

ROB'S BASIC CHESS QUIZ

1) *Where did the word, CHECKMATE, come from?*

a) The Australians had morbid, slightly amusing, phrase that was most popular during WWII. It was, "CHECK ON THE MATE PLEASE. HE'S DEAD".

b) A term in which a sailing ship would briefly hit (or "checked") another boat in order to board it, esp. in acts of piracy.

c) A Sanskrit phrase meaning "THE KING IS DEAD".

d) An ancient Pharaoh's curse.

(c) The word comes from Sanskrit words, SHAH (king) + MAT (dead)

2) *Which chess piece is also the name of a GM?*

(a) KING

(b) QUEEN

(c) ROOK

(d) KNIGHT

(e) SPRINGER

(A) GM Raymond King, born in 1948, is from London. He earned his title in 1976.

3) *Who was not a World Chess Champion from the United States before Bobby Fischer?*

(a) STEINITZ

(b) BERLINER

(c) LOMBARDY

(d) Trick Question! – Fischer was the first World Champion from the United States

(e) BELLE

(E) BELLE won the 1980 World Computer Chess Championships. It was from the United States, but it earned the title after 1972.

Steinitz would officially become a US citizen on November 23, 1888 and he was World Champion from 1862 to 1894.

Berliner was the World Correspondence Chess Champion, from 1965 to 1968.

Lombardy won the World Junior Championship in 1957 with a score 12-0 (the only person to win that tournament with a perfect score)

4) *Which word does not belong?*

(a) CHECKMATE

(b) STALEMATE

(c) CASTLING

(d) RESIGNATION

(e) DRAW

(C) All the other words are actions that end a game.

5) Which word does not belong?

- (a) KING
- (b) QUEEN
- (c) KNIGHT
- (d) CASTLE
- (e) PAWN
- (f) ROOK
- (g) RESIGN
- (h) SACRIFICE
- (i) ELO

(I) Every word on the list, except one, is a verb. You can say, “KING me!” in checkers, you can QUEEN a pawn in chess, you can PAWN a piece of jewelry, you can be KNIGHTED by England if you are Paul McCarthy, and you can RESIGN a game.

But when was the last time anyone “ELOED” something?

6) Which word does not belong?

- (a) PARIS
- (b) MOSCOW
- (c) VIENNA
- (d) BERLIN
- (e) BUDAPEST

(A) All other cities also refer to an opening in chess.

7) A “RINGED PIECE” refers to:

- (a) A pendant that hangs from the neck that is, or features, a chess piece.
- (b) A piece of art created by Ringo Starr, who was inspired by Lennon’s chess set that featured two sets of white pieces to indicate harmony.
- (c) A piece on the chessboard with a ring around it, indicating that this piece was to be the one to deliver the checkmate.

(C) A ringed piece is harder to win than giving queen odds, as if the ringed piece is captured, the player with the ringed piece automatically loses the game.

8) What is the definition of SCACCHIC?

- (a) [*n.* the Computer World Champion for 1981.]
- (b) [*n.* a famous correspondence player of the 1950’s who came up with a new move in the Two Knights Defence.]
- (c) [*adj.* of or relating to chess.]
- (d) [*adj.* referring to the queenside in chess.]
- (e) [*adj.* referring to a dive into the ocean by leaping far off the side of a cliff.]

(C) Ok, now you can look this word up in a dictionary.