

Chess 014: Endgame Technique for 1200 – 1500 Players Pretest

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The purpose of this pretest is to give potential students an idea of what the level of this class will be and what their strength is relative to the class.

Each problem is worth 1 point.

You are allowed to spend only 1 minute per problem.

You are part of the targeted pool of students if you score between 2 and 8 points on this pretest. If you score less than 2, then this class might be advanced for you and if you score more than 8, then this class may be a bit basic for you.

This pretest should not be taken too seriously; however, if you score 0 or 10, then this course may not be at the right level for you. Only basic tactical/strategic skill and endgame knowledge is tested.

Everybody within the 1100 – 1600 ELO rating range should benefit greatly from this class. There will be several optional homework assignments in addition to the required coursework. This means while the core of the class will focus at the 1200 – 1500 level, there will be additional content for higher and lower rated players to explore! This makes the class suitable for players at various levels.

Problem 1: White to Move

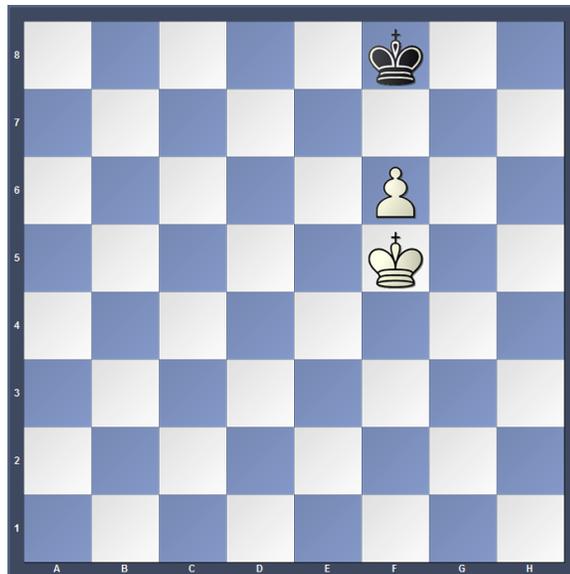
FEN: 5k2/3Qb3/8/5K2/8/8/8/8 w - - 0 1



Identify White's best move and the number of moves required to force mate from this position.

Problem 2: White to Move

FEN: 5k2/8/5P2/5K2/8/8/8/8 w - - 0 2

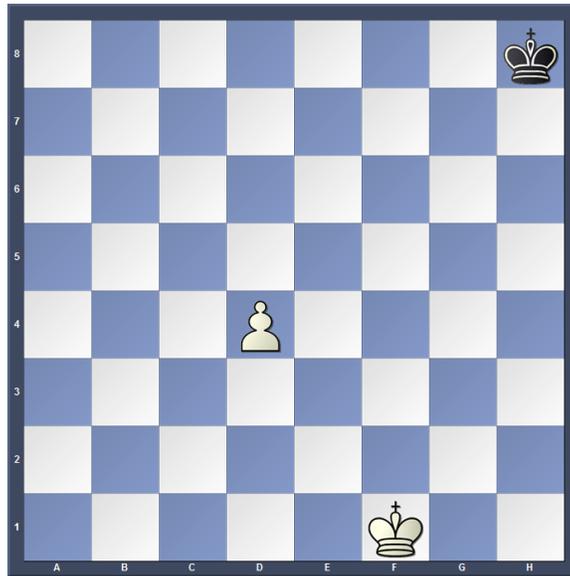


Upon best play from both sides, is this position a win for White or drawn? Why?

If it's a win, identify White's winning move.

