OCR GCE A

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROJECT

H446-03

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Title of Project : <INSERT PROJECT TITLE>

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# A. Analysis

## Outline

There is great academic pressure on students to perform to the best of their ability. To achieve this, students must study for longer, increasing stress levels and generating concern about whether time is being used effectively. There is a subsequent reduction in time spent on activities that don’t tangibly benefit academic performance like gaming and other recreation. This has an adverse effect on mental health as it sets up a poor work life-balance and means there is no opportunity to de-stress, creating an unstainable feedback loop which will hinder long term attainment.

To rectify this, I shall develop a game which 2d top-down tile game that heavily focusses on puzzle solving and systematic thinking. This will allow students to practice their problem solving and logical reasoning skills in a relaxed, enjoyable, and interactive game environment. This allows them to decompress, improving work-life balance due to a more sustainable method of practicing cognitive skills than studying. To successfully develop this solution, I will draw inspiration from other puzzle solving games such as Retro classics like Tetris(1984) and more modern examples like Portal(2007) and Hue(2016). This will allow me to evaluate existing solutions within this genre and which features are needed to ensure the game holds up to the stakeholders’ expectations and meets their needs.

## Stakeholders

The target demographic of the game will be students in the age range of 15 to 18 who enjoy regular problem solving and logical thinking. This demographic covers a wide range of abilities; therefore, the game must have an array of tiered difficulty levels to ease beginners into the game while allowing advanced players to still enjoy it.

It is designed to be played after a study session to unwind, so the user will likely have a computer available, on which they play the game. This means the game doesn’t need to be portable, so will be controlled by mouse and keyboard. As the game will be used to unwind and relax, it will have a simple, easy to understand control scheme; this will make it easier to learn and less taxing to use. To ensure that it is accessible to as many as possible, there will be very minimal text, having a symbol focused UI to overcome language barriers. The colour pallet of the game will use colours which are not too bright and have minimal blue; this will ensure it is pleasant on the eyes and not alarming, allowing the user to relax.

I have selected Benjamin Dodwell and Mate Fehevari to represent the target demographic. They are both 17 year old students who play videogames regularly. Their experience with similar games will allow them to give clear and well-judged feedback on my game, and how it compares to similar ones in the industry, allowing me to ensure my game meets the target demographics’ needs effectively. They are also close contacts, so I will be able to regularly receive incremental feedback throughout the development process.

## Game Research: Tetris

Tetris is a 2d puzzle game where the player stacks blocks on a 10x20 grid. The square blocks come in groups of 4 called “tetrominos”, which can have many different shapes. They fall to the bottom of the board, and then stop falling, landing on top of any blocks that had previously fell. Should a full row be completed when the falling blocks are placed, this row is cleared, scoring the player some points. This makes for an engaging game where the player must organise a random stream of shapes into a compact pile at the bottom of the board, figuring out which shapes fit where to keep the board organised.

The game starts slowly, with the blocks falling slower. This allows inexperienced players to get used to the game mechanics . As more rows are cleared and more points are scored, the pieces fall faster, allowing the player less time to decide where to place the piece. This makes the game much more stressful and difficult for all but the most experienced players as even a small error can cause big problems, causing the blocks to pile up towards the top of the board, at which point the game is over.

To incentivise more advanced strategies, the game rewards clearing multiple lines at once, rewarding the user with more points. If they clear 4 lines in one go (the maximum possible), they score 8 times as many points as a single line. This leads to players risking building up larger piles so that they can clear more rows at once, earning more points more quickly.

Main menu: Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

The game’s main menu is the first thing that a potential player sees, therefore it is designed to introduce the players to the game, setting the colour scheme, theme, and branding. To help new players learn the game, there is a question mark button, which shows the controls, how to play the game and the language used to describe gameplay. My menu should contain all these features to make it usable an engaging.

The same UI “windows” are used in both the menu and the actual game. Hence the start menu has features that are blanked out, such as the “NEXT” and “HOLD” queues, which could be distracting or confusing for a new user. It also makes the UI over-crowed, so I will in my game I won’t be re-using UI elements to reduce clutter.

Gameplay:

A picture containing text, parking

Description automatically generated

The main game screen reuses the elements of the menu, so is familiar, though now all the elements are used. The bright colours on a dark background makes the game easier to look at, as well as distinguishing the individual sprites in the game and drawing the user’s attention to the important features. The indicator of where the blocks will fall makes it easier for the user to see what the game will do next(where the block will land), reducing the chance of the user placing a block in the wrong place – this makes the game less annoying and therefore more enjoyable for the user; my game must also focus on this to meet the user’s needs.

Pause Menu:

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

The pause menu allows the user to stop the game and return to it later. This makes the game more convenient to play as the user can pick it up and put it down as they want. This will be less important in my game as each level will be played all in one session, though it will still be needed. The menu also offers a tutorial section for teaching inexperienced users and an options menu to allow the user to configure the game to their play style. My game should also have ample configurability to allow the user to have a comfortable gaming experience.

## Survey

In order to gauge the needs of a larger group of potential stakeholders, I will use a survey to collect their opinion on

## Interview

### Limitations and Scope

## Why this Solution is Suited to a Computation Solution

### Abstraction

### Thinking Ahead

### Thinking Procedurally

### Thinking Logically

### Thinking Concurrently

## Proposed Feature List

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Feature | Function |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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## Success Criteria

# B. Design

<See H446-03 Project Advice Booklet for help and guidance of what must go here.>

## Systems diagram

# C. Developing the coded solution (“The development story”)

<See H446-03 Project Advice Booklet for help and guidance of what must go here.>

# D. Evaluation

<See H446-03 Project Advice Booklet for help and guidance of what must go here.>

# Project Appendixes

Insert as many project appendixes as you need for your project.

These might include, but are not limited to:

* Complete Code Listing (ESSENTIAL)
* Interview Transcripts
* Meeting notes
* Observation notes or questionnaires