

- A recent improvement that is not yet reflected in the rating. In such a case, the key question would be whether the player could realistically repeat a similar result in another live tournament under normal conditions.

...При найближчій зустрічі з її батьком я буду пропонувати йому відправити разом зі мною його дочку на найближчі змагання у класичному вигляді, -- це може бути чемпіонат Словаччини, подорож туди я зможу профінансувати самостійно, якщо батько скаже що в нього відсутні кошти. Далі я буду рухатись до Північної Македонії, в вона зможе повернутись в Україну. Або це можуть бути якісь інші змагання у сусідній країні. Його рішення і буде, можливо, лакмусовим папірцем на цей результат в ISC 2026.

At the next meeting with her father, I will suggest that he send his daughter with me to the next competition in the classic form, it could be the Slovak championship, I will be able to finance the trip there myself if my father says he doesn't have the funds. Then I will move to North Macedonia, where she will be able to return to Ukraine. Or it could be some other competition in a neighboring country. His decision could be the litmus test for his daughter's ISC 2026 results.

- special preparation or external assistance,

Ніка сподобала розв'язування шахових задач, і вона це тренує. Завдання для тренування підбирає їй батько. Він залучає її до всіх змагань які зараз у нашому не легкому житті зараз можуть бути доступними.

Nika liked solving chess problems, and she practices it. Her father chooses the problems for her to practice. He involves her in all the competitions that are currently available in our difficult life.

- family or close personal relationships with officials involved in the event (e.g. a judge),

Григорій Щербов -- Президент Полтавської обласної федерації шахів, батько Ніки -- тренер шахового гуртка, місце знаходження якого в Полтавському державному педагогічному університеті. В цих аудиторіях відбувається також і ISC. Університет має бомбосховище, побудоване ще тоді коли була ймовірність атомної війни. Тому тут дозволені змагання.

Grigoriy Shcherbov -- President of the Poltava Regional Chess Federation, Nika's father -- coach of the chess club, which is located at the Poltava State Pedagogical University. ISC also takes place in these classrooms. The university has a bomb shelter, built back when there was a possibility of nuclear war. That's why competitions are allowed here.

- coaching or training relationships with the local controller or other officials,

Мною, Григорій не був запідозрений у нечестності.  
I, Grigory, was not suspected of dishonesty.

- the specific solving conditions and the level of supervision during the event, including any potential opportunity for copying or communication between participants.

Я, особисто наголошував про правила, і це вже системно. Телефони відсутні. по залу ніхто зайвий не пересувається. Процес правильний. Чи міг хтось без Григорія підглянути в його документи? Кажу що ні. ? Особисто я, це не можу перевірити.

I personally emphasized the rules, and this is already systematic. There are no phones. No one moves around the hall unnecessarily. The process is correct. Could someone other than Hryhoriy peek into his papers? He says no. ? Personally, I can't verify this.

- a simple seating scheme (a hand-drawn sketch is sufficient) showing how the players were seated, and