Problem 3: White to Move

FEN: 7k/8/8/8/3P4/8/8/5K2 w - - 0 1

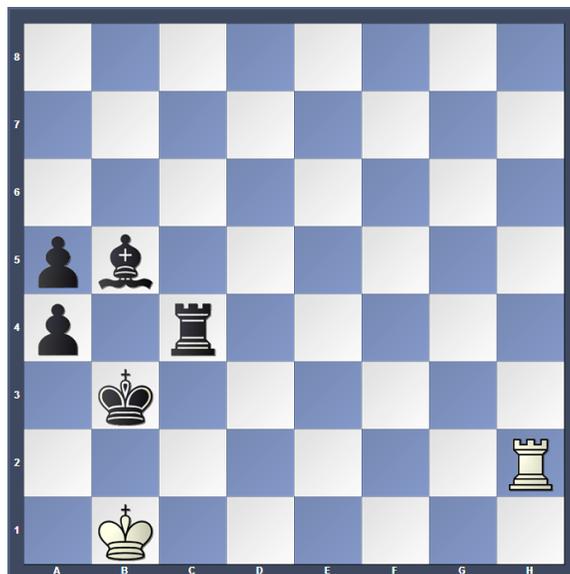


Upon best play from both sides, is this position a win for White or drawn? Why?

If it's a win, identify White's winning move.

Problem 4: White to Move

FEN: 8/8/8/pb6/p1r5/1k6/7R/1K6 w - - 0 1

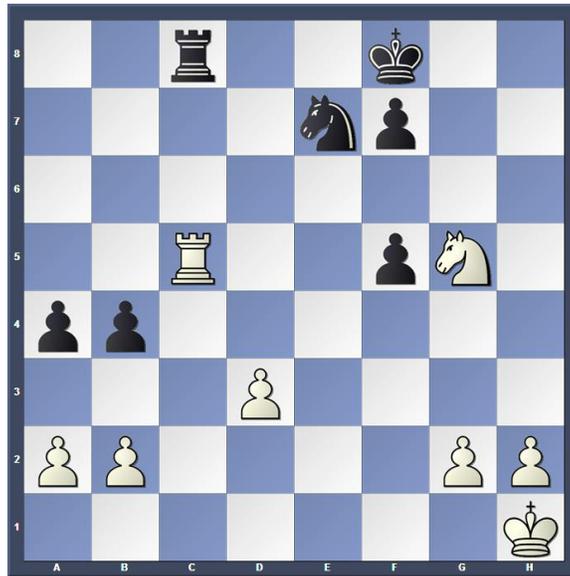


Upon best play from both sides, is this position a win for Black or drawn? Why?

Either way, what would you play as White here?

Problem 5: White to Move

FEN: 2r2k2/4np2/8/2R2pN1/pp6/3P4/PP4PP/7K w - - 0 33



White has an advantage here but is the position winning?

Formulate a basic plan and identify White's best move.

Problem 6: Black to Move

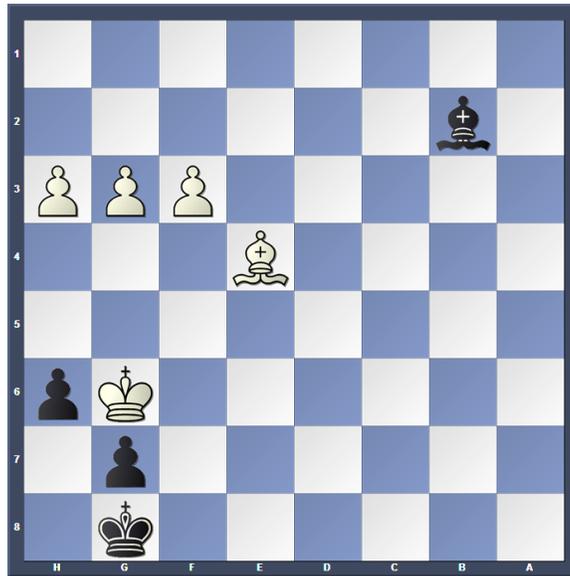
FEN: 4k3/1R6/P7/1P2b3/3rn3/K7/8/8 b - - 0 60



Do White's passed pawns offer sufficient compensation for the material deficit? Either way, what do you believe is Black's best move here?

