

Mastering the Field: Invasion Game Tactics with Max

Learning objective: To develop tactical awareness and spatial understanding in invasion games by applying strategies for attacking, defending, and maintaining possession.

Max the monkey has been studying the geometry of the sports field. Use your knowledge of movement, teamwork, and space to answer the following questions to help your team win the match.

In invasion games, the primary goal is to move an object into the opponent's territory to score, while simultaneously preventing the opposition from doing the same. Success relies on moving into open space, protecting the ball, and working together to outmanoeuvre the opposition.

Word bank: possession · interception · spatial awareness · pivot · defensive formation · attacking transition · communication

1. Max suggests that 'spreading out' is vital when your team has possession. Explain why creating width on the pitch makes it more difficult for the defending team to mark you. (2 marks)

2. If you are the player in possession and find yourself cornered by two opponents, justify why passing to a teammate might be a more effective strategy than trying to dribble past them. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the role of an attacker transitioning to defense compared to a defender transitioning to attack. What is the most important action for both players during this change? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if your team's defensive formation remains static (stays in one place) while the opposition is moving the ball quickly across the field? (2 marks)

5. In a hypothetical game, your team has a budget of £50 to buy new team bibs. If each set of 5 bibs costs £12.50, how many sets can you buy? If you buy 3 sets, how much change would you receive? (2 marks)

6. Explain how effective communication, such as calling for the ball, influences the speed and success of a team's attacking movement. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a sports pitch. Use arrows to show how three players should move into 'open space' to receive a pass from a teammate who is currently being blocked by an opponent.



Extension challenge: Design a new invasion game! Create a name for your game, list two rules that encourage fair play, and write a paragraph explaining how the attacking team can use 'spatial awareness' to score a goal or point.