

Discovered Check

Discovered check

A discovered check opportunity occurs when one of your pieces would be attacking your opponent's King but the line of attack is blocked by one of your own pieces. If you move that piece out of the way then the King will be in check from the piece behind.

Look at position (a). White's rook would be attacking (checking) Black's king if the white bishop was not in the way. Can you move the bishop so it attacks a black piece and allows check by the rook. There are two good moves for White - find both.

(b) On the same theme, can you see how to win the black rook (there are 2 possible moves for White. Find both of them.

(a)



(b)



c) Another play by White to win the black rook. Answer please

(c)



(d) A simple move by Black to win the White queen. What is it?

(d)



(e)

(e) This one is even better as the correct discovered check by White results in checkmate!



See all answers [HERE](#)

The Novice and Intermediate problems below continue the theme of discovered checks. How many can you solve?

This month's problems - Novice
Problem N41



N41 (a). White to play and win Black's queen - how?

(b) If it were Black's move what would you do?

Problem N42



N42. What should White play now?

This month's problems - Intermediate

Problem I41



I41. What is the best move for White here and why?

Problem I42



I41. Gary Kasparov was White here - can you find the combination of moves that the then world champion played to force a mating attack?

Solutions to last month's problems - Novice

Problem N39



N39 (a) Here Black played Nxf4 but White forced mate in 3 moves. How?
 (b) What was a better move for Black than 1.... Nxf4?

Answer:

(a) White plays

1. Qxf7+ K h8 (only move)
2. Qg8+ Rxf8 (forced)
3. Nf7#

(b) better for Black would be

1. Qd4+

And exchanges queens. White is still winning but the attack is less strong without the queen

Problem N40



N40 How does Black win a piece or threaten a smothered mate?

Answer:

Black plays

1. Qe5+
if
2. Ne2 Nd3#

and if

2. Be2 Qxd4 wins a piece

The same happens if White plays

2. Qe2

Solutions to last month's problems - Intermediate

Problem 139



139 White has a forced win in 5 moves, finishing with a smothered mate. Can you calculate the combination?

Answer:

1. Qh6+ Ke8
2. Ng7+ Kf8 (if Rxc7 then Qh8+)
3. Ne6+ Ke8
4. Qf8+ Rxf8
5. Ng7#

Problem 140



140 White has another forced win in 5 moves, finishing with a smothered mate. Can you find the correct sequence?

Answer:

1. Qe6+ Kb8
2. Nd7+ Kc8
3. Nxc6+ Kb8
4. Qc8+ Rxc8
5. Nd7#

Answers to Discovered Check Problems (return to Problems [HERE](#))

(a) White simply plays

1. Bc8+ (bishop moves but check is by the rook) and White takes the black queen next move

(b) Either

1. Bc7+ or

1. Bd2+ attacks the black rook.

If Black moves the rook to e5 to block the check then White simply takes it by Rxe5

(c) Nice and simple

1. Nc7+ attacks the black rook while the bishop delivers the discovered check

(d)

1. d4+

and the mighty queen will be taken by the humble pawn next move.

See how powerful the black bishop is attacking from long range.

(e) Did you spot this one?

1. Nf6#

very neat in that there are 2 checks involved here - the discovered check by the white rook plus the check by the knight in f6. Black can stop one of the checks but not both so that is checkmate!

So did you find the correct answer to all these problems? If you did then look for these type of moves in your games - they can occur quite often. Now try the Novice and Intermediate puzzles.