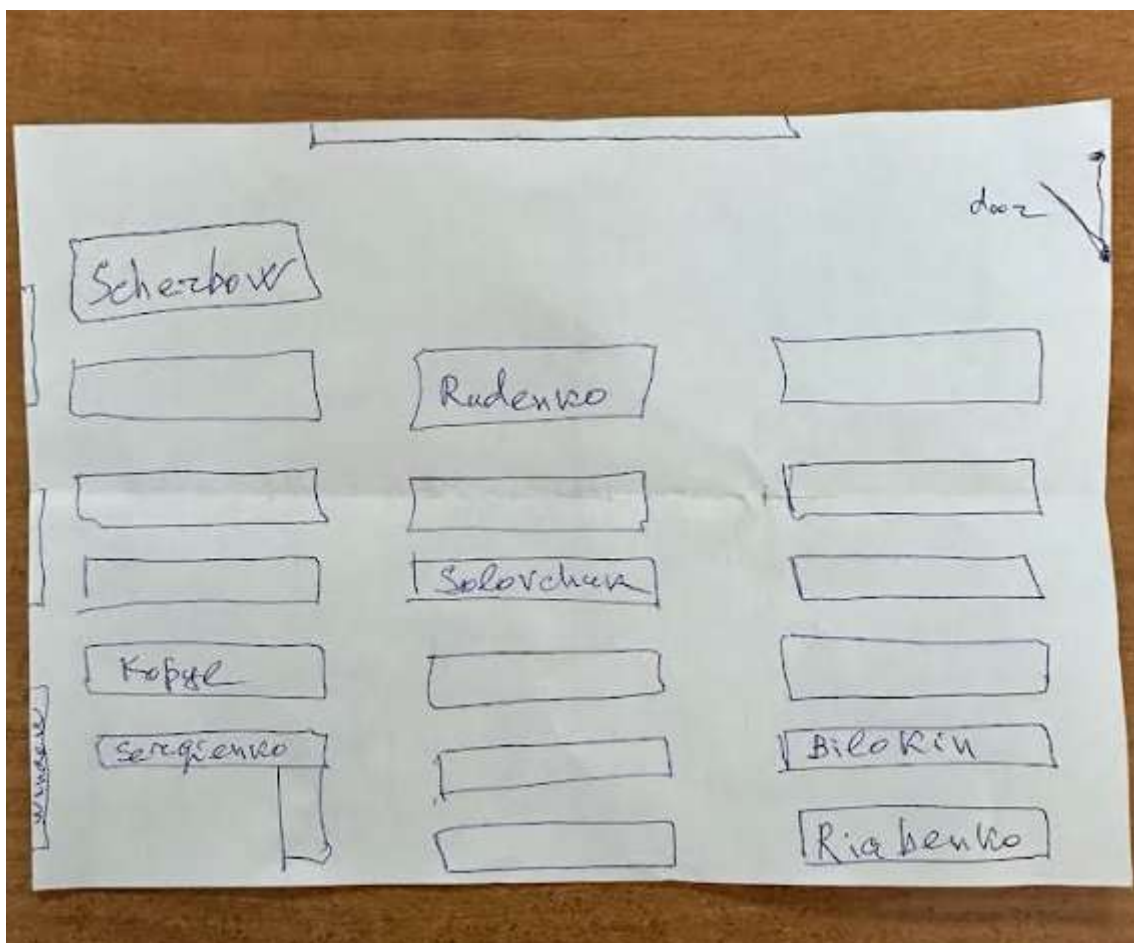
Аудиторія з учбовою дошкою. Три ряди по 6 парт, можуть сидіти по два студента. Розв'язувач -- один. У ряду від вікна, на четвертій парті сидів я, за мною – Андрій Сергієнко, він здвигає дві парті літерою «Г», і сидів останній, у першому ряду. Другий ряд – на першій парті сидів Тарас Руденко, за ним, через парту -- Олексій Соловчук. Третій ряд, від стіни, на 5-й парті сидів Юрій Білокінь, на 6-й парті -- Ніка Рябенко.

Auditorium with a blackboard. Three rows of 6 desks, two students can sit each. One solver. In the row from the window, I sat at the fourth desk, behind me was Andriy Sergienko, he moved two desks with the letter "G", and he sat last, in the first row. Second row – Taras Rudenko sat on the first desk, behind him, across the desk -- Oleksiy Solovchuk. Third row, from the wall, on the 5th desk sat Yuriy Bilokin, on the 6th desk -- Nika Ryabenko.

- a brief description of how the event was conducted and supervised during the solving sessions.

В першій аудиторії контроль здійснював Григорій Щербов, в аудиторії поруч, де змагалист нижчі категорії контроль здійснював Юрій Рябенко. З мого боку зауважень не було, сам процес відбувався по правилам.

In the first auditorium, control was carried out by Grigory Shcherbov, in the adjacent auditorium, where the lower category competitors were, control was carried out by Yuriy Ryabenko. There were no comments from my side, the process itself took place according to the rules.



**Arvydas Mockus** <arvydas.mockus@gmail.com>

2026-02-12  
14:20 (prieš 8  
dienas)

skirta Валерій

Dear Valery,

do you perhaps remember where

1. Nika Riabenko was seated during the **39th Ukrainian Championship 2025 (30.03.2025)**,

and why

2. she did not finish the **7th Ukrainian Solving Cup 2025 (03.08.2025)**, solving only two rounds?

