

## 4. Basic opening principles

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### Center Control:

The objective of center control is to aim to control central squares with your pieces and pawns. Because the central squares are the most important squares on the board. If you control the center you will generally also be able to exert more control over the rest of the board.

### The basics of Opening Principles:

1. Control the center squares – d4-e4-d5-e5
2. Develop your minor pieces toward the center – piece activity is the key
  - Complete your development before moving a piece twice or starting an attack
  - Develop pieces not pawns
3. Castle
4. Connect your rooks
  - By move 10 to 12, one should connect the Rooks, or be about to do so.

## 4. Basic opening principles – (Homework)

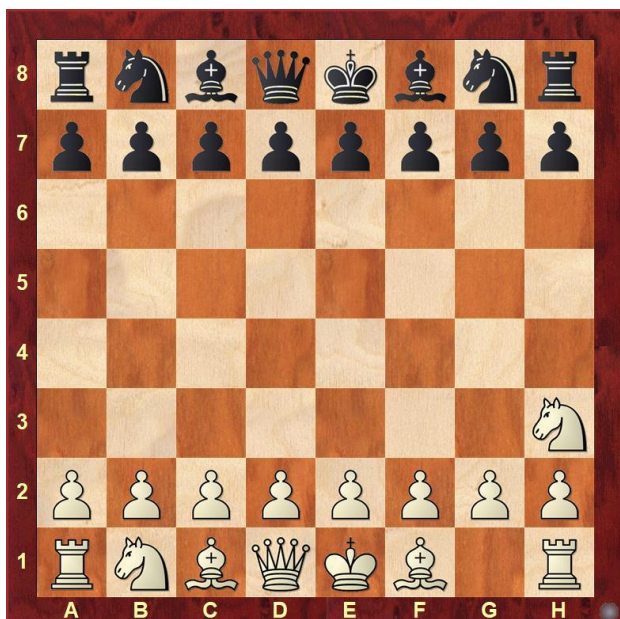
1. Which pawn should black move 2 squares - a7 | h7 | d7?



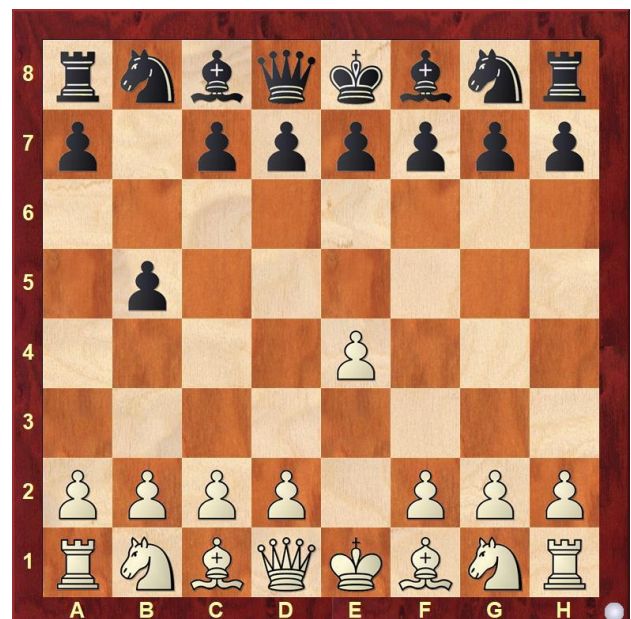
2. Should black play Nc6 or Na6?



3. White played Nh3 on the first move. Is that a good start?



4. Black played pawn to b5. Is it a good move or bad move?





# ADVANCED BEGINNER LEVEL

## 4. Basic opening principles – (Homework)

5. White to play – What should white play -  
Nc3 or Na3



6. White to play. What should white play -  
Bb5+ | Bc4 | Bd3



7. White to play. What should white play -  
Re1 | Rd1 | Rc1



8. Should black castle or capture the pawn on g4?



