



ECF Academy 2020

Guide to Work Groups

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1) Overview for Parents

For home study purposes each student has been allocated two work groups – one depending on the Quality Chess book we have sent you and one based on the Steps Workbook. We have based these on our best judgement of how students will respond to the material.

1) Quality Chess Book Groups

- Build Your Chess 1
- Boost Your Chess 1
- Chess Evolution 1
- Revision and Exam – The Fundamentals
- Judit Polgar Teaches Chess 1

2) Steps Workbook Groups

- Step 2 Extra
- Step 3 Extra
- Step 4 Extra
- Step 5 Extra

The purpose of these groups is to develop the ability to work purposefully on chess analysis. Students will learn how strong players approach chess problems. They are not intended as a replacement or substitute for existing chess training the students are undertaking. The volume of work is designed to be manageable and should not be difficult to complete. **The work groups are optional and will not form part of the final assessment – but we believe all students will benefit from taking part.**

These groups are not the same groups that will be used at the training weekends. At those weekends we will mix players up depending on who is attending and what sessions we are hosting.

The two pieces of coursework for 2020 will be based on themes from the two workgroups.

Your child is welcome to join other workgroups if you already have the study book or wish to purchase an additional book. Ambitious students could certainly manage multiple workstreams.

How the Work Groups will operate

This document contains the recommended schedule for completion. Students should try and at least work to the recommended schedule though it is possible to go faster (they will then have to wait for some notes / answers however). In keeping with the schedule we will email and post to the website supplemental material and some video notes so students can get a more in depth feel for how they are doing and what to look out for. Some of our coaches will also be in the work groups doing the same material so we will be able to provide our thoughts on how we personally tackled the problems and what mistakes we made!

Students are expected to mark their own work. You may wish to help mark the work – particularly if you can play chess yourself. But in general self-assessment is to be encouraged as I'm sure students are aware there is there is no point in gaming the system. The reward is from putting in the effort!

Quality Chess Workgroups

The Quality Chess books are more mature than the Steps books and haven't been written with children in mind. However, both the Yusupov and Polgar series are widely regarded as being amongst the best in their field and are also both series we have used and tested seriously ourselves as players.

"After a fairly serious break from competitive chess of around 8 years I decided to try and get back "into shape" by doing some structured study. My old coach recommended the Yusupov series and I decided to start at Level 1 – despite the rating guidance suggesting I could go in at Level 3. Some of the material was fairly straightforward – others less so (particularly the positional chapters). More to the point there were always patterns or ideas that I hadn't been previously aware of so I felt I was filling in some serious gaps in my chess education.

I was already 2250 when I started this training but I'm certain that this structured approach through all the levels helped me achieve my peak rating of 2348 within 2 years of starting".

FM Alexander Longson (peak rating 2348)

We recommend that each chapter is completed fully and that answers and sub-variations are written down. We still have our notes and they are useful to review where our strengths and weaknesses lie. We will provide a scorechart so you can log the results.

Steps Work Groups

The Steps method is a well established training method highly adopted in several European Countries. It is extremely methodical in building up tactical and endgame pattern recognition. These should feel slightly easier than the Quality Chess books and the variations somewhat shorter. That is intentional and we believe students should be aiming for at least 80%. Less than this and the material hasn't been fully on-boarded.

The temptation for many students is to rush through these by writing down one move answers – often the first move which looks like it might work. Often this will be correct but the whole point of doing this structured training is to learn to "make sure". I calculate possible defences and try and refute your own idea. Students should approach these positions as they would in a 'real game' and make sure answers are written out fully on a separate sheet of paper so the exercises can be re-worked at a later date if necessary.

Buddy System

If you wish for your child to buddy up with other children in the same group – or from other groups – please let us know and we will help facilitate an exchange of contact details.

2) Step 2 Extra - Guidance

The “Steps Method” is a highly regarded learning and training tool developed in Holland. The workbooks contain puzzles to be solved rather than instructional content – so they should be seen as a training tool rather than a guidebook.

All positions are white to move – ***except where there is a black blob to the right of the board which indicates it is black to move.***

Step 2 Extra contains 21 topics across 5 broad themes

- 1) Tactics
- 2) Basic calculation
- 3) Mating patterns
- 4) Defence
- 5) Endgame

The focus is almost exclusively on tactics (winning material) and checkmating patterns as these are the most essential skills to build early in a player’s development.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. Each question is worth 2 points.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Pages 2 - 11
February 2020	Pages 12 - 21
March 2020	Pages 22 - 31
April 2020	Pages 32 - 46
May 2020	Pages 47 - 56

Some students uncomfortable with notation may prefer to draw the move directly in the workbook. This is OK but we suggest not to do this unless absolutely necessary.

