



**WORLD  
FEDERATION FOR  
CHESS COMPOSITION**

**12<sup>th</sup> WORLD CHESS  
COMPOSITION  
TOURNAMENT**

**FIRST CIRCULAR LETTER  
LIST OF REGISTERED COUNTRIES  
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**July 2025**

**List of registered countries (35):** Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mongolia, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Peru, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States.

### Questions and Answers

	Section	Question	Committee's understanding of question	Committee's opinion
1	A	Is it possible to use a try instead of set play in phase 1?		No. Phase 1 has to be the set play.
2	A	Is example A2 really thematic?		No. Example A2 does not correspond to the written theme description; sorry for any confusion that this may have caused.
3	B	Definition doesn't exclude both thematic defences by half-pinned pieces to end with the same mate. Is this case thematic?		Yes. Thematic defences are allowed to end in the same mate.
4	D	<p>"PIECE X CANNOT BE A PAWN."</p> <p>(...) would it be thematic if PIECE X was a promoted pawn which would later be sacrificed as a promoted piece?</p> <p>In other words, a pawn in the diagram position is promoted, and then it will become the PIECE X?</p>		Yes. As the theme description says, the white piece sacrificed in the try must not be a pawn. However, the piece is allowed to be an officer that originated from a pawn promotion, provided this pawn promotion occurred before the sacrifice.
5	E	Here's a simple scheme: wQc1, wPb4, wBc5, bKa3, bRb2. If white plays Qd1 unpinning the black rook, and the rook moves, playing Rxb4, it is pinned again. Is this thematic? In other words, can the pin be static (the black piece self-pins)?		Yes.
5a	E	<p>Question: In the theme definition "In a H#3.5-n, a pinned piece is unpinned, makes at least one move and is pinned again.", may the second pinning occur in the move this piece makes? Or is it implied that only after the thematic move the piece makes another move (by the same piece or another one) and Yes. establishes a pin?</p> <p>Example: <a href="https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0521675">https://pdb.dieschwalbe.de/P0521675</a> (Three times the wP is unpinned, makes a move, and in that same move another pin is established.)</p>		Yes.
6	F	The selfmate theme is very difficult and possibilities for a good composition are limited. It has been suggested that the requirement for 3 variations should be replaced with "at least 2 variations".		The theme of section F has been criticized by different parties for being too restrictive. The WCCT committee has therefore decided to reduce the number of required thematical variations from 3 to 2. The theme description there now starts: "S#3 n. In at least 2 variations..."

7	F	Is the closing of a bent line thematic?		Yes. The theme description does not require the intercepted piece to be on the line of interception already in the diagram.
8	G	How are e.p. captures to be handled in Isardam?	Is the double step of a pawn allowed if the pawn lands on a square directly to the left or right of a square occupied by an enemy pawn? E.g. in a position with wPd2 bPe4, is the white move Pd2-d4 allowed?	No.
9	G	Is Isardam paralysis being allowed in the diagram position?	Are Madrasi-type observations allowed in the diagram position?	Madrasi-type observations in the diagram position are not allowed. NB: As per our Codex (§14), other kinds of illegal positions (e.g. wPg2 wBh1) are allowed in section G.
10	H	That it, the circuit cannot be begun before the capture. Is this correct?	May the circuit by the capturing piece (i.e. the circuit given in <b>green color</b> in the theme description), start before the thematic capture?	No. Thematic circuit must not begin before the thematic capture.
11	H	Does a four-move switchback (for example, Sg8–f6–h5–f6–g8) qualify as a circuit?		Yes. The indicated sequence of moves is an example of what is mentioned in the theme description as a circuit in "its linear form".