Max’s Maths Challenge: Verbal Reasoning Logic

Learning objective: To develop verbal reasoning skills by identifying patterns in word relationships, analogies, and logical sequences.

Read the passage carefully and use your logic skills to help Max the monkey solve the word puzzles. Think about how the words relate to one another before choosing your answers.

Max the monkey loves to organise his collection of shiny pebbles and wooden blocks. He has discovered that words work just like his puzzles. Sometimes, words have a specific relationship, like 'hot' is to 'cold' as 'fast' is to 'slow'. This is called an analogy. Other times, Max looks for a sequence, such as how 'seed' grows into a 'sapling' and then into a 'tree'. To master verbal reasoning, you must look closely at how words connect, group, or change.

Word bank: Sequence · Analogy · Relationship · Pattern · Category

1. Complete this analogy: 'Book' is to 'Reading' as 'Pen' is to _____. (1 mark)

2. If 'Caterpillar' goes to 'Butterfly', choose the correct sequence: 'Egg' to 'Frog', or 'Tadpole' to 'Frog'? Explain why. (2 marks)

3. Find the odd one out in this group: Apple, Banana, Carrot, Strawberry. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

4. If the word 'LEAP' is coded as 'M F B Q', how would you code the word 'STEP' using the same pattern of moving one letter forward in the alphabet? (2 marks)

5. Max has three items that cost £2.50, £3.20, and £1.80. If he adds a fourth item that costs £1.50, what is the total cost of his items? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing the 'life cycle' of a word, starting from a single letter, moving to a word, and ending with a whole sentence, just like how Max grows his logic puzzles.

Extension challenge: Create your own analogy puzzle for a friend using two pairs of words that share a similar relationship. Write down the answer key separately.