

# CHAPTER 20

## Contents

- ✓ Calculating short variations
- ✓ Possibilities for the opponent
- ✓ Exercises with mate in two moves

## Mate in two moves

We previously did some exercises with 'mate in two moves' in *Build Up Your Chess 1*, Chapter 9. They are very useful for training in the calculation of variations. One is often forced to take into account a lot of candidate moves in order to reach the solution. It is very important to consider all possible replies for your opponent. This develops your skill in calculating short variations.

Try to solve the positions from this chapter with a short thinking time (a maximum of 10 minutes). If your answer is different from that given in the book, please check through the defensive moves to find why your suggestion fails. In each case there is only one correct solution for these problems.

If after 10 minutes you still have not found the solution, take a good look at the first move. Your task is to then find a mate for **all replies by your opponent**. That way you will get used to thinking out your opponent's moves as well.

Diagram 20-1

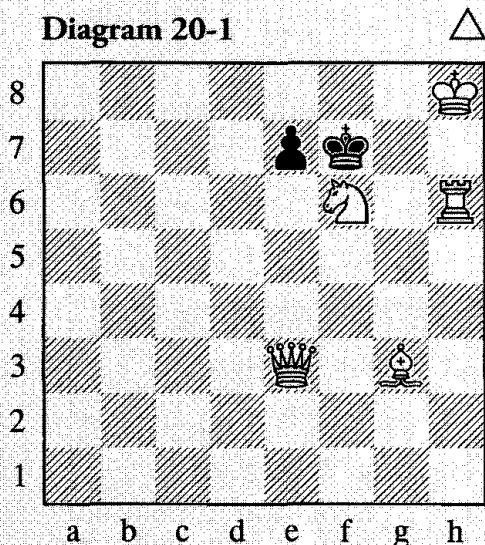


Diagram 20-1

H.Bettman

1915

Please consider all possible replies for the opponent.

1. ♔d6! ♕f8

1...exf6 2. ♖e7#

1...exd6 2. ♖e8#

1...e6 2. ♖a7#

1...e5 2. ♖b3#

2. ♖xe7#

Diagram 20-2

**A.Oreshin**

1936

1. ♖g3! d4

1... ♔f4 2. ♕f3#

1... f4 2. ♕d3#

1... ♖e6 (e7,e8) 2. ♕e3#

1... ♔d4 2. ♕b4#

2. ♕f3#

Diagram 20-2

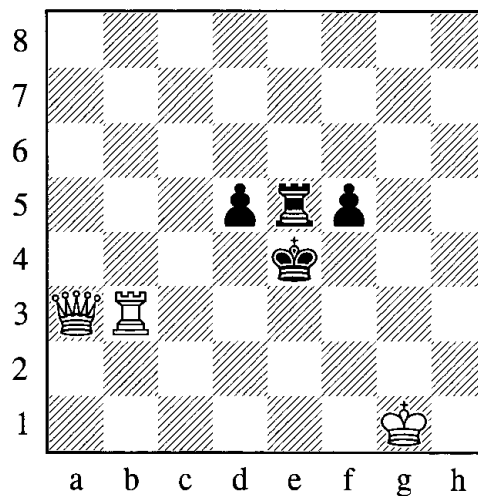


Diagram 20-3

**E.Cook**

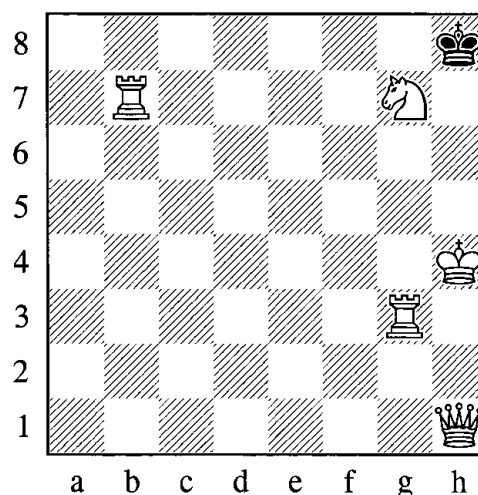
1868

1. ♕a1! ♔h7

1... ♔g8 2. ♘e6#

2. ♘f5#

Diagram 20-3



In some problems you have to set up the correct threat.

Diagram 20-4

**K.Fabel**

1936

1. ♕f3!

The threat is simply ♕xb7#. Black has no adequate defence.

