

Coach M's Summer 2024 Puzzle Sheet

Coach M's Tip: If a puzzle position is proving too difficult, then set this position up on a physical chess board. After you've formulated your solutions for each position, you can check your work with the answers given in the back of the worksheet and/or by loading up the PGN file in an analysis board and switching on the chess engine. For each position, the object is to give the best move/line of play. Below is a scoring rubric. Each of the below positions are from unrated rapid G10 games played by Coach M on chess.com during the Summer 2024.

Note: Some positions may have multiple solutions. The positions are sorted by difficulty with the easiest puzzles given first. Good Luck and Do Your Best!

10/10	Super Grandmaster	Elo: 2700+
9/10	Grandmaster	Elo: 2500-2700
8/10	Master	Elo: 2200-2500
7/10	Expert	Elo: 2000-2200
6/10	Class A	Elo: 1800-2000
5/10	Class B	Elo: 1600-1800
4/10	Class C	Elo: 1400-1600
3/10	Class D	Elo: 1200-1400
2/10	Class E	Elo: 1000-1200
0-1/10	Beginner	Elo: Under 1000

1. Black to play.

(Difficulty Level: Easy)



The Best Move is _____.

Black is (winning/better/equal).

(choose one).

2. Black to play.

(Difficulty Level: Easy)



The Best Move is _____.

Black is (winning/better/equal).

(choose one).



3. White to play.

(Difficulty Level: Easy)



The Best Move is _____.

White is (winning/better/equal).

(choose one).

4. Black to play.
(Difficulty Level: Medium)



The Best Move is _____.
Black is (winning/better/equal).
(choose one).



5. Black to play.
(Difficulty Level: Medium)



The Best Move is _____.
Black is (winning/better/equal).
(choose one).

6. White to play.

(Difficulty Level: Medium)



The Best Move is _____.

White is (winning/better/equal).

(choose one).



7. Black to play.

(Difficulty Level: Medium)



The Best Move is _____.

Black is (winning/better/equal).

(choose one).

8. Black to play.
(Difficulty Level: Medium)



The Best Move is _____.
Black is (winning/better/equal).
(choose one).



9. Black to play.
(Difficulty Level: Hard)



The best line of play is:

Black is (equal/worse/lost).
(choose one).

10. Black to play.
(Difficulty Level: Very Hard)



The winning line of play is:

Full game link/Solutions/PGN/Image Files

1. Ba3! forcefully removes the blockade. QxB b2 and black is winning.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/110903473107>

2. Nh5! and white's kingside is falling. Black is winning.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/111910329685>

3. Nxe! picks up a valuable center pawn. For instance, after Nxe! NxN BxN QxN Qa4+! picking up the B. Alternatively, after Nxe! BxN+ QxB and white retains the extra pawn. White is better.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/111474762749>

4. Ne8! Black must avoid Nd5? Because of NxN QxN Nf5!! and black is lost! Whereas Nd5? NxN exN is abject. After the correct Ne8!, black is equal (white has full compensation for the pawn deficit).

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/109494080997>

5. e4! and black's black's Qg3+ threat is irresistible. Black is winning.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/111914521401>

6. Bxh+!! and this "Greek Gift" wins by force. For instance, Bxh+!! NxB Qb3+! Rf7 Rd8+ Nf8 RxN!+ KxR Ng6+ forking the K & Q. After Qb3+!, Be6 may hang on longer but white will be up a clean pawn and objectively winning.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/111603232227>

7. Ne5! wins. For instance, RxR BxB+ or NxN RxR+ or BxB RxR+. Coach M missed this shot and played the inferior BxB+? which was objectively equal though I would go on to blunder further in the endgame and lose.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/110712683395>

8. Qxg! is a calm and cool winning move. The d5 R cannot be captured as it leads to mate as was played in the game (see the game link).

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/111914521401>

9. Re8! is a nice solution. The threat of RxB! and a pin with Qa7 is sufficient counterplay to offset the pawn deficit. This position is equal (see the game link to verify the play is level after Re8!).

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/110642558263>

10. Rb8!! is winning with flare. For instance, Rb8!! RxB Rb2 Qc1 Qxf+ Kh1 c3 Rd6 (desperation to support the defense) c2! Rd2 (QxR hangs mate) QxB!! (also QxR is winning as well). QxQ Rb1 0-1.

Game link: <https://www.chess.com/game/live/111938030093>

How'd you do on this Coach M's Summer 2024 Puzzle Sheet?

I'm so much looking forward to continuing working with you in 2024 and seeing you all continue to climb the ranks, grow stronger, and achieve your chess goals!

All the best! Sincerely, Coach M

(*) Visit my website http://drmtutoring.com/en_US/chess-tutoring/ for more Chess Worksheets or find me on FB at "Dr. M's chess and math page", LIKE and FOLLOW, to enjoy more content from Coach M. Thanks! -Coach M