

Test your Bridge I.Q.

Here is an intriguing test to see how far you can rise above the "village idiot" level to which all your partners think you belong. Answer the questions below and assign yourself the points allocated to each correct reply. If you get it wrong, then give yourself a slap or better still, get your partner to do that, I am sure he will enjoy it!

- 1) A54
Q987

The remaining cards in the opponents' hands will split 4-2 and you are not going to find a friendly J10, KJ or K10 doubleton. **How should you play this suit combination in order to take three tricks?**

- 2) The most common hand pattern is 4-4-3-2. **True or False?**
The most likely number of cards that will be dealt in any specific suit is four. **True or False?**

- 3) Dealer North – North-South vulnerable

♠ J6	
♥ 762	
♦ KQJ	
♣ KQJ108	
	♠ 3
	♥ A1098543
	♦ A97
	♣ 54

After North's 1♣ opening and your 3♥ preempt, the expert player sitting South starts thinking and then bids 6♠!! Partner leads the ♥Q, you take the ♥A and declarer follows with the ♥K. **What do you play and why?**

- 4) a) A1084
KQ6
b) A975
KQ3

Two very similar looking card combinations. You are South and start cashing the KQ in both cases. In a) both opponents follow with small cards and when you play the third round West plays the 9. In b) East drops the 10 on the second round of the suit.

What are the best percentage plays you should choose now in a) and b)?

- 5)

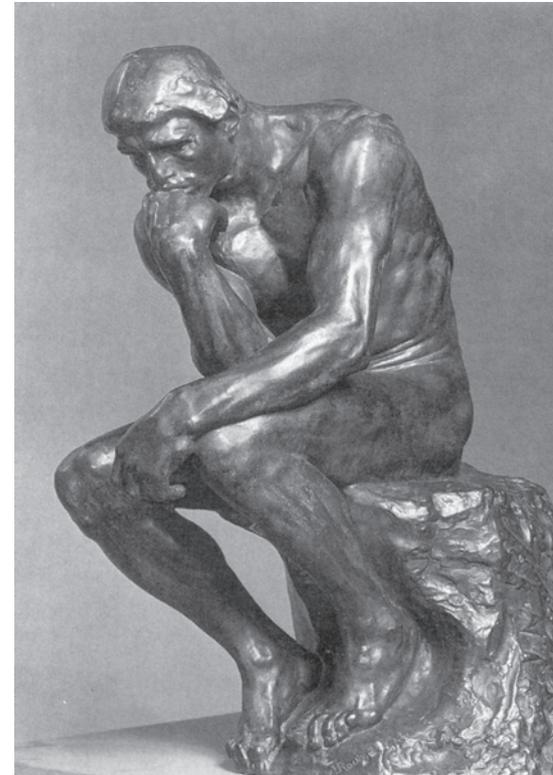
♠ 10	
♥ 10862	
♦ K984	
♣ AK103	
	N
W	E
	S
♠ Q	
♥ AQ4	
♦ AQJ103	
♣ J984	

You reached 5♦, without any bid by the opponents. West leads the ♦6 and East follows with the ♦2.

How do you plan the play?

- 6)

		♠ Q5	
		♥	
		♦	
		♣	
♠ 4			♠ K1082
♥		N	♥
♦	W	E	♦
♣		S	♣



South opens 1NT and that becomes the final contract. West leads the ♠4 and declarer plays the ♠5 from dummy.

- a) Who has the ♠A?
b) Who has the ♠J
c) Which spade should you play?

- 7) J10
A875432

What is your best chance to play the suit for only one loser?

- 8) You hold in South:
♠ 3
♥ KQ654
♦ AKQ54
♣ Q7

The bidding goes on as follows (playing standard Israeli):

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♣ ⁽¹⁾	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	4♠	Pass	?

1) Fourth suit forcing

- a) What is the agreed suit?
- b) Has partner shown a club control?
- c) What do you bid now?