1... ♔b8

1... ♘d5 2. ♕xf8#

1... ♖b8 2. ♕a3#

2. ♕xb7#

Diagram 20-4

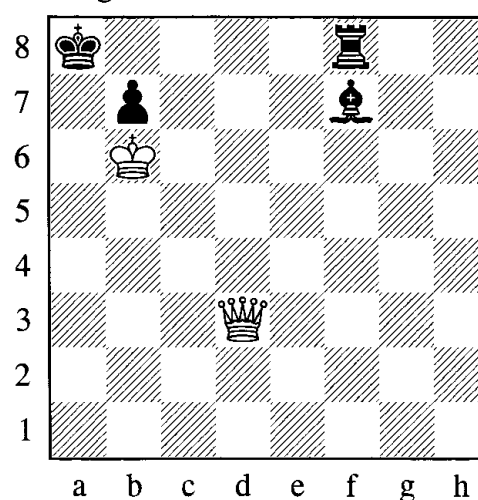


Diagram 20-5

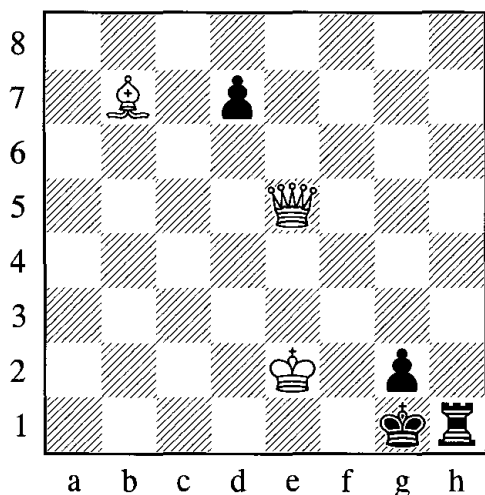


Diagram 20-5

**N.Petrovic**

1959

1. ♖d5!

With the threat of ♖xg2#. Other ways of threatening the mate on g2, such as 1. ♖g3, are thwarted by 1...d5.

1... ♜h2

1... ♔h2 2. ♖xg2#

2. ♖d1#

In other problems you can exploit a zugzwang.

Diagram 20-6

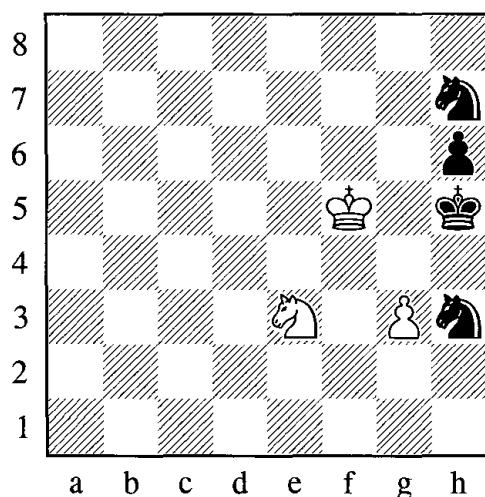


Diagram 20-6

**P. ten Cate**

1966

1. ♘d5!

And Black is in zugzwang! A knight must move and surrender control of one of the vital squares f6 or f4.

1... ♘3g5

Or 1... ♘7g5 2. ♘f6#.

2. ♘f4#

Diagram 20-7

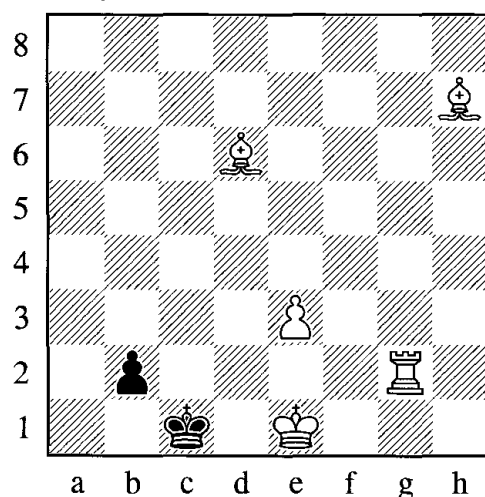


Diagram 20-7

**E. Livshits & V. Melnichenko**

1967

1. ♗f4!

This does not threaten mate, but Black faces a decisive quandary: he has to move!

1... b1=♖

Or 1... b1=♘ 2. ♗c2#.

