

## For Beginners!

**CHECKS** A check is when your King (K) is attacked by a piece or a pawn (P) of your opponent. That means on the next move they could take your K, but please remember you are not allowed to take (or lose) the K. You have three ways to get out of check. First, you might be able to take the piece that is attacking you. Second, you may be able to block the check by putting one of your pieces in the way. Third, you may be able to move the K out of check.

In position (a), the black K is in check from the white bishop (B). The check cannot be blocked, the K cannot move to an empty square but CAN take the B (as it is undefended). So KxB on square f7 is the only move.

In position (b) again the B checks the black K. Once again nothing can block the check but now the K cannot take the bishop because it is protected by the white queen (Q) on square f3. Instead the black K can move either sideways (to square f8) or forward (to square e7).

In position (c) Black is again in check (from the Q). The black K cannot move, nor can the white Q be taken. Instead the check can be blocked either by the black pawn on g7 moving

a)



b)



(c)

forward one square (to g6) or the N on e7 (in front of the K) moving to the square g6.

Now try the 2 exercises below (remember to learn how we can 'read' a game chess, it is easy!)

(Answers at bottom of page)



### Problem B7



**B7 a) Black is in check from white's Q. Which options work? (1) take checking piece (2) move K out of check (3) block the check.**

**b) How many pieces can block the check?**

**c) How many pieces can block on two squares?**

### Problem B8



**B8 a) Black is again in check from white's Q. Which options work? (1) take checking piece (2) move K out of check (3) block the check.**

**b) How many pieces can block the check?**

**c) How many pieces can block on two squares?**

**d) What squares can the King move to that are out of check?**

**This month's problems - Novice (answers next month)**

**Problem N17**



**N17 a) Black to play and win white's Q?**

**b) If White to play what would you suggest?**

**Problem N18**



**N18 a) White to play and win a piece**

**b) If it were Black's move what would you play?**

**This month's problems - Intermediate (answers next month)**

**Problem I17**



**Problem I18**





I17 Black to play and win!

I18 White to play and win the endgame

## Solution to last month's problems - Novice

### Problem N15



**N15 White to play - what is the winning move?**

1. Qe6# (the black pawn at f7 is pinned by the R at h7)

### Problem N16



**N16 How does White force checkmate?**

1. Qxh7+ Kxh7  
(if 1... Kf8 then 2. Qh8#)  
2. Rh3+ Kg8  
3. Rh8#

## Solution to last month's problems - Intermediate

### Problem I15

### Problem I16



**115 White to play - can you see a way to either checkmate or win Black's Queen?**

The black Q is protected by the K so if this forced to move the queen will be lost

1. Bxe6+ (if 1.... Kf8 then 2. Qxh7 and wins the black Q)

1.... Rxe6

2. Rxc8+ Bf8

3. Rxf8+ Kxf8

4. Qxh7 and should win



**116 White to play and win a piece!**

1. Qh6+ Kh8(or Kg8)

2. Rxf6 and Black cannot play 2.... Rxf6 else 3. Qh7# so White wins a Knight at least

## Answers to Beginner's questions

Problem B7

a) (1) No, (2) No, (3) Yes

Problem B8

a) (1) Yes (the black square Bishop at c5 can take the Queen at e3), (2)

Yes, (3) Yes

b) 4 pieces (Queen, the black-square Bishop at c5 and both Knights)

c) Two pieces. The Bishop can block at e7 (just in front of the King) and at e3. The Knight that sits on square c6 can move to either e7 or e5 to block the check.

b) 4 pieces (Queen, the white-square Bishop at c8 (the starting square) and both Knights)

c) One piece. The Knight that sits on square c6 can move to either e7 or e5 to block the check.

d) Two. Sideways to f8 and on a diagonal to d7