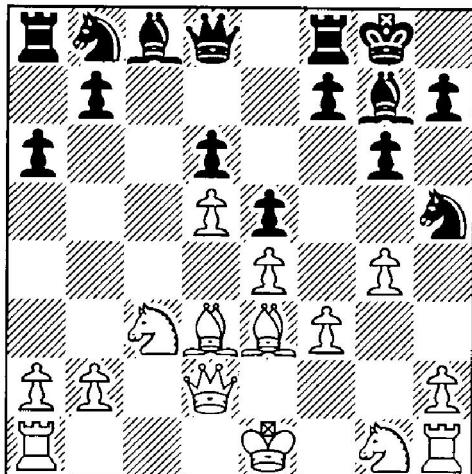


Knight wants to go to d7, c6, c5
Or, threatened knight goes to f6, e2, c5

b5 seems reasonable, taking squares away from knight and bishop.

Test Two



What should Black play?

Black has a knight hanging.

Giving it up is bad since we'd have to take back with gxh5 and expose king.

Giving it up on g3 can't be best.

Could retreat to f6.

Could move to Nf4, trading and losing a pawn

1. ... Nf4, 2. Bxf4 exf4, 3. Qxf4

Counterattack with

1. ... Qh4+

2. Bf2 Ng3

3. Bxg3 Bh6

4. Bxh4 Bxd2

5. Kxd2

loses knight and bishop, and trades queens

Test 2: Puzzle 1

Maximum score: 5 Points

Kamsky

Kasparov

Manila Olympiad 1992

Black to Play

Maybe try preparing that

1. ... Bh6

2. Bxh6 Qh4+

3. Kd1 Ng3

4. hxg3 Qxh1

so black gives up bishop and knight for rook

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.

We can also try to shut down the queen side with c4, which leads to trading queens, rooks and pawns

1. c4 dxc3
2. Qxd3 Qxd3
3. Rxd8 Bxd8
4. Nxd3

even material, but white has better pawns

Another idea is to try to target the weak c5 pawn Qg3, Bb8, Ba7, Qd3, Qc4 so we have 3 pieces attacking c5.

But this seems like too many moves, black will surely be able to also, for example, reinforce with Nd7.

And of course, we cannot forget to consider the defensive 1. f3 to get a little pawn chain going and prevent the black knight from getting to g4

The most interesting move is to attack the queen with

1. Bd2 Qc7, 2. Qxa6

Maybe black can play better 1. Bd2 Qb5, 2. Qxb5 cxb5 so this idea just trades and improves black's pawns

Another idea is to attack the g pawn 1. Qg3 Nh5
2. Qf3 Nxf4
3. Qxf4 doesn't accomplish much

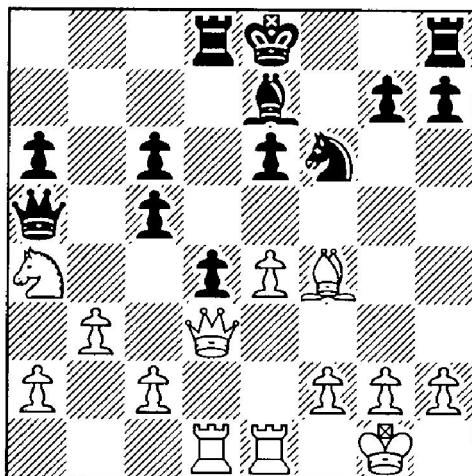
Maybe same idea start with 1. Be5

Or try to kick the knight 1. e5 Ng5
2. Bd2 Qb5

How about trying to fork the rook and queen 1. Qg3 ..., 2. Bc7

White's positional lead is clear, but how did he improve his position further?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.



Test 2: Puzzle 2

Maximum score: 5 Points

Capablanca

Marshall

New York 1909

White to Play

Or try to kick the knight

1. e5 Ng5

2. Bd2 Qb5

Most interesting move is Nb5 to attack queen, but this needs to be prepared, and just trades knights and rooks.

1. fRa1 ...
2. Nb5 axb5
3. Rxa8 Nxa8
4. Rxa8

But what would black play for 1st move? Black wants to play Qe7, Qg5, Bh3, Qg2#.