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. The reason is twofold:

Firstly it is good practice to write down variations to practice notation but also because the act of writing down the moves slows you down and gets you to consider the position more carefully.

Secondly, by not writing the solution in the workbook means you can re-use the workbook and practice those pages you didn’t score so well on.

Each page should take approximately 15 – 60 minutes to complete. If it is taking less time than this check you are writing down the solutions thoroughly and that you are checking for your opponent’s best

defence and the alternatives. Part of the purpose of the exercises is to treat them as a real position from a game and not to just write down the first promising move that comes to mind.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found using the link below.

https://www.stappenmethode.nl/lesmateriaal/step2e_3.pdf

2 points for correct key move (first move) plus relevant follow up lines

1 point if key move found but missed a follow up – or a potential defence for the opponent

The majority of answers for Step 2 only contain one move so the marking should be quite straightforward.

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each question.

Students should be aiming for a high %. If this isn't achieved then more work needs to be done at this level.

<50%	-	Finding the going too tough, probably worth going back a step
50 – 69%	-	Has grasped the concepts but needs more consistency
70 – 84%	-	Getting there – but a little more accuracy required
85 – 94%	-	Good. Ready to move forward but still worth repeating the workbook
> 95%	-	Excellent – ready to move forward

Woodpecker Method

The quick explanation of the Woodpecker Method is that you need to solve a large number of puzzles in a row; then solve the same puzzles again and again, only faster. It's not a lazy shortcut to success – hard work is required. But the reward can be re-programming your unconscious mind. Benefits include sharper tactical vision, fewer blunders, better play when in time trouble and improved intuition.

Once the workbook has been completed we suggest the student attempts to complete it again – only this time much faster.

We don't suggest moving onto the next step until the student is able to consistently score 85%+ at this level.

3) Step 3 Extra - Guidance

The “Steps Method” is a highly regarded learning and training tool developed in Holland. The workbooks contain puzzles to be solved rather than instructional content – so they should be seen as a training tool rather than a guidebook.

All positions are white to move – ***except where there is a black blob to the right of the board which indicates it is black to move.***

Step 3 Extra contains 17 topics across 3 broad themes

- 1) Tactics
- 2) Mating patterns
- 3) Defence

The focus is almost exclusively on tactics (winning material) and checkmating patterns as these are the most essential skills to build early in a player’s development.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. Each question is worth 2 points.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Pages 2 - 12
February 2020	Pages 13 - 21
March 2020	Pages 22 - 29
April 2020	Pages 30 - 43
May 2020	Pages 44 - 56

Some students uncomfortable with notation may prefer to draw the move directly in the workbook. This is OK but we suggest not to do this unless absolutely necessary.

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. The reason is twofold:

Firstly it is good practice to write down variations to practice notation but also because the act of writing down the moves slows you down and gets you to consider the position more carefully.

Secondly, by not writing the solution in the workbook means you can re-use the workbook and practice those pages you didn’t score so well on.

Each page should take approximately 15 – 60 minutes to complete. If it is taking less time than this check you are writing down the solutions thoroughly and that you are checking for your opponent’s best defence and the alternatives. Part of the purpose of the exercises is to treat them as a real position from a game and not to just write down the first promising move that comes to mind.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found using the link below.

<https://www.stappenmethode.nl/lesmateriaal/step3e.pdf>

2 points for correct key move (first move) plus relevant follow up lines

1 point if key move found but missed a follow up – or a potential defence for the opponent

The majority of answers in Step 3 are two movers – ie “your move, opponents response, your second move”.

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each question.

Students should be aiming for a high %. If this isn’t achieved then more work needs to be done at this level.

<50%	-	Finding the going too tough, probably worth going back a step
50 – 69%	-	Has grasped the concepts but needs more consistency
70 – 84%	-	Getting there – but a little more accuracy required
85 – 94%	-	Good. Ready to move forward but still worth repeating the workbook
> 95%	-	Excellent – ready to move forward

Woodpecker Method

The quick explanation of the Woodpecker Method is that you need to solve a large number of puzzles in a row; then solve the same puzzles again and again, only faster. It’s not a lazy shortcut to success – hard work is required. But the reward can be re-programming your unconscious mind. Benefits include sharper tactical vision, fewer blunders, better play when in time trouble and improved intuition.