2. e4#

Many mating problems employ typical tactical motifs and help train your eyes to spot the hidden possibilities of the pieces!

Diagram 20-8

**E.Martin**

1934

1.♖b7!

Here White utilizes a well-known tactical motif – obstruction!

1...♙xb7

1...♖xb7 2.♔h1#

1...♖e8 2.♖b1#

1...♙f1 2.♔h1#

1...♙d1 2.♖b1#

2.♖b1#

Diagram 20-9

**V.Chepizhny**

1968

1.♔h1!

The queen prepares to make a long move.

1...b1=♔

1...b1=♙ 2.♔d5#

2.♔a8#

Diagram 20-10

**G.Zakhodyakin**

1949

1.♔e1!

The queen can reach the a5-d8 and h4-d8 diagonals from far away, in order to deliver the deadly check.

Other queen moves are unsuccessful, for example 1.♔e5? fails to 1...c5 and 1.♔c6? to 1...e6.

1...e6 (or 1...e5)

1...c5 or 1...c6 is met by 2.♔a5#.

2.♔h4#

In the next set of exercises, please try to consider **all relevant moves** for your opponent. In all the positions in the test, it is of course mate in two moves that you are looking for.

Diagram 20-8

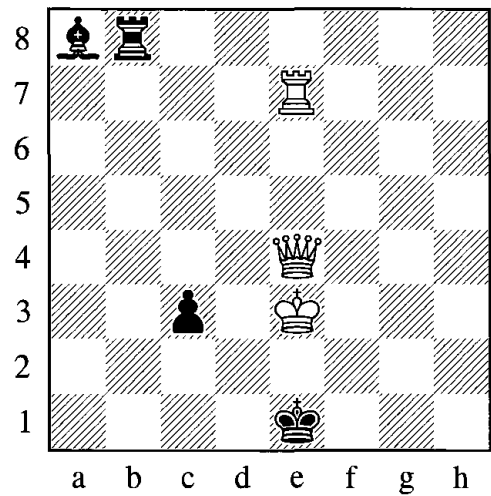


Diagram 20-9

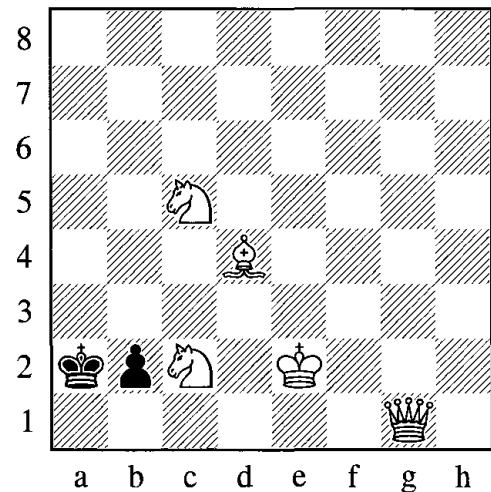
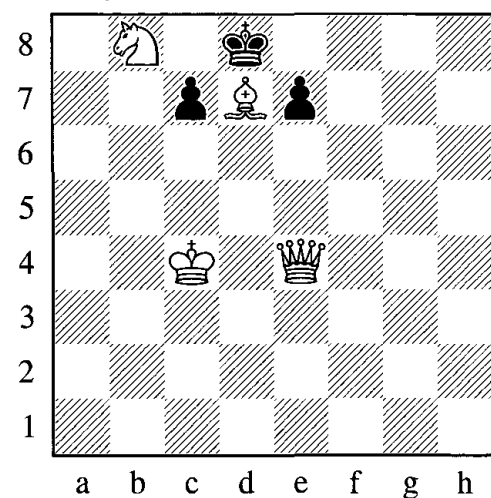
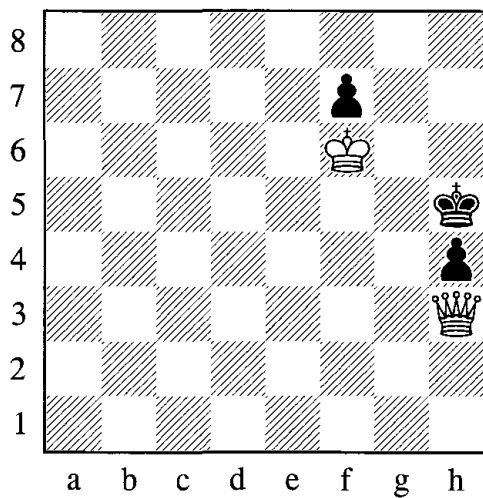