Could offer trade that helps consolidate our pawns
1. Nc4 Nxc4
2. bxc4

Could also offer trade of knights
1. Na4 Nxa4 2. Rxa4

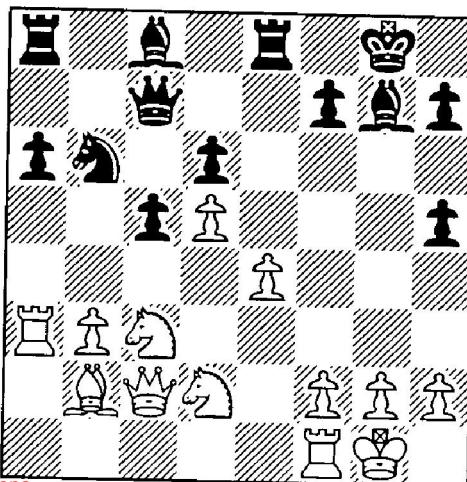
Black has undefended h5 pawn so we could try
1.Nf3 ..., 2. Qd1

There are the dark square bishops.

In the above line with
2. Nb5, instead of axb5
we could see the bishops trade
2. Nb5 Bxb2,
3. Qxb2 axb5

I think white's break is 1. f5

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 2: Puzzle 3

Maximum score: 5 Points

- Petrosian
 Lutikov

USSR Team Championship 1981

White to Play

How did White reduce his opponent's activity while simultaneously adding to Black's positional woes?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.

White's bishop is hanging so

1. Bxf5 exchange
1. Nb3 defend, (or Nb1 - c3 to attack d5)

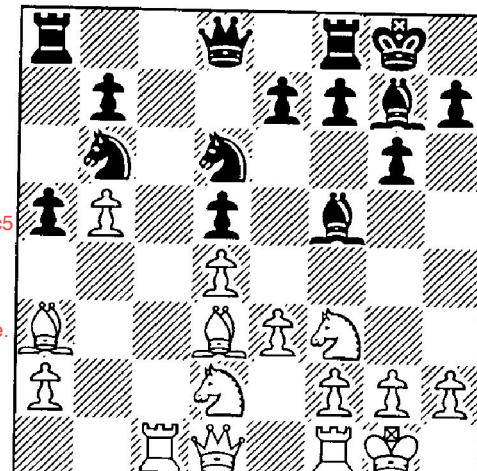
1. Ne1 defend
1. Qc2 (or Qc3) Bxd3,
2. Qxc3 and we still defend the b pawn

We want to move the dark bishop so we can push a4 and defend b pawn again.
Consider Bb2 or Bxd6, also Bc5 and forcing knight back

Knight on e5 would be nice.
Knight to b3 - c5 would be nice.

Would be good to consider stacking the major pieces
(Qb3), Rc5, fRc1

Also consider Ne5, offering trade and defending d3 again



Test 2: Puzzle 4

Maximum score: 5 Points

- Korchnoi
 Rogers

Novi Sad Olympiad 1990

White to Play

When there is only one open file on the board in an otherwise level position we should sometimes be satisfied with a modest but definite advantage. How did White secure such a lead in the diagram position?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.

King can be attacked but can go to b1 after trading.

1. (g4) Rxc1
2. Kxc1 Rc8
3. Kb1

Test Two

Could consider starting with trade

1. Rxc8 Rxc8,
2. b3 Ne8,
3. Bc4 a6

but this leaves white's king in the middle, so we should not trade.

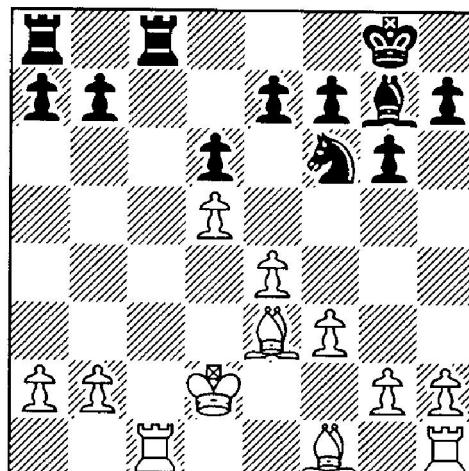
Also, we can move Bc4 to close down black's play, and xray king
Then Bd4 and Rhd1 and e5 to attack on the a1-h8 diagonal.