Once the workbook has been completed we suggest the student attempts to complete it again – only this time much faster.

We don’t suggest moving onto the next step until the student is able to consistently score 85%+ at this level.

4) Step 4 Extra - Guidance

The “Steps Method” is a highly regarded learning and training tool developed in Holland. The workbooks contain puzzles to be solved rather than instructional content – so they should be seen as a training tool rather than a guidebook.

All positions are white to move – ***except where there is a black blob to the right of the board which indicates it is black to move.***

Step 4 Extra contains 22 topics across 4 broad themes

- 1) Tactics
- 2) Endgame
- 3) Mating patterns
- 4) Defence

The focus is mostly on tactics (winning material) and checkmating patterns as these are the most essential skills to build early in a player’s development. However greater emphasis is placed on the endgame compared to previous Steps and we begin to drill in to some specific attacking patterns against the enemy King.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. Each question is worth 2 points.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Pages 2 - 11
February 2020	Pages 12 - 21
March 2020	Pages 22 - 32
April 2020	Pages 33 - 45
May 2020	Pages 46 - 56

Some students uncomfortable with notation may prefer to draw the move directly in the workbook. This is OK but we suggest not to do this unless absolutely necessary.

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. The reason is twofold:

Firstly it is good practice to write down variations to practice notation but also because the act of writing down the moves slows you down and gets you to consider the position more carefully.

Secondly, by not writing the solution in the workbook means you can re-use the workbook and practice those pages you didn’t score so well on.

Each page should take approximately 15 – 60 minutes to complete. If it is taking less time than this check you are writing down the solutions thoroughly and that you are checking for your opponent's best defence and the alternatives. Part of the purpose of the exercises is to treat them as a real position from a game and not to just write down the first promising move that comes to mind.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found using the link below.

https://www.stappenmethode.nl/lesmateriaal/step4e_2.pdf

2 points for correct key move (first move) plus relevant follow up lines

1 point if key move found but missed a follow up – or a potential defence for the opponent

The majority of answers in Step 4 are two movers (ie “your move, opponents response, your second move”) but there are a few “3-movers” as well so the difficulty starts to increase compared to previous Steps.

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each question.

Students should be aiming for a high %. If this isn't achieved then more work needs to be done at this level.

<50%	-	Finding the going too tough, probably worth going back a step
50 – 69%	-	Has grasped the concepts but needs more consistency
70 – 84%	-	Getting there – but a little more accuracy required
85 – 94%	-	Good. Ready to move forward but still worth repeating the workbook
> 95%	-	Excellent – ready to move forward

Woodpecker Method

The quick explanation of the Woodpecker Method is that you need to solve a large number of puzzles in a row; then solve the same puzzles again and again, only faster. It's not a lazy shortcut to success – hard work is required. But the reward can be re-programming your unconscious mind. Benefits include sharper tactical vision, fewer blunders, better play when in time trouble and improved intuition.

Once the workbook has been completed we suggest the student attempts to complete it again – only this time much faster. We don't suggest moving onto the next step until the student is able to consistently score 85%+ at this level.

5) Step 5 Extra - Guidance

The “Steps Method” is a highly regarded learning and training tool developed in Holland. The workbooks contain puzzles to be solved rather than instructional content – so they should be seen as a training tool rather than a guidebook.

All positions are white to move – ***except where there is a black blob to the right of the board which indicates it is black to move.***

Step 5 Extra contains 42 topics across 5 broad themes

- 1) Endgame
- 2) Tactics
- 3) Defence
- 4) Positional play
- 5) Mating patterns

The majority of the focus switches to the endgame in Step 5. A few positional exercises are also included. The tactics and mating patterns are significantly harder than previous Steps.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. Each question is worth 2 points.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Pages 2 - 24
February 2020	Pages 25 - 39
March 2020	Pages 40 - 63
April 2020	Pages 64 - 85
May 2020	Pages 87 - 112

Some students uncomfortable with notation may prefer to draw the move directly in the workbook. This is OK but we suggest not to do this unless absolutely necessary.

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. The reason is twofold:

Firstly it is good practice to write down variations to practice notation but also because the act of writing down the moves slows you down and gets you to consider the position more carefully.

