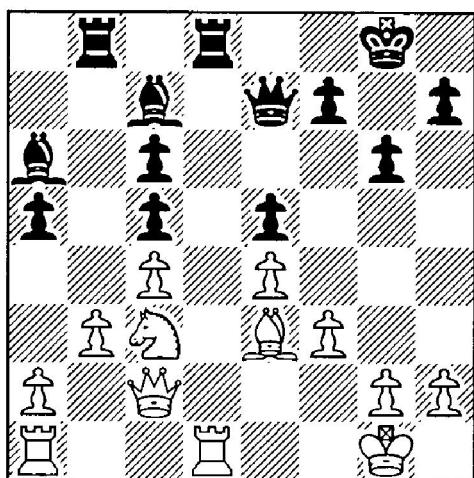


Test One



Test 1: Puzzle 1

Maximum score: 5 Points

Liublinsky

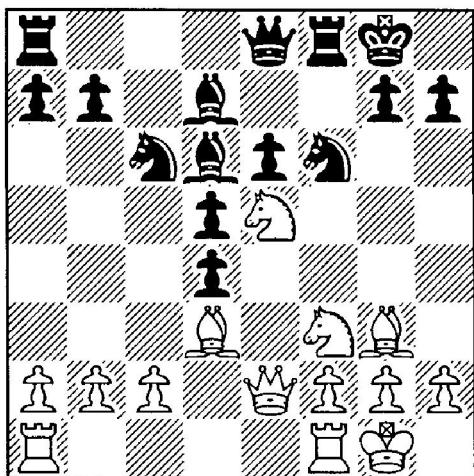
Botvinnik

Moscow Championship 1943

Black to Play

Black has weak pawns on the queenside and White threatens to trade off the rooks. How did Botvinnik kill two birds with one stone?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.



Test 1: Puzzle 2

Maximum score: 5 Points

Hodgson

Speelman

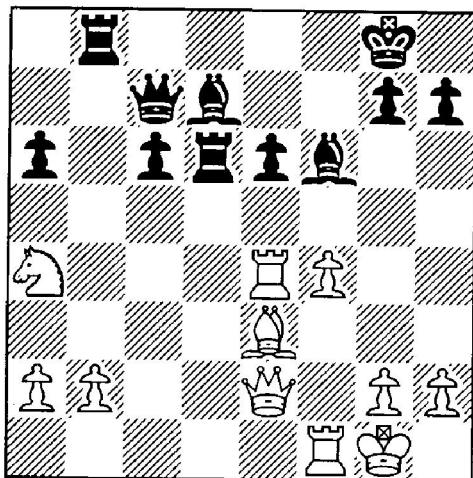
British Championship 1984

White to Play

A typical case of ‘over-protection’ – White hopes to accentuate the weakness of the backward e6-pawn by maintaining absolute control of the e5-square. How did he further improve his position?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 1: Puzzle 3

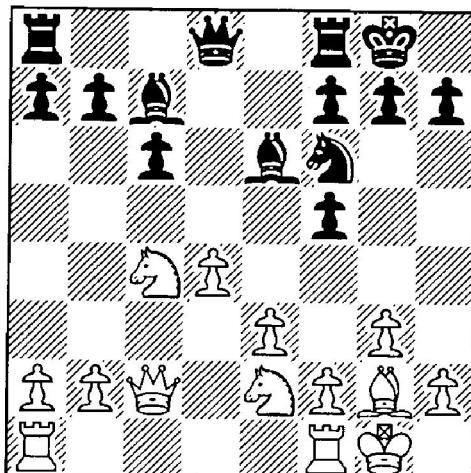
Maximum score: 5 Points

Shirov
 Miladinovic
Belgrade 1995

White to Play

Black has scattered pawns but these are accompanied by the bishop pair. Time to clamp down?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.



Test 1: Puzzle 4

Maximum score: 5 Points

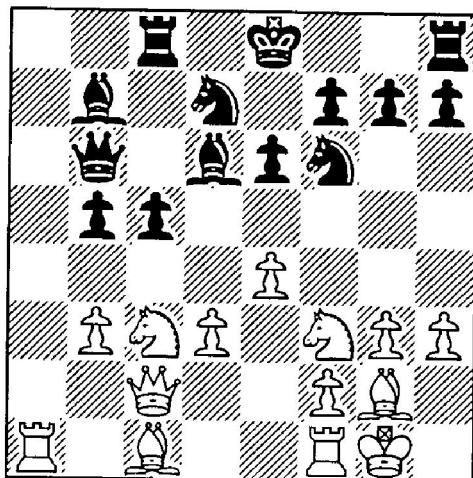
McDonald
 Lukacs
Budapest 1995

White to Play

The knight is fine on c4 but there is a better outpost that would enable White to tie his opponent down a little before launching the minority attack. How did White step up the pressure?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.

