



Questions and Answers Sep-Oct 2025

Section A

Q: Since according to Circular Letter 1 example A2 is not thematic. It is not clear whether pawns are allowed as key move/first move pieces or not.

A: The theme description does not specify the types of the pieces executing thematic moves. This means that there is no restriction. So yes: pawns are allowed to execute the first moves.

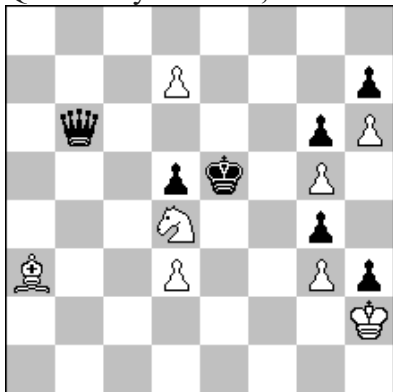
Section C

Q: It is not clear whether the white taking and leaving piece can be a pawn.

A: The theme description does not specify the type of this white piece. This means that there is no restriction. So yes: this white piece can be a pawn.

Section D

Q: In study **Didukh, Timman JT 2018, 3rd-4th hon. men., 1-0**, is following position:



White win after **11.d8B!**, but only try is 11.d8Q? Qb2+! = Is this thematic ?

Cause in **section H** is sentence: ... a pawn and the piece to which it promotes are regarded as the same piece.

A: The theme allows White to sacrifice a piece in two ways:

- immediately on a square other than the one in the try
- later on the same or a square other than the one in the try

The white sacrifice mentioned in the question occurs immediately on the same square. This does not comply with either of the two allowed ways specified above. Therefore, this sacrifice does not fulfill the requirements of the theme.

Section E

Q: It is not clear whether the pinned piece can be a pawn or not.

A: The theme description does not specify the type of the pinned white piece. This means that there is no restriction. So yes: this white piece can be a pawn.

Section F

Q: It is not clear whether the piece whose line is opened by the defense can be a pawn.

A: The theme description does not specify the type of the black pieces whose lines are opened or closed. This means that there is no restriction. So yes: these black pieces can be pawns.