Secondly, by not writing the solution in the workbook means you can re-use the workbook and practice those pages you didn't score so well on.

Each page should take approximately 15 – 60 minutes to complete. If it is taking less time than this check you are writing down the solutions thoroughly and that you are checking for your opponent's best

defence and the alternatives. Part of the purpose of the exercises is to treat them as a real position from a game and not to just write down the first promising move that comes to mind.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found using the link below.

https://www.stappenmethode.nl/lesmateriaal/step5e_2.pdf

2 points for correct key move (first move) plus relevant follow up lines

1 point if key move found but missed a follow up – or a potential defence for the opponent

The majority of answers in Step 5 are three movers (ie “your move, opponent’s response, your second move, opponent’s 2nd move, your third move”) but there are some longer variations as well.

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each question.

Students should be aiming for a high %. If this isn’t achieved then more work needs to be done at this level.

<50%	-	Finding the going too tough, probably worth going back a step
50 – 69%	-	Has grasped the concepts but needs more consistency
70 – 84%	-	Getting there – but a little more accuracy required
85 – 94%	-	Good. Ready to move forward but still worth repeating the workbook
> 95%	-	Excellent – ready to move forward

Woodpecker Method

The quick explanation of the Woodpecker Method is that you need to solve a large number of puzzles in a row; then solve the same puzzles again and again, only faster. It’s not a lazy shortcut to success – hard work is required. But the reward can be re-programming your unconscious mind. Benefits include sharper tactical vision, fewer blunders, better play when in time trouble and improved intuition.

Once the workbook has been completed we suggest the student attempts to complete it again – only this time much faster.

We don’t suggest moving onto the next step until the student is able to consistently score 85%+ at this level.

6) Build Your Chess 1 - Guidance

The “Yusupov Training Series” is an award winning collaboration between Artur Yusupov (former World number 3 ranked player) and Quality chess. The books contain light notes and examples followed by exercises at the end of each chapter.

The colour of the triangle in the top right of the diagram indicates whose move it is.

Build Your Chess 1 contains 25 chapters covering 6 broad themes

- 1) Tactics
- 2) Strategy
- 3) Positional play
- 4) Openings
- 5) Endgames
- 6) Calculating variations

The final chapter is a test covering topics from each of the preceding chapters.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. The number of points available per puzzle is indicated by the number of black stars above the diagram.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Chapters 1 - 5
February 2020	Chapters 6 - 10
March 2020	Chapters 11 - 15
April 2020	Chapters 16 - 20
May 2020	Chapters 21 - 25

We recommend reading through the chapter thoroughly before attempting the puzzles at the end of the chapter. Try and solve the examples given in the chapter before you see the answer (you may find a separate piece of paper useful to cover up half of the page).

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. Students should write down as many variations as they think is necessary. It is important to consider the best defence for the opponent and not just write down the first move that comes to mind.

For the puzzles students should take at least 30 minutes for a set of 12 but no longer than 2 hours. If an individual puzzle is taking longer than 10 minutes then write down your best answer and move on. Remember in a game of chess eventually you have to make a move!

Many students find the “positional” chapters much harder than the tactical ones. Not every position contains a winning move – some just require you to find a good move, or the move you would play in a game.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found at the end of the chapter (be careful not to glance at them before you have written your answers down)!

It is important to be honest with yourself when marking. Yusupov describes exactly which moves and variations score points. If you haven’t written it down then you do not score the point (no “I would have seen that in an actual game” excuses)!

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each chapter.

<60%	-	Fail
60 – 74%	-	Pass
75 – 89%	-	Good
90%+	-	Excellent

When you have completed the book review how you scored on each chapter. Re-do the chapters you didn’t achieve a “pass” for. Some students may wish to re-do all the chapters they didn’t score an “Excellent” for until they achieve all “Excellents”.

Improvement Mentality

Although the scoring system can be fun and is useful to track your progress – try to not focus on it too much during your studies. It is important to be honest with yourself and to use those incorrect answers to learn more about the game.

It is the process of disciplined study and trying your best that leads to long term gains – not whether you answered correctly or not. Systematically completing these books will lead to improvements in your game.

Have fun!

7) Boost Your Chess 1 - Guidance

The “Yusupov Training Series” is an award winning collaboration between Artur Yusupov (former World number 3 ranked player) and Quality chess. The books contain light notes and examples followed by exercises at the end of each chapter.

