

Tactical Masterminds: The Team Games Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and apply tactical strategies in team games to improve performance and cooperation.

Max the monkey is helping his friends organise a tournament. He believes every team game is a puzzle to be solved! Read the scenarios below and use your knowledge of attacking and defending tactics to decide the best course of action. For each scenario, choose the most effective strategy and justify your reasoning using the word bank provided.

Word bank: possession · spatial awareness · intercepting · communication · collaboration · marking · transition · defensive formation

1. Your team is in possession of the ball, but the opposing team has formed a tight defensive line in the centre of the pitch. Explain why using 'spatial awareness' and 'communication' would be more effective than running directly into the centre. (3 marks)

2. When your team loses possession, you must switch quickly to a defensive mindset. Describe how 'marking' an opponent prevents the other team from scoring. Why is this better than all players chasing the ball at once? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the role of a player in a 'defensive formation' versus a player focused on 'intercepting' passes. When might a team choose to prioritise one over the other? (4 marks)

4. If your team is losing by £5 worth of 'pride' (metaphorically speaking!), justify why 'collaboration' is more important than individual skill when trying to equalise the score. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a team ignores the 'transition' phase between attacking and defending? Explain the potential impact on the game's outcome. (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are the captain. Create a short 'pre-match' instruction to your teammates that incorporates at least three words from the word bank to help them succeed. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a pitch showing where players should be positioned when attacking. Use arrows to show the 'spatial awareness' of players moving into open space to receive a pass.



Extension challenge: Design a new team game that requires players to use at least two specific tactics from the word bank. Write a set of three rules for your game and explain how these rules force players to use 'collaboration' to win.