Test One



Test 1: Puzzle 5

Maximum score: 5 Points

M.Gurevich

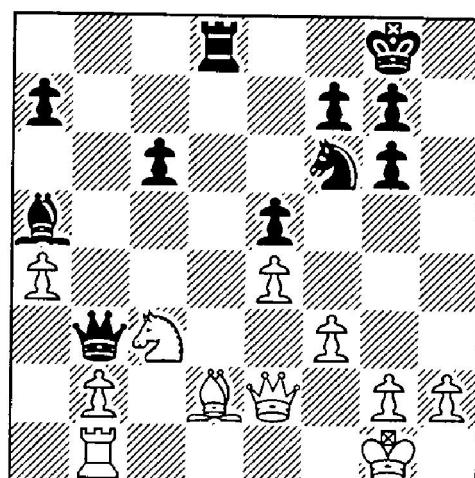
Piket

Antwerp 1998

Black to Play

How did Black guarantee a level game by undermining his opponent's control of the dark squares?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.



Test 1: Puzzle 6

Maximum score: 10 Points

Richardson

Sadler

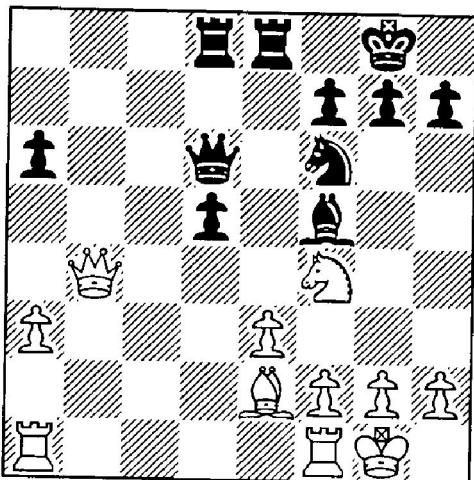
England 1995

Black to Play

White is on the defensive, under pressure on the d-file, b-file, the a5-e1 diagonal and from Black's unwelcome queen. However, in order to exploit his initiative Black must step up the pace. How did he do this using positionally oriented means?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 4 points.

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 1: Puzzle 7

Maximum score: 10 Points

Kasparov

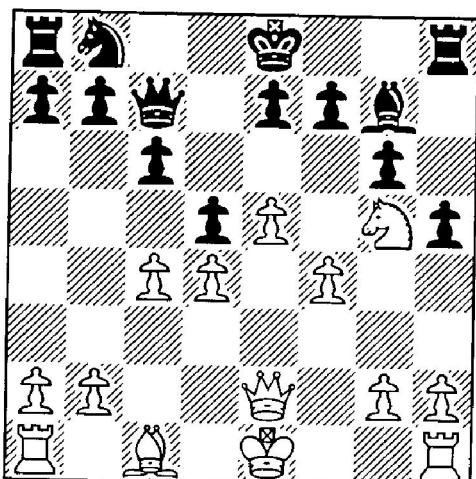
Kramnik

Moscow (blitz playoff) 1996

Black to Play

In order to avoid a repetition White's last was $\mathbb{W}d4-b4$. This led to difficulties for Kasparov – how?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 4 points.



Test 1: Puzzle 8

Maximum score: 10 Points

Petrosian

Morelos

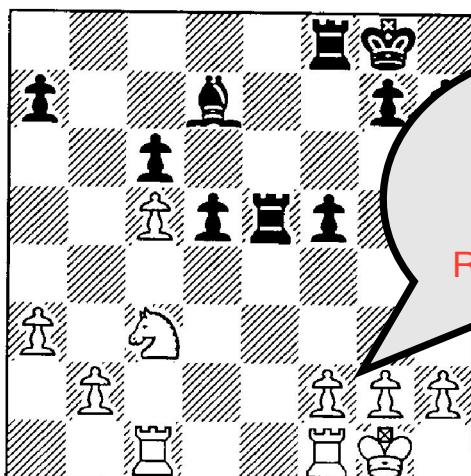
Lugano Olympiad 1968

White to Play

How did White justify his early knight jaunt?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 4 points.

