FREE WORKBOOK · ADVANCED · 1500 TO 1900

Blindfold Practice: Advanced

At this level blindfold work becomes calculation training. You will hold a whole position in your head, count every legal move of a piece, and solve two-move mates with many pieces on the board.

How to practise

- Read the question once, out loud if you like. Then look away from the page and picture the board.
- Do not use a board or an app while you solve. Write your answer first, then check it on a board.
- Answers are at the back. Cover them while you work.
- Little and often works best: 10 to 15 minutes a day beats one long session a week.

A. Long knight routes

Fewest knight moves from the first square to the second, and one route. Picture each jump.

1 a1 to h8
Answer: _____

2 a1 to b2
Answer: _____

3 h1 to g2
Answer: _____

4 b1 to h7
Answer: _____

5 a8 to h1
Answer: _____

6 c3 to c4
Answer: _____

7 d1 to e8
Answer: _____

8 h4 to a5
Answer: _____

B. Hold the position

Read the position, then answer both questions without looking back at it.

9 **White:** Kh6, Rb1, Rc1, Be2, Bf4, pawns d3 b6
Black: Kh4, pawns d2 c6 a7
a) How many legal moves does the white rook on b1 have? b) Which black pieces does it attack?
Answer: _____

10 **White:** Kc6, Qa2, Rd6, Nc1, pawns d2 c4 e6
Black: Kb8, Bh2, pawns f2 b5
a) How many legal moves does the white knight on c1 have? b) Which black pieces does it attack?
Answer: _____

11 **White:** Kb6, Qg7, Bb2
Black: Kc8, Qf4, Rd2, Re6, Ng6, pawns e4 d6 h6
a) How many legal moves does the white bishop on b2 have? b) Which black pieces does it attack?
Answer: _____

12 **White:** Kf1, Qd6, pawn g3
Black: Ka5, Rh7, Nh1, pawns a2 b3 a4 a6 f7
a) How many legal moves does the white queen on d6 have? b) Which black pieces does it attack?
Answer: _____

13 **White:** Kd2, Qd5, Rf3, Bf2
Black: Kh1, Qe8, pawns g2 b4
a) How many legal moves does the white queen on d5 have? b) Which black pieces does it attack?
Answer: _____

14 **White:** Kb7, Qe8, Ra1, Ba4, pawn e4
Black: Ka5, pawns g2 f3
a) How many legal moves does the white queen on e8 have? b) Which black pieces does it attack?
Answer: _____

C. Follow the opening

Longer main lines. Play them in your head, then answer the three questions.

Ruy Lopez, Closed: 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7

15 What is on e1?
Answer: _____

16 What is on d8?
Answer: _____

17 If it were Black to move, how many legal moves would the knight on f6 have?
Answer: _____

Queen's Gambit Declined, Orthodox: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.Rc1 c6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nd5

18 What is on a1?
Answer: _____

19 What is on e7?
Answer: _____

20 If it were Black to move, how many legal moves would the bishop on e7 have?
Answer: _____

Sicilian Najdorf, English Attack: 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2 O-O 10.O-O-O Nbd7 11.g4 b5

21 What is on e1?
Answer: _____

22 What is on b5?
Answer: _____

23 If it were White to move, how many legal moves would the knight on c3 have?
Answer: _____

King's Indian, Classical: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 O-O 6.Be2 e5 7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7

24 What is on e8?
Answer: _____

25 What is on e7?
Answer: _____

26 If it were Black to move, how many legal moves would the knight on e7 have?
Answer: _____

Caro-Kann, Classical: 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6

27 What is on f3?
Answer: _____

28 What is on e2?
Answer: _____

29 If it were Black to move, how many legal moves would the knight on d7 have?
Answer: _____

D. Blindfold mate in two

Busy positions. Find the first move, Black's best reply and the mate.