So,

1. b3 Rxc1
2. Kxc1 Rc8
3. Kb1 Nd7
4. Rhd1 a6
5. Bd4

Maybe start with the bishop?

1. Bc4 a6
2. Bc3 Rxc1
3. Kxc1 Rc8
4. Kb1



Test 2: Puzzle 5

Maximum score: 5 Points

White to Play

Black has recently played ... $\mathbb{Q}e6 \times \mathbb{Q}d5$ and White recaptured with the c4-pawn. How can White now secure a clear advantage?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 2 points.

What jumps out to me is

1. Bd4 ...
2. Na7+ Kb8
3. Nc6+

Should we consider
1. Nxe7 Rxe7

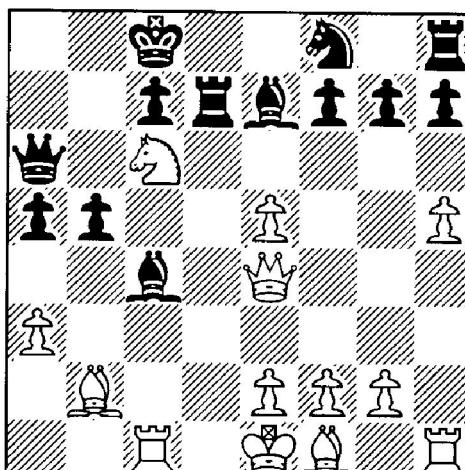
Or pin the rook with
1. Qf5 ...
2. Nxe7

Can we get the Queen off of the A file?

1. Bd4 ...
2. Ra1 ...
3. Nb4

black cannot take since
3. ... axb4
4. axb4
and I think black's best response is to trade Queens with
4. ... Qb7
5. Qxb7 Kxb7

Also consider g3 Bg2 to cover the a8 square



Test 2: Puzzle 6

Maximum score: 10 Points

Volzhin

Rewitz

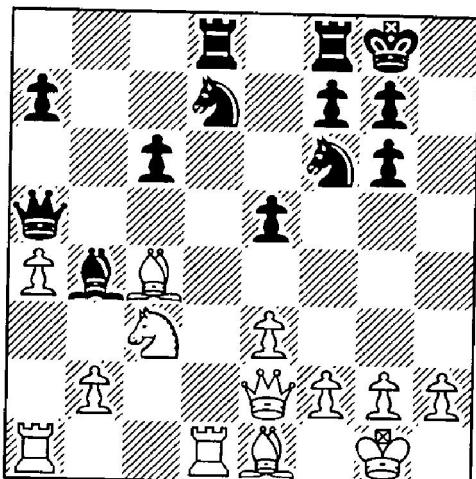
Aarhus 1997

White to Play

1 $\mathbb{Q}xe7+$ $\mathbb{Q}xe7$ 2 a4 favours White but Volzhin did not want to part with his great knight. Consequently he went for a decisive positional bind that left his opponent tied up. How did he do this?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 4 points.

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 2: Puzzle 7

Maximum score: 10 Points

Karpov

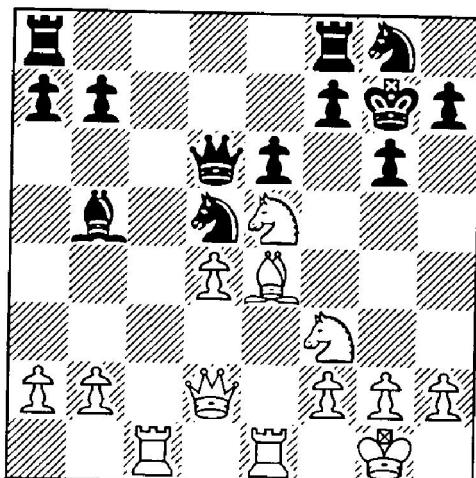
Kramnik

Monte Carlo (blindfold) 1995

Black to Play

Despite the fact that this is a blindfold game Kramnik managed to make the most of his chances by forcing a serious positional concession in enemy territory. How did he engineer the creation of a hole which he eventually occupied with decisive effect?

