

Solutions to Test your brain 1

Puzzle 1

1. Rg2 any
2. O-O #!!

Puzzle 2

1. Keres has been described as the strongest player never to become the World Champion. Yet even he made a terrible mistake. When he 53.Rc4, Fischer simply played 53...Qe5 mate!

Puzzle 3

It is very important to know how to break through when you have three connected pawns on the sixth rank. You must first push the middle pawn. So,

1. b6! is the winning move. Why? Because Black has to take the b pawn (or White will take it and get a queen!) so Black plays

1... axb6 (Black could also play cxb6. Can you work out what White should play in that case?)

Now white plays the winning move

2. c6!!

Now Black is done for. If Black plays 2... bxc6, white will play 3.a6! (and the pawn cannot be stopped from queening on a8). But if Black plays 2...bxa6, white simply plays 3.cxb7! and the b queens on b8. This is a beautiful, basic and very important winning theme that you must know how to handle in your chess games.

Puzzle 4

The way to win in two moves is as follows

1. Rd4 (This is a very efficient move. Black has only got one move)

1... Kf8. This move is forced
2. Rd8 mate

This mating technique is well worth noting. It can save you a lot of precious time in a tournament!