets, stationery and much more!



The winning arguments will be posted on Inspire Digital.



THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

Should violent video games be banned?

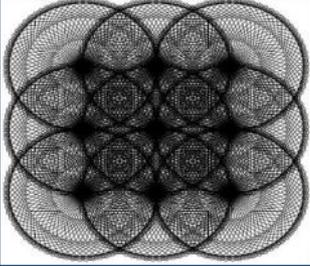
Should the content of video games be more strictly regulated?

Email three points either for or against banning violent video games to

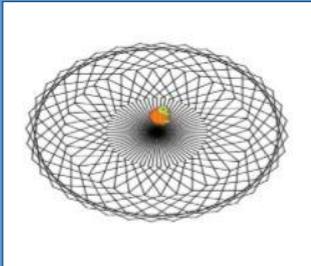
inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk for the chance to win a prize!



1. Jay (Greenford High School)



2. Andre (Cardinal Newman Catholic School)



Well done to this week's winners of the Programming Challenge!

Well done to everyone who took part! The top designs receive a St John's goodie bag. The winner also receives a £10 Amazon voucher.

Top universities expect you to provide examples of how you have engaged with your subject over and above what you study at school. By taking part in some of our weekly challenges, you can show admissions tutors that you are prepared to go beyond what is expected.

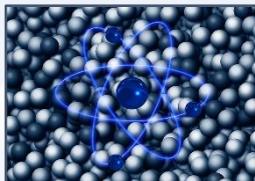
What next?

Try some of our puzzles which have been set by Oxford tutors, as well as school teachers from around the country. Click on the links to test your skills – the answers are available online so you can check how many you got right!



[Kitchen Chemistry](#)

Test your chemistry knowledge with these kitchen-themed questions



[Physics Brainteasers](#)

Try your hand at some fun physics brainteasers



[What's the best way to win at Monopoly?](#)

Is there a strategy you should follow?



[Interview](#)

Meet Andreas – a Medicine student at St John's

Year 11 Summer School: 5th – 6th August 2019

There are up to 150 places available for Year 11 pupils currently enrolled on our Inspire Programme to attend a Summer School in Oxford. To sign up, please complete the Registration Form and email to inspire@sjc.ox.ac.uk. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.