See page 90 to *Ask A Grandmaster*, which will cost you 4 points.



Test 2: Puzzle 8

Maximum score: 10 Points

Capablanca

Alekhine

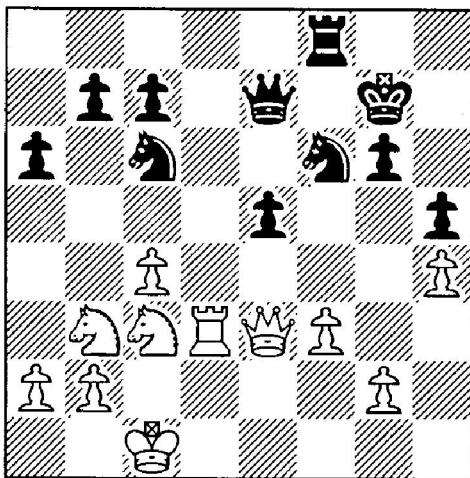
St. Petersburg 1913

White to Play

White's prospects of a kingside attack have just about disappeared (along with the trade of bishops) and Black has a decent grip on the centre. However, it is on the queenside that White can make significant progress. How did 'Capa' secure a clear advantage?

See page 90 to *Ask A Grandmaster*, which will cost you 4 points.

Test Two



Test 2: Puzzle 9

Maximum score: 10 Points

Bykhovsky

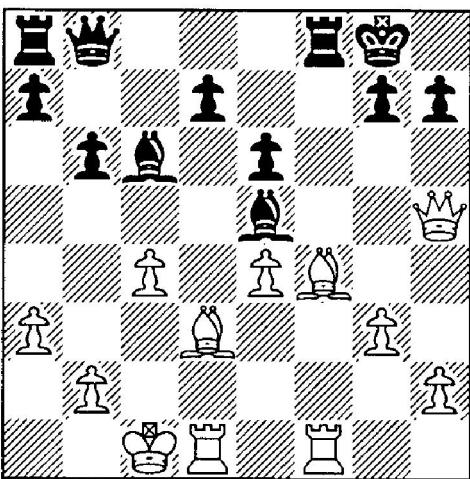
Smirin

Beijing 1991

Black to Play

A fairly even position; Black's isolated e5-pawn and White's control of the e4-square suggesting an edge for the first player. How should Black proceed?

See page 90 to *Ask A Grandmaster*, which will cost you 4 points.



Test 2: Puzzle 10

Maximum score: 10 Points

Lutz

Karpov

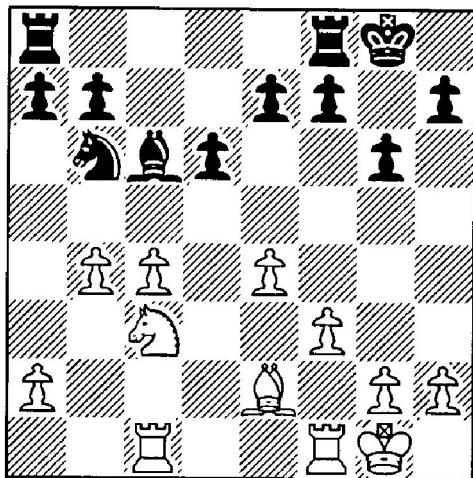
Dortmund 1993

Black to Play

Black's all-seeing bishop faces eviction from e5, where White would like to push his pawn in order to clear the b1-h7 diagonal. How did Karpov secure a lasting positional advantage?

See page 90 to *Ask A Grandmaster*, which will cost you 4 points.

