

Name _____

Feathered Flight: The Shuttlecock and Badminton Strokes

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The clear shot in badminton is used to hit the shuttlecock high and deep into the opponent's backcourt. This strategic shot can create distance between you and your opponent, allowing you time to reposition or plan your next move. For example, if you find yourself pushed to the back of the court, a well-executed clear can help you regain control of the rally by forcing your opponent to the backcourt.
2. A net shot and a drop shot are both delicate shots played close to the net in badminton, but they serve different purposes. A net shot is designed to barely clear the net and is often used defensively to counter an opponent's net shot or set up for a deceptive drop shot. On the other hand, a drop shot is played with more precision, causing the shuttlecock to fall rapidly just over the net, usually as an offensive tactic to catch the opponent off balance. Both shots require finesse and control but are employed in distinct situations.
3. When facing an opponent who excels at smashing in badminton, it's essential to vary your game to counter their strength. To gain an advantage, you can use a combination of the following strategies:
 - a) Play net shots and drop shots to keep the shuttlecock close to the net, making it harder for your opponent to set up for powerful smashes.
 - b) Use clears and lobs to push your opponent to the back of the court, making it more challenging for them to execute effective smashes.
 - c) Focus on your defensive skills, including quick reflexes and precise racket placement, to return smashes accurately and prevent your opponent from winning points easily.
 - d) Employ deception in your shots to keep your opponent guessing and disrupt their rhythm.
4. The shuttlecock's unique design significantly impacts gameplay in badminton. Its lightweight construction and the feathers create substantial air resistance, causing it to slow down and change direction rapidly during play. This unique flight trajectory requires players to have precise control and timing when executing shots. The shuttlecock's feathered structure also means that it is affected by even the slightest air currents, making it essential for players to adapt their game based on conditions. Understanding these characteristics helps players anticipate the shuttlecock's movement and employ the right techniques for successful shots.

