

Max's Tactical Court Mastery

Learning objective: To understand and apply tactical principles in net and wall games, focusing on space, accuracy, and court positioning.

Max the Monkey is designing a masterclass for the school tournament. Your task is to act as the 'Tactical Coach'. Read each tactical scenario below and decide the best action to gain an advantage. You must justify your choice using your knowledge of movement and space. Use the word bank to help you complete your analysis.

Word bank: Baseline · Trajectory · Court coverage · Opponent · Volley · Placement · Reaction time · Tactical

1. Scenario 1: Your opponent is standing deep at the back of the court near the baseline. Explain why a 'drop shot' (a shot that lands just over the net) might be a successful tactical choice. (2 marks)

2. Scenario 2: You have just hit the ball to the far left corner of the court. Where should you move your body next to ensure maximum court coverage? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

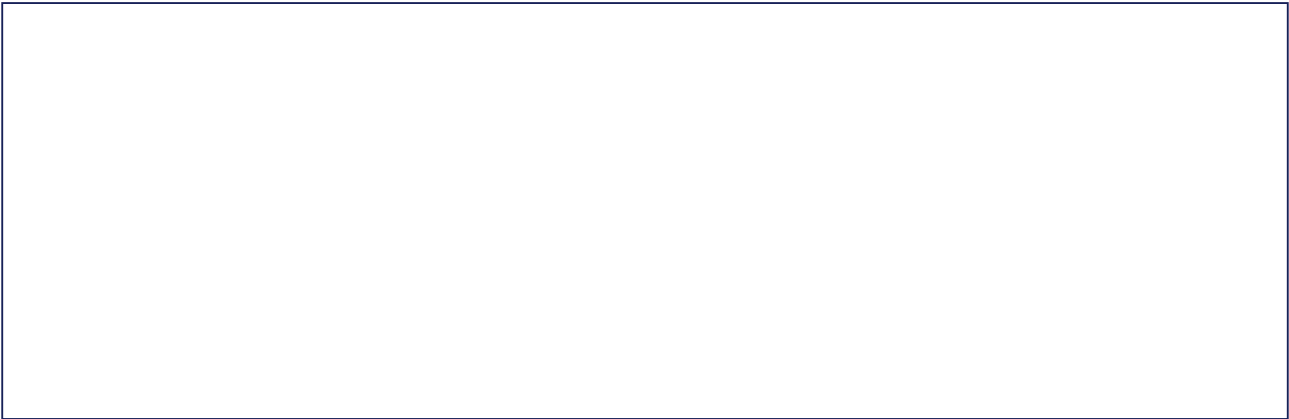
3. Scenario 3: If you are playing a wall game (like squash), why is it important to control the 'T' (the centre of the court)? (2 marks)

4. Scenario 4: Compare and contrast hitting a ball with high trajectory versus a flat, fast trajectory. When would you use each? (2 marks)

5. Scenario 5: Your opponent is very quick at returning shots. How could you use 'placement' to tire them out or catch them off-balance? (2 marks)

6. Scenario 6: What might happen if you focus only on power and ignore accuracy during a net game? Explain the potential consequence. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a rectangular court. Use arrows to show the optimal path a player should take to return to the centre after hitting a ball to the right-hand corner.



Extension challenge: Design your own 'Net or Wall' game. Write a set of three rules that require players to think about tactics rather than just strength. Include a 'penalty' rule for players who do not return to their 'home base' position after a shot.