Diagram 20-10

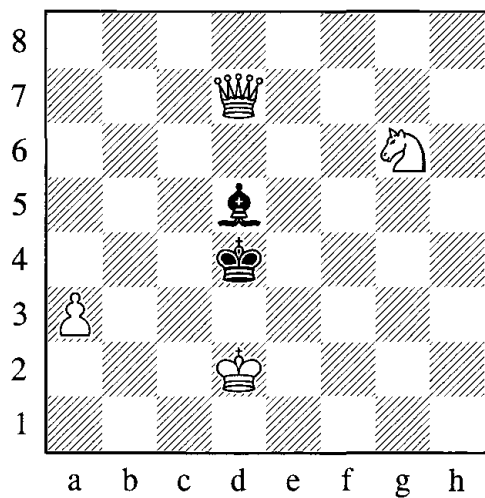


# Exercises

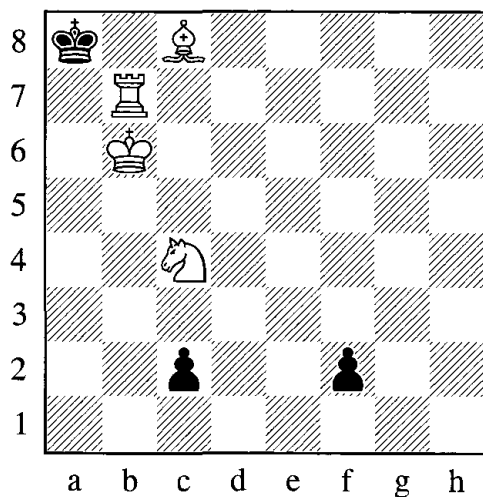
► Ex. 20-1 ◀ ★ ◀ ◀



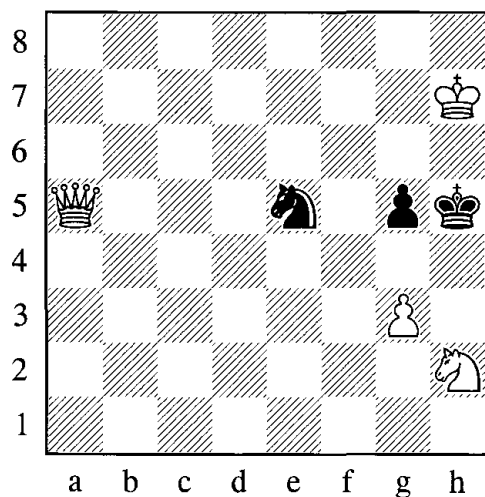
► Ex. 20-4 ◀ ★ ◀ ◀



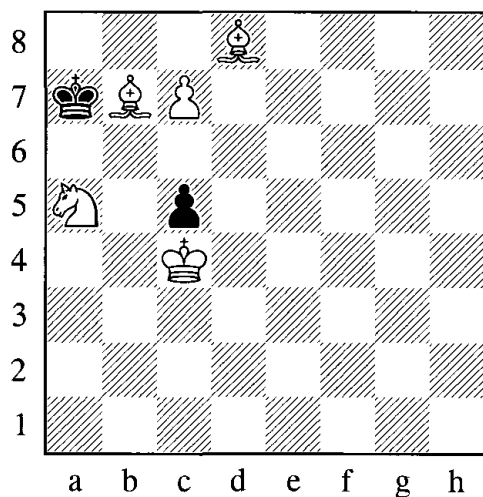
► Ex. 20-2 ◀ ★ ◀ ◀



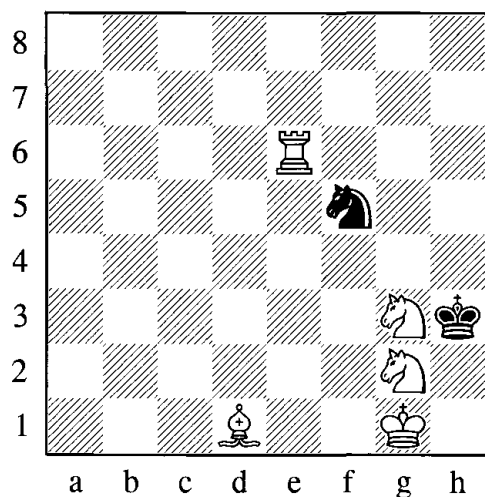
► Ex. 20-5 ◀ ★ ◀ ◀



► Ex. 20-3 ◀ ★ ◀ ◀

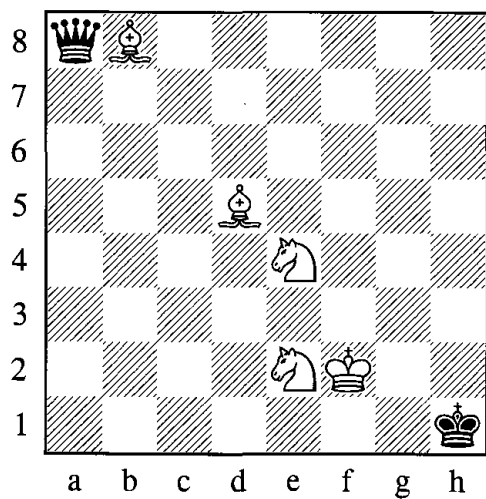


► Ex. 20-6 ◀ ★ ◀ ◀

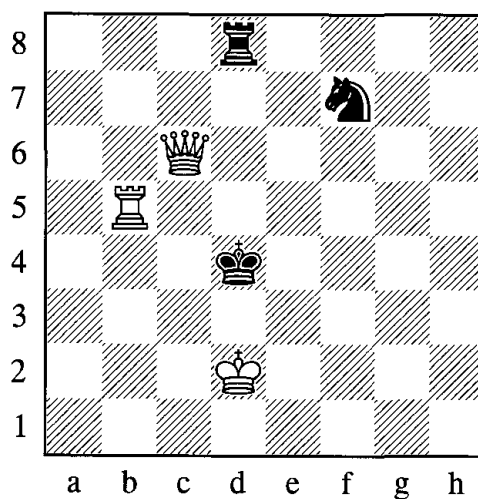


# Exercises

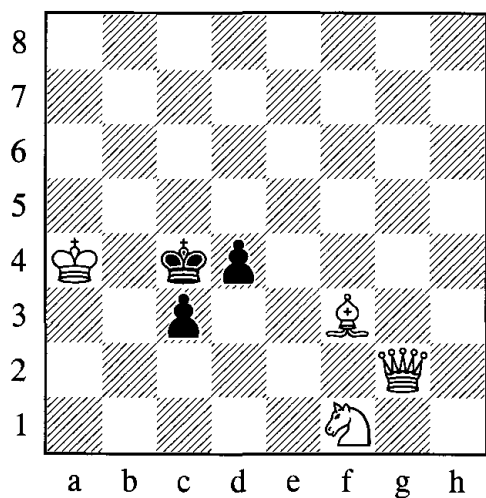
► Ex. 20-7 ◀



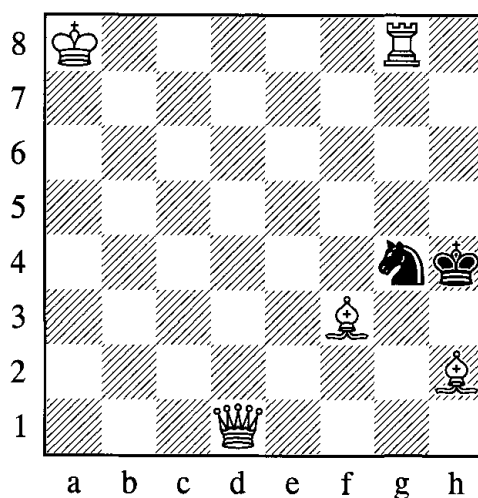
► Ex. 20-10 ◀



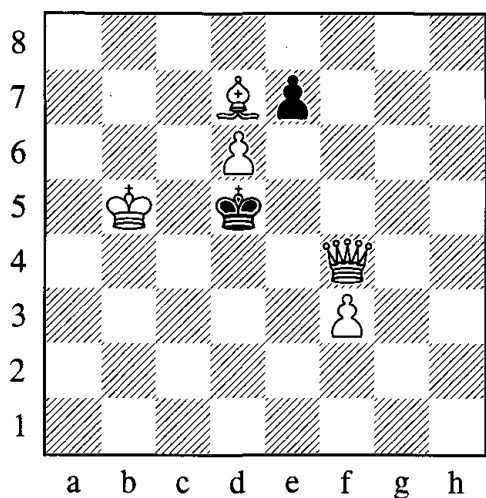
► Ex. 20-8 ◀



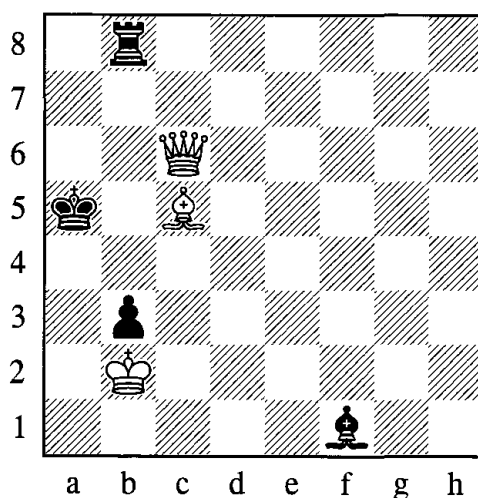
► Ex. 20-11



► Ex. 20-9 ◀



► Ex. 20-12 ◀



# Solutions

## Ex. 20-1

**B.Harley & C.Watney**

1921

1. ♖c8! h3  
 1... ♗h6 2. ♖h8#  
 2. ♖xh3#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-2

**J.Buchwald**

1937

1. ♔a5!  
 1. ♔a6? f1=♖; 1. ♔c7? c1=♖  
 1...c1=♖  
 1...f1=♖ 2. ♖b6#  