The colour of the triangle in the top right of the diagram indicates whose move it is.

Boost Your Chess 1 contains 25 chapters covering 6 broad themes

- 1) Tactics
- 2) Strategy
- 3) Positional play
- 4) Openings
- 5) Endgames
- 6) Calculating variations

The final chapter is a test covering topics from each of the preceding chapters.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. The number of points available per puzzle is indicated by the number of black stars above the diagram.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Chapters 1 - 5
February 2020	Chapters 6 - 10
March 2020	Chapters 11 - 15
April 2020	Chapters 16 - 20
May 2020	Chapters 21 - 25

We recommend reading through the chapter thoroughly before attempting the puzzles at the end of the chapter. Try and solve the examples given in the chapter before you see the answer (you may find a separate piece of paper useful to cover up half of the page).

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. Students should write down as many variations as they think is necessary. It is important to consider the best defence for the opponent and not just write down the first move that comes to mind.

For the puzzles students should take at least 30 minutes for a set of 12 but no longer than 2 hours. If an individual puzzle is taking longer than 10 minutes then write down your best answer and move on. Remember in a game of chess eventually you have to make a move!

Many students find the “positional” chapters much harder than the tactical ones. Not every position contains a winning move – some just require you to find a good move, or the move you would play in a game.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found at the end of the chapter (be careful not to glance at them before you have written your answers down)!

It is important to be honest with yourself when marking. Yusupov describes exactly which moves and variations score points. If you haven’t written it down then you do not score the point (no “I would have seen that in an actual game” excuses)!

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each chapter.

<60%	-	Fail
60 – 74%	-	Pass
75 – 89%	-	Good
90%+	-	Excellent

When you have completed the book review how you scored on each chapter. Re-do the chapters you didn’t achieve a “pass” for. Some students may wish to re-do all the chapters they didn’t score an “Excellent” for until they achieve all “Excellents”.

Improvement Mentality

Although the scoring system can be fun and is useful to track your progress – try to not focus on it too much during your studies. It is important to be honest with yourself and to use those incorrect answers to learn more about the game.

It is the process of disciplined study and trying your best that leads to long term gains – not whether you answered correctly or not. Systematically completing these books will lead to improvements in your game.

Have fun!

8) Chess Evolution 1 - Guidance

The “Yusupov Training Series” is an award winning collaboration between Artur Yusupov (former World number 3 ranked player) and Quality chess. The books contain light notes and examples followed by exercises at the end of each chapter.

The colour of the triangle in the top right of the diagram indicates whose move it is.

Chess Evolution 1 contains 25 chapters covering 6 broad themes

- 1) Tactics
- 2) Strategy
- 3) Positional play
- 4) Openings
- 5) Endgames
- 6) Calculating variations

The final chapter is a test covering topics from each of the preceding chapters.

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. The number of points available per puzzle is indicated by the number of black stars above the diagram.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Chapters 1 - 5
February 2020	Chapters 6 - 10
March 2020	Chapters 11 - 15
April 2020	Chapters 16 - 20
May 2020	Chapters 21 - 25

We recommend reading through the chapter thoroughly before attempting the puzzles at the end of the chapter. Try and solve the examples given in the chapter before you see the answer (you may find a separate piece of paper useful to cover up half of the page).

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. Students should write down as many variations as they think is necessary. It is important to consider the best defence for the opponent and not just write down the first move that comes to mind.

For the puzzles students should take at least 30 minutes for a set of 12 but no longer than 2 hours. If an individual puzzle is taking longer than 10 minutes then write down your best answer and move on. Remember in a game of chess eventually you have to make a move!

Many students find the “positional” chapters much harder than the tactical ones. Not every position contains a winning move – some just require you to find a good move, or the move you would play in a game.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found at the end of the chapter (be careful not to glance at them before you have written your answers down)!

It is important to be honest with yourself when marking. Yusupov describes exactly which moves and variations score points. If you haven’t written it down then you do not score the point (no “I would have seen that in an actual game” excuses)!

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each chapter.

<60%	-	Fail
60 – 74%	-	Pass
75 – 89%	-	Good
90%+	-	Excellent

When you have completed the book review how you scored on each chapter. Re-do the chapters you didn’t achieve a “pass” for. Some students may wish to re-do all the chapters they didn’t score an “Excellent” for until they achieve all “Excellents”.