**Валерій Копил**

2026-02-12  
15:09 (prieš 8  
dienas)

skirta aš

Usually Nika sits in the same place, others also take their favorite places, for example Sergiyenko, whenever the number of people allows to set the table as "G", he does it. Rudenko is at the first desk in the middle row. At the Ukrainian Cup Nika felt bad and left the competition.



**Arvydas Mockus**

02-12, kt 22:10 (prieš 8 dienas)

I have a clarifying question regarding the practice of conducting tournaments in Ukraine.

How is the issue of mobile phones usually organized during a round?

Does the arbiter collect the phones before the start of the competition, or do they remain with the participants?

**Валерій Копил**

2026-02-13  
09:23 (prieš 7  
dienas)

skirta aš

Пропустил вопрос о телефонах. Всі телефони здаються координатору і лежать у картонній коробці на полиці за його спиною на якій висить учбова дошка.

All available phones were handed over to the coordinator and were lying in a cardboard box on a shelf behind him, near the wall where the blackboard hangs.

**Arvydas Mockus** <arvydas.mockus@gmail.com>

2026-02-13  
12:02 (prieš 7  
dienas)

skirta Валерій

Are you certain that Ryabenko handed over her phone? Even at World Championships phones are collected, but not everyone actually hands them over.

The conducted review shows a correlation between the written answers and typical engine output. Ryabenko's answers are written in a very non-standard way, not in the usual manner of recording solutions by solvers. She never indicates threats; she lists variations directly after move 1, and the listed variations are usually among the five variations shown in the engine line. Since the engine does not display all variations because they do not fit into the top-5 output, she consistently omits the variations that are not shown by the engine.

Problem No. 2 very clearly reflects a phone-displayed line. The move 1.Bg3 becomes logically clear only after the defence 1...Kc4. Otherwise, the bishop could move anywhere. However, she does not write the 1...Kc4 line, which means she did not see it, and then it is unclear why she plays Bg3 and how she determined that this is the only move that works.

The defence 1.Bg3 Bxh3 is also unclear from a logical standpoint, but if one looks at the engine, it lists Bxh3 in the first line. Most of her problems are solved in this manner, and the same stylistic pattern was visible in ISC 2025 as well.

Ryabenko's written solution shows that she copied blindly and did not even understand the problem.

Lichess shows the solution starting with 1.Bg3 Bxh3... Therefore, instead of writing the threat "~", she wrote the move Bxh3 as indicated by Lichess.



2. [#3] 1. Cg3 - Ch3  
 2. Qf7+ 1, 2, 3  
 1. Cg3 - a4  
 2. Qf7+  
 1. Cg3 - dcl  
 2. h83  
 1. Cg3 - b1p  
 2. Qf7+  
 1, 2, 3

After playing Rxh3, five defences appear, among which the essential move Kc4 is missing. That makes it clear why Kc4 must be played.

After 1...a4 and 1...b1=Q, the original threat still works unchanged. These are not essential defences that need to be written in the solution. However, since the engine was set to display the maximum number of defences, it showed these moves as well. She simply copied them from the software, without understanding that they are irrelevant and do not refute or modify the threat, and therefore should not be included in a proper solving answer. Since the engine showed these move she simply copied them from the software, without understanding that they are irrelevant and do not refute or modify the threat, and therefore should not be included in a proper solving answer. Paziurejau Then she tried moving the rook somewhere; she moved it to Rc1 and saw another mate, which she wrote down, although the thematic Qxf7+ also appears.



