Zara’s Pattern Party

1. Green leaf, Brown leaf. (2 marks)

Working: The sequence alternates: Green, Brown, Green, Brown, [Green], [Brown].

1 mark for each correct leaf drawn in the correct order.

2. Triangle. (1 mark)

Working: The sequence is Triangle, Square, Triangle, Square. The next shape must be a Triangle.

Award 1 mark for the correct shape.

3. Circle. (2 marks)

Working: The pattern is 1:Circle, 2:Star, 3:Heart. 4:Circle, 5:Star, 6:Heart, 7:Circle.

Award 1 mark for the correct shape, 1 mark for showing the sequence logic.

4. 7 Blue shapes. (2 marks)

Working: The pattern is Blue, Blue, Red (3 shapes). In 10 shapes, there are 3 full sets (9 shapes) plus 1 extra Blue. (3 sets x 2 Blue) + 1 = 7.

Award 1 mark for correct calculation, 1 mark for the correct final number.

5. A 4-part repeating pattern using two shapes (e.g., Circle, Square, Circle, Square). (3 marks)

Look for: The student must use two different shapes and repeat the sequence exactly four times or create a four-part unit.

Good: Draws a sequence like Circle, Square, Circle, Square.

Better: Draws a sequence like Circle, Square, Circle, Square and labels the shapes.

Best: Draws a clear 4-part sequence and explains the rule, e.g., 'The rule is to swap between a circle and a square.'

What moves an answer up: Moving up requires explaining the 'rule' of the pattern rather than just drawing it.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer shows the child has identified the 'unit of repeat' and can apply it to extend the sequence correctly.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to say the pattern out loud (e.g., 'Green, Brown, Green, Brown') to hear the rhythm of the repeat.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often forget to include the first shape of the next repeat in longer sequences or miscount the number of items in a repeating unit.