



WORLD FEDERATION FOR CHESS COMPOSITION

12th WORLD CHESS COMPOSITION TOURNAMENT

Questions and Answers August-September 2025

	Section	Question	Committee's understanding of question	Committee's opinion
12	A	Is it allowed to have an additional defence d , leading in the set-play and in the try to the same mate that thematic defence a leads to in the solution?		It is allowed to have a thematic mate occur also after a non-thematic defence, as long as there is no repetition after the thematic defences a, b, c.
13	C	Must the black K be mated on "square X"? This is so in example C2, but not in example C1.		The black K may be mated on any square; the only requirement is that he moves to square X after the foreplan has been played.
14	C	Must the mate in the solution be the same as the threatened mate in the try? This is so in both examples.		No, the mates in try and solution may be different.
15	D	Some more moves in the examples seem to be thematic and should have been underlined in the solutions: (D1) 7.Ra4 8.Ra8, (D4) 6.Qg7 7.Qf6, (D5) 2.Qd3.		Yes, those moves are also thematic sacrifices.
16	D	Does the sentence "Black can accept the sacrifice in the try only after he makes his own sacrifice" mean that the sacrificed piece must remain unguarded on the sacrificial square until then, or does it not ?		No, there is no requirement that Black can accept the white sacrifice after his own counter-sacrifice. (In example D5, the try can continue 1.Qa3 d2 2.Qd3 Qc4! 3.Qxc4.)
17	D	Is a pawn promotion allowed as the thematic sacrifice? (The pawn turns into a major piece during White's move.)		Yes, this is allowed.
18	D	In a thematic try, must the refutation sacrifice of Black come immediately after the thematic sacrifice of White, or can it come later?		It is allowed to have some play between White's sacrifice and Black's counter-sacrifice.
19	E	Is duplex form thematic?		Yes, duplex is allowed.
20	E	Should a thematic set play also be at least 3.5 moves long?		Thematic set play should be one half-move shorter than the solution, so in a h#3.5 the set play can be 3 moves (6 half-moves). Set play with less than 3.5 moves is allowed, but will not be considered as thematic in this tourney.
21	F	Is a battery check-mate allowed?		Yes.
22	F	In a battery check-mate, must the thematic piece (that plays Black's first move) be the rear piece of the battery, or the front piece, or any of them?		The thematic piece can be the rear piece or the front piece.

23	F	In the black matrix Ra1 Bb1 Bc1 Rf7, is the first move Bb1-f5 thematic (it closes a line for Rf7 and opens one for Ra1, and this rook later gives a battery mate by a move of Bc1).		Yes, it is thematic. The line that is opened by Bb1 is initially masked by Bc1, but it is still a line-opening for Ra1.
24	F	Is it thematic if the mate results from a move by the thematic piece, but in fact the mate is delivered by the piece behind it (i.e. the rear piece of the battery)?		If Black's first move is played by piece A, closing a line for piece B and opening a line for piece C, and the mate is later given by a move of piece A opening a battery from piece C, this would be thematic. But if the mating battery has piece B as rear piece, it is not thematic.
25	F	Is it thematic that the line which is closed and/or the line that is opened do not exist in the original setting, but is created during the play?		The thematic closing and opening must happen on Black's first move, so the question implies that this thematic move opens and/or closes a thematic line in advance (with the other thematic piece(s) arriving to their line(s) during the play). This is allowed.
26	H	Are the following examples for circuits being allowed? a) g7:h8=B-Bf6-Bg7, b) g7:h8=B-Bg7-Bf6-Bg7, c) g7:h8=B-Bg7-Bh8-Bg7		In all cases, the thematic piece returns to g7 after 3 or 4 moves. So these are all examples of linear circuits, and all are allowed.