Test One



Test 1: Puzzle 9

Maximum score: 10 Points

f4 Re2,
fRe1 Rxe1,
Rxe1 Bc8,
Re7 a6,
Rc7 black wins
pawns

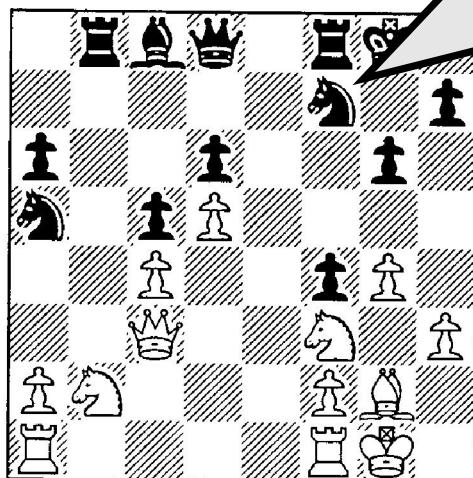
Kotinopolsky
1943

White to Play

Black might occupy the e-file for the moment but it is the ‘bad’ bishop – hampered by its own pawns – that is the key to this position. How did White add to his advantage?

Black could trade the knights Ng5,
Nxg4 Qxg5,
Qxa5 Rxb2
to open up dark squares for black.

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster.



Test 1: Puzzle 10

Maximum score: 10 Points

Baburin

Tseitlin

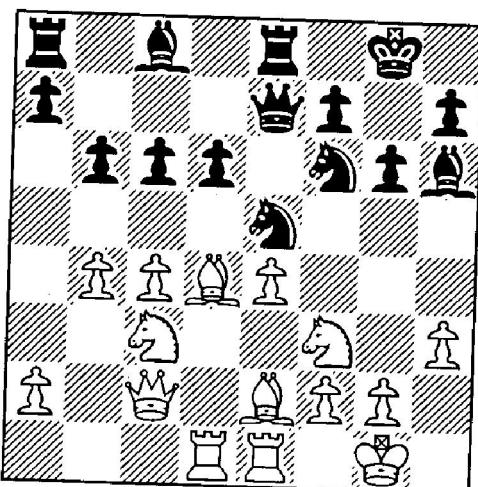
Cappelle la Grande 1994

Black to Play

With a trade of bishops on the a1–h8 diagonal White had hoped to reduce his opponent’s influence on the dark squares. However, in doing so his own bishop has left the arena, inviting Black to assume the initiative by concentrating on this very colour complex.

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 4 points.

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 1: Puzzle 11

Maximum score: 15 Points

Tal

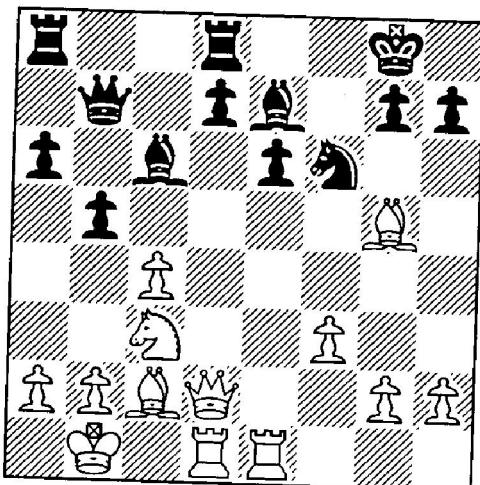
Dvoretsky

USSR Championship 1972

White to Play

Given time Black will complete his development with a reasonable game... So don't give Black time! What was Tal's positional strike?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.



Test 1: Puzzle 12

Maximum score: 15 Points

Karpov

Adams

Dos Hermanas 1993

White to Play

White not only has the advantage of having two pawn islands to his opponent's three, but his rooks have the d- and e-pawns in their sights. How did Karpov use tactical means to practically force a series of exchanges that results in a decisive structural advantage in an ending?

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.

Test One

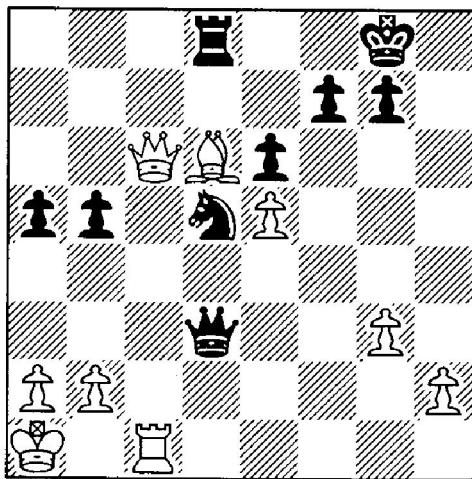
Moving the rook gives up the rook most squares.

1. ... Rf8, 2. Bxf8
1. ... Re8, 2. Qxe8,
1. ... Rc8, 2. Qxc8,
1. ... Rb8, 2. Bxb8,
1. ... Ra8, 2. Qxa8
1. ... Rd7, 2. Qxd7

So our only option for moving the rook is to sac

1. ... Rxd6,
2. exd6 Ne3,
3. d7 Qd2 does not work since white can offer trade 4. Qc3, allowing white pawn to queen, or giving up knight.