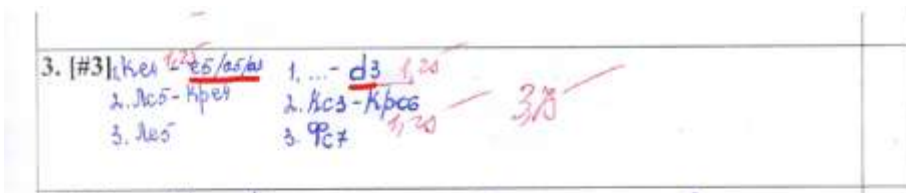
Nr 9



|         |                |                |                |                |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 9. [#5] | 1. Kpg4 - Ce7  | 1. Kpg4 - Cb7  | 1. Kpg4 - Jle8 | 1. Kpg4 - Ka6  |
|         | 2. Cd3 - Cc6   | 2. Kde3 - Kpc5 | 2. Kc3 - Ke3   | 2. Cd3 - Cc5   |
|         | 3. Kde3 - Ce3  | 3. Jle5 - Kpc6 | 3. Ke3 - Kpc5  | 3. Kde3 - Ce3  |
|         | 4. Jle6 - Kpc5 | 4. Kd5 - Ce5   | 4. Kd1 - Kpd5  | 4. Jle6 - Kpc5 |
|         | 5. Ce3         | 5. Jle5        | 5. Kc3         | 5. Ce3         |
|         | 1. Kpg4 - d6   | 2. Kd4 - ab4   | 3. Kc3 - Kpc5  | 4. Kc2 - Kpd5  |
|         |                |                | 5. Kd4         |                |

A similar pattern was observed during ISC 2025.

In problems involving threats, the threats themselves were not explicitly written. Instead, only specific moves were listed — typically the ones indicated by an engine. Not all relevant variations leading to the threat were recorded, but only selected moves corresponding to engine output.



3.

Karel Musil  
Svetozor 1889

1. Ke4! ~

1... d3 2. Rc5+ [1.25]

1... Qxc6 2. Rc3+ [1.25]

1... Qxe4 2. Qc7+ [1.25]

1... Qh7+ [1.25]

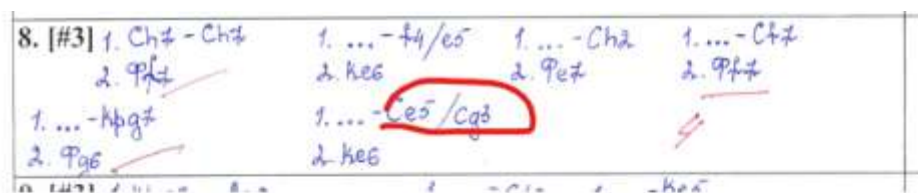
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#3 8+8

In Problem No. 8, the solution appears to be structured according to engine lines rather than through a logically developed analytical explanation.

The moves **Be5** and **Bg3** are mentioned together with the threat **Nxe6**, but there is no explanation why **Bf4** is not possible or why the threat would not work in that case.

The variations are presented selectively and do not form a consistent logical sequence. Instead, they closely correspond to the specific lines displayed by the software (see attached screenshot), rather than to a complete human-style reasoning process.



In Problem No. 9, the threat is not stated at all. Instead of writing the solution in the normal form — for example,

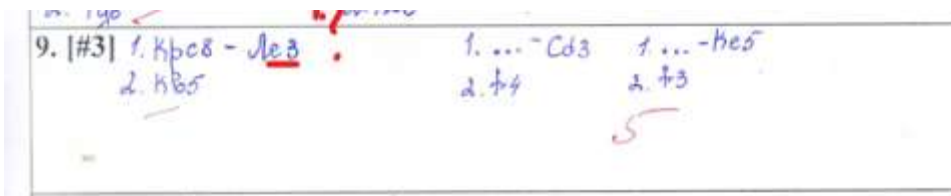
**1.Kc8 ~ 2.Sxb5+ —**

she immediately writes a specific Black move after the key:

**1.Kc8 Be3 2.Sxb5+.**

This corresponds exactly to the first defensive move shown by the engine, rather than presenting the threat in the usual human analytical structure.

The notation therefore does not follow a natural solving logic, but rather resembles a direct transcription of engine output.



Валерій Копил

2026-02-13  
14:33 (prieš 7  
dianas)

skirta aš

Так Arvydas. Виглядає досить підозріло. На жаль я не користуюсь програмами в телефоні (в мене АйФон), але я знаю що На Андроїді можна встановити програми по розвязку задач. І, крім того я сидів, розв'язував, і міркував що я в поганій формі, бо погано розв'язую..... Щербов зібрав у всіх телефони. Людей було мало, контролювати ситуацію легко. Я не бачив щоб Ніка користувалась телефоном, але я ж розв'язував задачі.....

Yes Arvydas. It looks quite suspicious. Unfortunately, I don't use programs on my phone (I have an iPhone), but I know that you can install programs for solving problems on Android. And, besides, I sat, solved problems, and thought that I was in bad shape, because I solve them badly..... Shcherbov

collected everyone's phones. There were few people, it was easy to control the situation. I didn't see Nika using the phone, but I was solving problems.....