

Tactical Masterminds: Invasion Games Strategy

Learning objective: To analyse and apply tactical principles in invasion games, such as attacking space, defending territory, and effective communication.

Max the monkey has been analysing his team's performance in their recent game of 'Ball-Base'. He needs your help to solve these tactical puzzles. Read each scenario carefully. For each question, you must justify your tactical decision using the terminology from the word bank to show how you are creating or denying space.

Word bank: width · depth · interception · possession · marking · transition · support · communication

1. Your team has possession of the ball in the centre of the pitch. The opposing team is tightly packed in the middle. Explain why your team should use the full width of the pitch to create a scoring opportunity. (2 marks)

2. Max is defending against an attacker. If Max stands too far away, what might happen? Justify why close marking is a vital defensive skill. (2 marks)

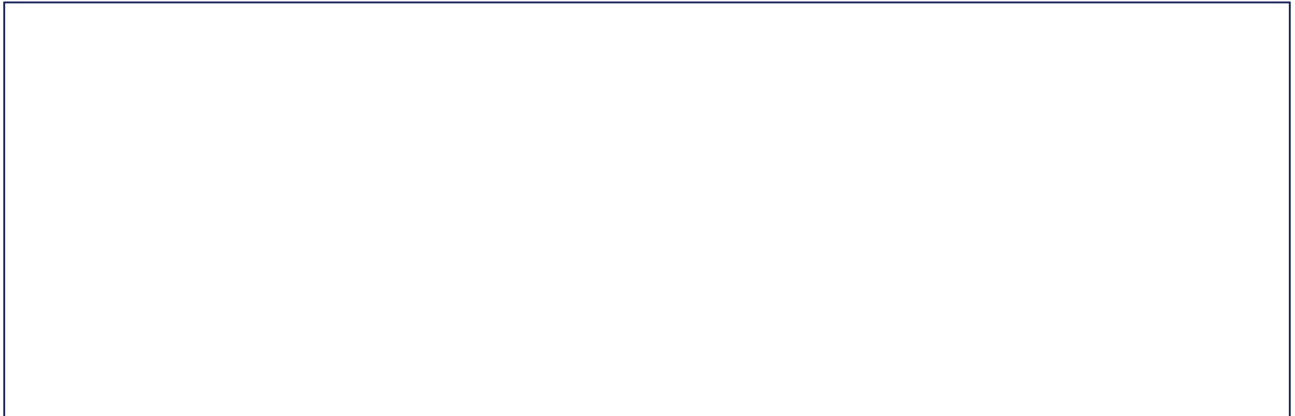
3. Compare and contrast 'attacking with depth' versus 'attacking with width'. Which strategy would you choose if the opposition's defence was very fast but lacked communication? (3 marks)

4. During a rapid transition from defence to attack, why is it essential for teammates to provide support to the ball carrier? (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are the captain. How would you use verbal communication to improve your team's defensive shape during a corner kick? (2 marks)

6. Justify this statement: 'The best way to prevent an interception is to move into space before receiving the ball.' Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view diagram of a rectangular pitch. Use arrows to show how a team of five players (represented by circles) could spread out to create width and depth against an opposing team of five players (represented by squares). Label your tactical movements.



Extension challenge: Design a brand new invasion game that requires teamwork. Write a set of three rules that force players to use 'support' and 'communication' to win. If the equipment for this game costs £15.00 for a set of balls and £12.50 for bibs, calculate the total cost for two sets of equipment and explain how your game promotes fair play.