Improvement Mentality

Although the scoring system can be fun and is useful to track your progress – try to not focus on it too much during your studies. It is important to be honest with yourself and to use those incorrect answers to learn more about the game.

It is the process of disciplined study and trying your best that leads to long term gains – not whether you answered correctly or not. Systematically completing these books will lead to improvements in your game.

Have fun!

9) Revision & Exam 1 - Guidance

The “Yusupov Training Series” is an award winning collaboration between Artur Yusupov (former World number 3 ranked player) and Quality chess. The books contain light notes and examples followed by exercises at the end of each chapter.

The colour of the triangle in the top right of the diagram indicates whose move it is.

Revision & Exam 1 contains 72 chapters covering 6 broad themes

- 6) Tactics
- 7) Strategy
- 8) Positional play
- 9) Openings
- 10) Endgames
- 11) Calculating variations

This book should ideally be completed after the student has completed

- Build Up Your Chess 1
- Boost Your Chess 1
- Chess Evolution 1

How to Solve

The “score trackers” on the website contain the suggested schedule for completion of each section plus the total score available per page. The number of points available per puzzle is indicated by the number of black stars above the diagram.

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Part 1, Chapter 1 > Part 1, Chapter 14
February 2020	Part 1, Chapter 15 > Part 2, Chapter 4
March 2020	Part 2, Chapter 5 > Part 2, Chapter 18
April 2020	Part 2, Chapter 19 > Part 3, Chapter 9
May 2020	Part 3, Chapter 10 > Part 3 Chapter 24

Each chapter consists of 6 puzzles (with the answers overleaf).

Ideally students should write down their solutions using standard chess notation in a separate notepad and workbook which is kept safe. Students should write down as many variations as they think is necessary. It is important to consider the best defence for the opponent and not just write down the first move that comes to mind.

For the puzzles students should take at least 30 minutes for a set of 6 but no longer than 90 minutes. If an individual puzzle is taking longer than 10 minutes then write down your best answer and move on. Remember in a game of chess eventually you have to make a move!

Many students find the “positional” chapters much harder than the tactical ones. Not every position contains a winning move – some just require you to find a good move, or the move you would play in a game.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the workbooks at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!

Scoring

Students (or parents) should mark their own answers – they can be found at the end of the chapter (be careful not to glance at them before you have written your answers down)!

It is important to be honest with yourself when marking. Yusupov describes exactly which moves and variations score points. If you haven’t written it down then you do not score the point (no “I would have seen that in an actual game” excuses)!

Use the “score tracker” (downloaded from the website) to input the score for each chapter.

<60%	-	Fail
60 – 74%	-	Pass
75 – 89%	-	Good
90%+	-	Excellent

When you have completed the book review how you scored on each chapter. Re-do the chapters you didn’t achieve a “pass” for. Some students may wish to re-do all the chapters they didn’t score an “Excellent” for until they achieve all “Excellents”.

Improvement Mentality

Although the scoring system can be fun and is useful to track your progress – try to not focus on it too much during your studies. It is important to be honest with yourself and to use those incorrect answers to learn more about the game.

It is the process of disciplined study and trying your best that leads to long term gains – not whether you answered correctly or not. Systematically completing these books will lead to improvements in your game.

Have fun!

10) “How I Beat Fischer’s Record” - Guidance

Judit Polgar is the highest rated female chess of all time and by a huge distance. At her peak she reached number 4 in the world. She is the only female player to have achieved a FIDE rating over 2700 (highest = 2735).

Judit has written three books about her career for Quality Chess and this is the first in that series. It contains stories of how she learnt the game and rose through the rankings as well as instructional material for ambitious players.

The book contains 15 chapters.

How to Solve

The suggested schedule is as follows:

January 2020	Chapters 1 - 2
February 2020	Chapters 3 - 6
March 2020	Chapters 7 - 8
April 2020	Chapters 9 - 10
May 2020	Chapters 11 – 12

Chapters 13 – 15 are less “thematic” and somewhat more complicated. We highly recommend that students study these at leisure during the rest of the study year. The supplemental material will not cover these additional chapters

Students should try and decide what they would play at each diagram – therefore it may be a good idea to have a spare sheet of paper ready to cover up the text following the diagram.

Additional material and support

We will publish some supplemental material in the middle of each study month. This will include guidance notes, additional exercises and some video guides.

Students may prefer to complete the book at their own pace – ie faster than the suggested schedule. This is fine!