Max’s Mental Maths Marathon

Learning objective: To improve mental calculation speed and fluency using the four operations and order of operations.

Max the monkey is racing through the jungle to solve these puzzles. Can you beat his speed? Answer these 10 questions using only your brain—no calculators allowed!

Answer Key: 1. A (2500) | 2. False | 3. 12 | 4. C (14) | 5. True | 6. 100 | 7. B (0.75) | 8. 48 | 9. A (150) | 10. False

Word bank: estimate · operation · sum · difference · product · quotient · calculate · mental

1. 1. Max has 50 bananas. He buys 50 more bunches, each with 50 bananas. How many bananas does he have in total? A) 2500* B) 1000 C) 250 D) 5000 (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: 15 + 5 × 2 = 40. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the square root of 144? (1 mark)

4. 4. If a book costs £3.50, how much would 4 books cost? A) £12.00 B) £13.50 C) £14.00* D) £15.00 (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: 0.5 is equivalent to 50%. (1 mark)

6. 6. What is 25% of 400? (1 mark)

7. 7. Which of these is the decimal equivalent of 3/4? A) 0.25 B) 0.75* C) 0.34 D) 0.43 (1 mark)

8. 8. Calculate: 6 × 8. (1 mark)

9. 9. If you travel at 75km per hour for 2 hours, how far have you travelled? A) 150km* B) 140km C) 160km D) 77km (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: 1,000,000 ÷ 10 = 1,000. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting on a tree branch, surrounded by floating numbers and mathematical symbols like plus, minus, and divide signs, looking very proud of his puzzle-solving.

Extension challenge: Create your own mental maths challenge for a friend using one addition, one subtraction, one multiplication, and one division problem. Make sure you know the answers!