Problem 7: Black to Move

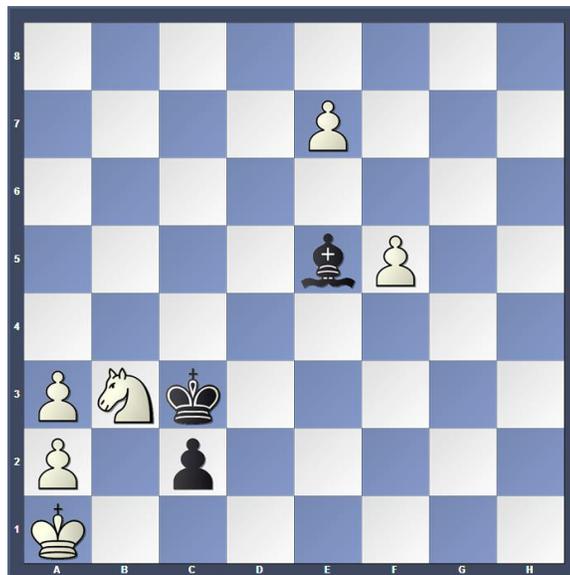
FEN: 6k1/6p1/6Kp/8/4B3/5PPP/1b6/8 w - - 0 1



How significant is White's advantage in this position? Is it easy for Black to save this endgame? What would you play as Black here?

Problem 8: White to Move

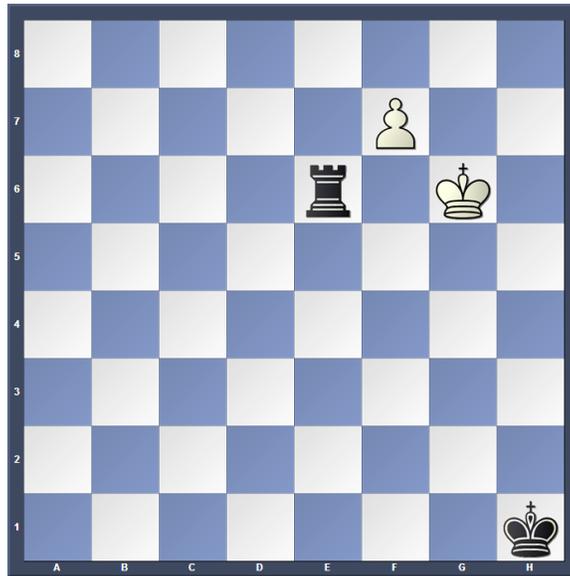
FEN: 8/4P3/8/4bP2/8/PNk5/P1p5/K7 w - - 0 0



What is White's best move and what is the evaluation of this position?

Problem 9: White to Move

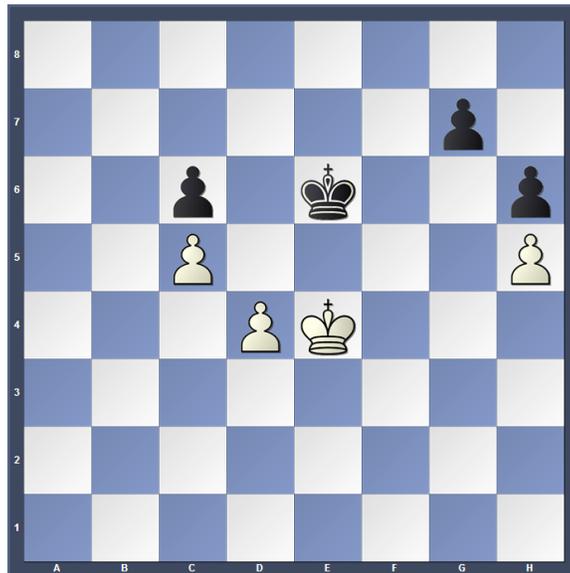
FEN: 8/5P2/4r1K1/8/8/8/7k w - - 0 0



Should White fear Black's rook? What is this position's evaluation and what is White's best move?

Problem 10: White to Move

FEN: 8/6p1/2p1k2p/2P4P/3PK3/8/8/8 w - - 0 0



Evaluate this position and indicate your favorite move for White.

Submit your answers by sending a message to GeniusKJ on Chess.com to know your score.