

CHESS CLASS HOMEWORK

Tactics practice problems for beginners and all who want to develop their skills, board vision, and ability to ‘find the right move’.

General Questions:

1. What is ‘unguarded’?
2. Can you attack it? Do you want to attack it?
3. Are there open lines, diagonal or vertical – leading to the enemy king?
4. Can you ‘check’ the enemy king? Do you want to do that?
5. If you make the move you are thinking of, what will be the response from the other person?
6. Is your move a forcing move or is it a move he ‘could’ ignore?
7. Is your king open to attacks? Will your opponent have a move or two to begin an attack on you?

General Tactics

1. Fork
2. Pin
3. Skewer
4. Discovered Attack
5. Destroying the Guard (Remove the defender)
6. Deflection
7. Decoy
8. Square-vacating .
9. Line-vacating
10. Zwischenzug (‘In-Between-Move’ before moving in the main line)
11. Desperado
12. ZugZwang

At the end of each tactic, be sure you work out “how to win the game from here” so that you don’t end up in a position you have no clue how to play.

Chess is 99% tactics; learn more about tactics each week. These are ‘homework’ lessons prepared for those interested to work on each week.

Answers		
1. 1. Qg4 threatens mate. Black must block or advance the g pawn, either way, white can take the h pawn check, and off with black’s queen next.	2. Excitement costs you games. Of course, Bxe5, block white’s pawns and advance the black ones – queen one and win the ending.	3. 1. c3 Be3+ 2. Kc2 Rd2+ (fork), and after the king escapes to b3, Rxe2.
4. Yes. After 1. Qxd2 Qxf3 lines up the queen and bishop on the a8-h1 diagonal. g2 is in reach for mate. White MUST move his king to f1, and what will you play now? (**4. Look for it first, but Extra learning answers at end).	5. Essential to LOOK at the whole board. Seeing white’s open/unguarded rook on h1, black simply took it. HOW WOULD YOU WIN WITH BLACK after that?	6. Qg3. Maintain the pin, if black plays his queen to b8 to attack your queen, you can take his, then take his bishop with a pawn.
7. Of course you saw: Attack the knight with your pawn, AND expose your queen to the rook, if white moves his rook, he loses the knight.	8. Qa4+ !! CHECK and fork a knight that is no longer guarded--wins a piece, one way or another. Every move might leave something no longer guarded. Look for it. Always.	9. Yes, take the bishop with your rook, renewing the pin on white’s queen. White will lose this game.
10. Bxb2+ forces white’s king to move, buying black time. what next? K moves to – where? d1 or b1. If b1, white can have an exposed check, is there anything better? YOU BET, mate by Nc3. What about Kd1?? oh, Rxd5+ chases him again, to e2. what next? You did see this, didn’t you?	11. Obviously, the black rook is unguarded. Therefore, Ra8+ If Bb8, Bxe5 double attacks the b8 Bishop. White wins.	12. Nd6+ forces black to move to f6. N (the other N) to e4 prevents black’s king from escaping on g5 and applies another check. Now he is in front of his own pawn protectors.

1. Black captured a white knight on e4. Are there any Mate threats? What is not guarded? look for exposed attack (& pin) involving a check.

You play WHITE



2. Black moved his bishop, and white failed to LOOK at that piece and where it could go next. White played g2-g4.

You play BLACK



3. Desperate for a space to escape the attacks, white played c3. What will finish this quickly? Can you corner him? Is there an unguarded white knight?? How?

You play BLACK



4. White took a black bishop. What should you do, and what threats does that create? Likely moves are? hint: is the white king exposed and open to mate threats? How?

You play BLACK



5. Easy: Failing to look at black's move, Bb7, white played h4. Should black play Ne4 attacking the white queen? or cxd4? Or some other move. Look at the whole board.

You play BLACK



6. White's queen is attacked by a black pawn, Black's bishop is pinned to his king, what can white do? taking the bishop with queen loses queen to a knight... how do you maintain the pin, remove your queen from attack?

You play WHITE



7. White just pushed the b pawn. What do you see for a sharp tactic? Hint: what is not guarded?

You play BLACK



8. Black pushed the d pawn to block white's d pawn and maintain space. What did that open up? If you said a Diagonal to the black king, you would be right. Now, what is your move?

You play WHITE



9. White's queen is pinned to his king by a rook. White broke the pin by interposing his Bishop, double attacking black's bishop. The black bishop is pinned by the queen and cannot take white's rook. What do you see?

You play BLACK



10. Pieces are hanging all over the board. b8>b2, c6>b8, g4>f3, g7>b2, Ideas? Can you take something with check? White just moved Nd4 attacking the black rook.

You play BLACK



11. Black played Kc8 to prevent the knight fork on f7. What do you see as 'good' for white now?

You play WHITE



12. Q Check, Black must move off the back rank. (Qe8 allows Nd6 'Royal' Fork). What do you see for white. Hint: Think of using both Knights.

You play WHITE