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 2: Puzzle 11

Maximum score: 15 Points

Razuvayev

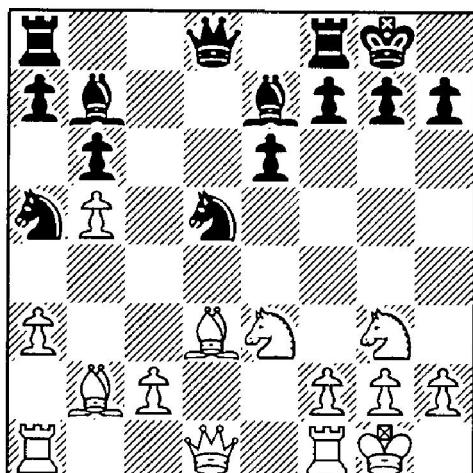
Honfi

Cienfuegos 1976

White to Play

White has just traded queens on b6, safe in the knowledge that the significance of his space advantage is greater as the ending approaches. In fact Black's minor pieces are rather awkwardly placed, allowing White to practically force the creation of a passed pawn. How?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.



Test 2: Puzzle 12

Maximum score: 15 Points

Spielmann

Maroczy

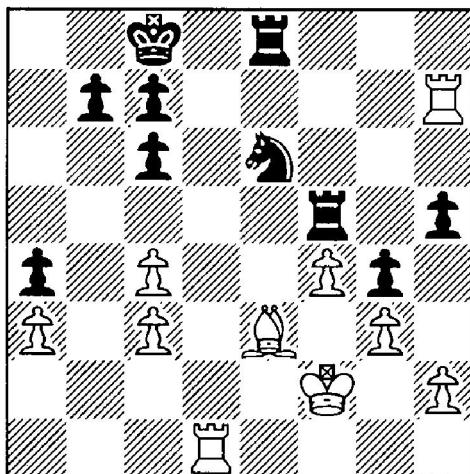
Gothenburg 1920

White to Play

White clearly has the enemy king in his sights. How did he use direct threats to induce serious structural weaknesses in Black's camp?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.

Test Two



Test 2: Puzzle 13

Maximum score: 15 Points

Gulko

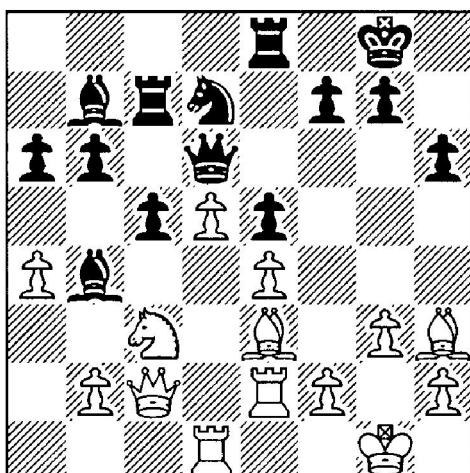
Kramnik

Novgorod 1995

Black to Play

White's bishop is not good and his pawns have seen better times. How did Black transfer his knight to attack the enemy c-pawns?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.



Test 2: Puzzle 14

Maximum score: 15 Points

Khalifman

Lautier

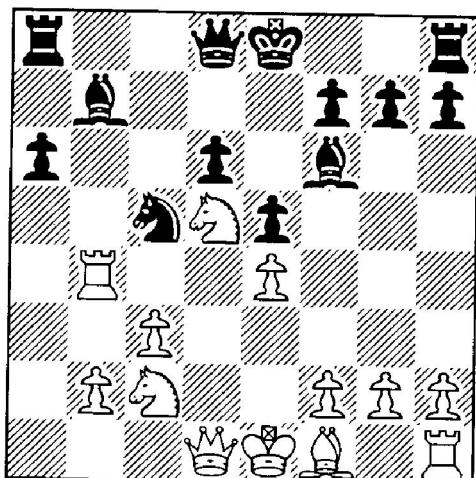
Biel Interzonal 1993

White to Play

If only Black had a knight on d6. Can you find a plan, aimed at dislodging the blockading queen, that forces a concession?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.

Can You be a Positional Chess Genius?



Test 2: Puzzle 15

Maximum score: 15 Points

Kasparov

Shirov

Horgen 1994

White to Play

White has a good knight on d5 but Black's is also useful. How did Kasparov reduce his dangerous young opponent to passivity?

See page 90 to Ask A Grandmaster, which will cost you 6 points.

Scorechart for Test 2

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