 2. ♖b6#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-3

**H.Weenink**

1920

1. c8=♗! ♗b8 2. ♖c6#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-4

**V.Chepizhny**

1968

1. ♖d6! ♗c4  
 1... ♗e4 2. ♖f4#  
 2. ♖b4#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-5

**M.Lokker**

1967

1. ♖e1! g4  
 1... ♖g4 allows 2. ♖e8#; and after any knight move other than 1... ♖g4 White has 2. g4#.  
 2. ♖xe5#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-6

**G.Zakhodyakin**

1969

1. ♖h1! ♖g3  
 1... ♖d6 (or e3, e7, h6) allows White a choice between 2. ♖(x)e3# or 2. ♖(x)h6#.  
 1... ♖h4 2. ♖f4#  
 1... ♖g7 2. ♖e3#  
 1... ♖d4 2. ♖h6#  
 2. ♖f2#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-7

**S.Boros**

1937

1. ♗g3!  
 Threatening ♖f2#.  
 1... ♖xd5  
 1... ♖xb8† 2. ♖d6#  
 1... ♖a3† 2. ♖4c3#  
 2. ♖f2#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-8

**M.Lokker**

1966

1. ♗b7!  
 But not 1. ♗c6? on account of 1... ♗c5.  
 1...d3  
 1...c2 2. ♖xc2#  
 1... ♗d3 2. ♗a6#  
 1... ♗c5 2. ♖c6#  
 2. ♖d5#

(1 point)

# Solutions

## Ex. 20-9

**S.Pimenov**

1956

1. ♖c8! exd6  
 1...e6 2. ♖b7#  
 1...e5 2. ♖d2#  
 2. ♖e4#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-11

**A.Kuznetsov**

1968

1. ♖d7! ♜xh2  
 1...♙h3 2. ♖h8#  
 1...♙h5 2. ♖h7#  
 1...♜f6 2. ♖g3#  
 2. ♖h7#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-10

**V.Marin**

1895

1. ♖f5! ♜e5  
 1...♜d6 2. ♖d5#  
 1...♜g5 2. ♖a4#  
 1...♖d5 2. ♖xd5#  
 1...♖d6 2. ♖a4#  
 1...♖a8(or c8) 2. ♖d5#  
 2. ♖f4#

(1 point)

## Ex. 20-12

**V.Lebedev**

1929

1. ♙a3!  
 Threatening ♖a4#.  
 1...b2  
 1...♖b5 2. ♖a8#  
 1...♙b5 2. ♙b4#  
 1...♖b4 2. ♙xb4#  
 2. ♖a4#

(1 point)

# Scoring

Maximum number of points is 12

- 11 points and above → **Excellent**
- 9 points and above → **Good**
- 6 points → **Pass mark**

*If you scored less than 6 points, we recommend that you read the chapter again and repeat the exercises which you got wrong.*