1. ... Rxd6,
2. exd6 Nb4,
3. Qc7a4
4. Rc3 shuts it down



Test 1: Puzzle 13

Maximum score: 15 Points

Idea: connect the major pieces by moving the knight.

Oll

Hodgson

Groningen 1993

We can offer exchange of the minor pieces, winning a pawn

1 ... Nf6, 2. exf6 Rxe6, 3. Qxe6 gxf6

But I think white can just ignore that.

1 ... Ne3 with the thought of playing Qd4, Nd1, Qxb2#

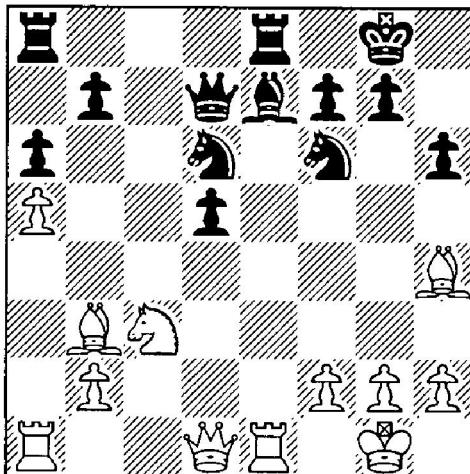
Can it work?

1 ... Ne3, 2. Be7 Qd4, 3. Bxd8 Nd1, 4. Qe8+ Kh7, 5. ??? Qxb2#

Black to Play

In order to have any chance of converting his positional pluses Black needs the help of the rook which, at the moment, plays a defensive role. How did Hodgson, one of the world's most imaginative players, successfully address this problem? You will either get it, or you won't...

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.



Test 1: Puzzle 14

Maximum score: 15 Points

1. Nxd5 Nxd5, 2. Bxe7 Nxe7 bad exchange for white

Skembris

Nenashev

Komotini 1993

1. Bxf6 Bxf6, 2. Bxd5 white wins pawn

1. Rxe7 Rxe7, 2. Bxf6 gxf6, 3. Qd3 ---, 4. Bc2 ---, 5. Qh7+

1. Rxe7 Rxe7, 2. Bxf6 gxf6, 3. Nxd5 Re6 white sacs rook and bishop for knight and pawn, and exposes black king. Not sure how black continues as white can fork rook with Nb6, so probably 3. Qd8 or 3. Qc8, or 3. Nc8. But this leads to 3. Qd8, 4. Qg4+

White to Play

White's aggressively posted forces are primed for a positional breakthrough that leaves Black's king wide open.

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.

activating the bishop involves moving the d7 knight or b7 pawn.

it seems I would want the bishop on b7.

in terms of outposts, I would want to try d5.

1. ... d5, 2. cxd5 Nxd5 gets the outpost and then b6 and Bb7 gets the bishop on the long diagonal.

but does white have a better response than taking?

1. ... d5, 2. c5 Ne4 gets tempo on queen.

But what other moves does black have besides pawnstorm?

I guess 3. Qd3 b6 allows the bishop to get to b7, but not a good knight after 4. c6.

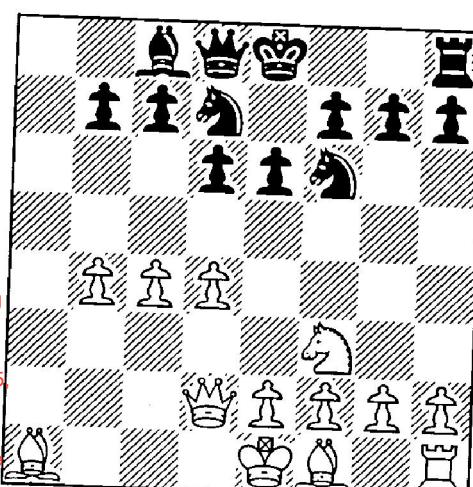
1. ... e5 is terrible leaves black down a pawn

1. ... Nb6 is interesting but does not accomplish anything

Can we just push the knight?

1. ... Ne4, 2. Qf4 d5, 3. cxd5 exd5,

4. e3 Nf6 still even, but both knights are decent and the bishop has squares and white has an isolated b pawn



Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?

Test 1: Puzzle 15

Maximum score: 15 Points

Shliperman

Yermolinsky

Philadelphia 1997

Black to Play

White would like to combine his territorial advantage with the bishop pair, while Black needs to find a role for his bishop and outposts for his knights. Yermolinsky's next move facilitated the achievement of both these goals and, consequently, earned Black decent prospects.

See page 89 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.

Scorechart for Test 1

Puzzle	Points	Puzzle	Points
1	10
2	11
3	12
4	13
5	14
6	15
7		
8	Total
9		