30 **White:** Kd6, Qa1, pawn b6
Black: Kd8, Rg1, Ba2, Ng3, pawns e2 g2
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

31 **White:** Kf7, Qh2
Black: Kh7, Rg5, Bh4, Ne1, pawns d3 e5
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

32 **White:** Ka1, Rf1, Bh3, Be5, pawn b3
Black: Ke8, pawn c5
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

33 **White:** Ke4, Qe8, Nh4
Black: Kh7, Nb1, pawn c3
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

34 **White:** Ke8, Rb5, Rb6, pawns g3 g4
Black: Ka7, pawn c7
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

35 **White:** Ke7, Rd1, Ne6, pawns b3 g4 b6
Black: Kh7, Bf7, pawns d6 c7
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

36 **White:** Kd6, Qb3, pawn d5
Black: Kd8, Rb7, pawns h2 e4
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

37 **White:** Ka1, Qd7, Rb1
Black: Kg8, Rb7, Ng2, Nc3, pawn f4
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

38 **White:** Kg6, Qe5, Rf1, Bc1
Black: Kc8, pawns e2 a3
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

39 **White:** Ka7, Qd6, Nb6, pawns a6 c6
Black: Ka5, Rb4, Bg6, pawn c2
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

40 **White:** Kd4, Qf2, Bd5, Nc1
Black: Ka4, Bd8, Ng7, pawn d7
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

41 **White:** Kb6, Rg5
Black: Kb8, Bc3, Nc6, pawns h4 e6
White to play and mate in 2.
Answer: _____

Your practice log

Do one section a day. Write your score, then do the same section again a week later and see how much faster it feels.

Date	Section	Score	Time taken	What felt hard

Next: play the Hard drills on chessdepth.in/blindfold/ and finish the 28-day plan, then take on the Elite workbook.

Answers

Check each answer on a real board after you have written yours. If you got one wrong, set up the position and play it through slowly, then try it again blindfold the next day.

A. Long knight routes

1 6 moves: a1 – c2 – e1 – g2 – f4 – g6 – h8

2 4 moves: a1 – c2 – e1 – d3 – b2

3 4 moves: h1 – f2 – d1 – e3 – g2

4 4 moves: b1 – d2 – f3 – g5 – h7

5 6 moves: a8 – b6 – a4 – b2 – d1 – f2 – h1

6 3 moves: c3 – b1 – d2 – c4

7 4 moves: d1 – b2 – c4 – d6 – e8

8 4 moves: h4 – g2 – e3 – c4 – a5

B. Hold the position

9 a) 5: a1, b2, b3, b4, b5. b) none

10 a) 3: b3, d3, e2. b) none

11 a) 7: a1, a3, c1, c3, d4, e5, f6. b) none

12 a) 23: a3, a6, b4, b6, b8, c5, c6, c7, d1, d2, d3, d4, d5, d7, d8, e5, e6, e7, f4, f6, f8, g6, h6. b) pawn on a6

13 a) 22: a2, a5, a8, b3, b5, b7, c4, c5, c6, d3, d4, d6, d7, d8, e4, e5, e6, f5, f7, g5, g8, h5. b) none

14 a) 16: a8, b5, b8, c6, c8, d7, d8, e5, e6, e7, f7, f8, g6, g8, h5, h8. b) none

C. Follow the opening

15 A white rook

16 Empty

17 6 (d5, d7, e4, e8, g4, h5)

18 Empty

19 A black bishop

20 6 (a3, b4, c5, d6, f6, g5)

21 Empty

22 A black pawn

23 5 (a4, b1, b5, d5, e2)

24 Empty

25 A black knight

26 3 (c6, d5, f5)

27 A white knight

28 Empty

29 5 (b6, b8, c5, e5, f6)

D. Blindfold mate in two

30 1.Qh8+ Bg8 2.Qxg8#

31 1.Qxh4+ Rh5 2.Qxh5#

32 1.Bd6 c4 2.Rf8#

33 1.Qf7+ Kh6 2.Qg6#

34 1.Rc6 Ka8 2.Ra6#

35 1.Kxf7 cxb6 2.Rh1#

36 1.Qxb7 h1=Q 2.Qd7#

37 1.Rxb7 Nh4 2.Rb8#

38 1.Rf7 e1=Q 2.Qc7#

39 1.Qc5+ Rb5 2.Qa3#

40 1.Kc4 Ne6 2.Qa2#

41 1.Rg8+ Nd8 2.Rxd8#