9)

♠ 65	
♥ 765	
♦ 43	
♣ AKJ654	
♠ AQJ	N
♥ Q984	W
♦ 8652	E
♣ Q9	S

South opens 1NT and gets raised to 3NT. You lead the ♥4 which runs to declarer's ♥J. Next comes a small club. **What should you play and why?**

10)

♠ AK765	N	♠ Q2
♥ K983	W	♥ A7
♦ KJ4	E	♦ AQ10876
♣ 6	S	♣ Q105

The auction goes:

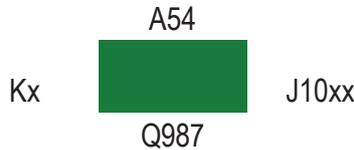
West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South leads the ♣4 to North ♣K. Back comes the ♣8, East inserts the ♣10 but South has started with ♣AJ974 and he cashes out for one down. 3NT-1 when 6♦ is absolutely cold... not exactly great bidding. Who would you blame?

Answers:

1)

The only chance to make three tricks given the conditions we set out is on this layout (try and see for yourself!):



You should run the 9 to East's J. Then cash the Ace, dropping the K, and finesse the 10.

Give yourself 20 points if you got this right (it was a toughie!).

2)

- a) True.
- b) False. Three 5 points for you for each correct reply

3)

You should return a heart for partner to ruff. Declarer has the last heart since he must have a void somewhere to explain why he did not ask aces. The complete distribution:

♠ J6		
♥ 762		
♦ KQJ		
♣ KQJ108		
♠ 42	N	♠ 3
♥ Q	W	♥ A1098543
♦ 10865432	E	♦ A97
♣ 762	S	♣ 54
♠ AKQ109875		
♥ KJ		
♦ -		
♣ A93		

Give yourself 10 points if you answered correctly.

4)

- a) The Ace
- b) The nine

According to Roudinesco's monumental work on card combinations: if you have

one card missing and originally one is "important" (like the J in case a), you should play for the drop. If you started with two "important" cards out (like the J10 in case b) and one has appeared, you should finesse for the other. Give yourself 20 points if you got both of them right but only 5 if you got one of them right (since you did not know the real reasons behind the correct choices but at least you showed a good "nose" in one of the cases).

5)

The idea is to avoid losing two heart tricks, since we already have an inevitable spade loser. The best line is to draw two round of trumps and lead the ♣J. If it is not covered by West then we rise with the ♣A, come back to hand with a trump and this time take a club finesse. After clearing the clubs, then we exit with a spade forcing the opponents to open the heart suit, which means that we cannot lose two heart tricks no matter how what the layout of the suit.

Here is the complete hand:

♠ 10		
♥ 10862		
♦ K984		
♣ AK103		
♠ K9876	N	♠ AJ5432
♥ K53	W	♥ J97
♦ 52	E	♦ 76
♣ Q52	S	♣ 76
♠ Q		
♥ AQ4		
♦ AQJ103		
♣ J984		

6)

- a) West
- b) South
- c) The King

If South had the spade ace and not the jack, he would have played the queen at trick one. If South had neither, he would have also played the Queen, hoping that the lead might come from AK. Therefore South has to have the Jack. If the Jack is trebleton, your play is immaterial as declarer will always make one trick. However if he has started with Jx, it is vital

to rise with the ♠K to stop declarer stealing a trick in the suit. Give yourself 5 points for each correct reply and an extra 5 as a bonus if you got all of them right.

7)

You should run the Jack and if that loses, play the Ace next. This play caters for West holding a singleton 9, the only layout that you can do anything about with the cards you have.

10 points if you got this one right.

8)

a) The agreed suit has to be diamonds. If North had a heart fit he would have shown it at the second round of bidding and if he had a strong hand and long spades he would have rebid spades after bidding fourth suit forcing.

b) Yes, since we have denied a club control with our 4♦ bid. If North did not have a club control he would have signed off in 5♦ and not continue cue-bidding with 4♠.

c) We know that partner has a good hand with the ♥A (one should never cuebid a singleton in partner's main suit) and controls in the black suits. Therefore we should just ask 4NT and, if necessary, 5NT before deciding on our final spot, since we might even be cold for 7♦ if partner has:

♠ AKxxx
♥ Ax
♦ xxxx
♣ Ax

Give yourself 10 points for each correct reply and an extra 10 if you got all three right.

9)

You know from the first trick that declarer has a guaranteed nine tricks, from six clubs and three hearts, and probably quite a few more. The only chance to send him astray and possibly steal a trick or two is to immediately play the ♣Q. This will put declarer

to the test: he cannot afford to take it and then be cut off from the club suit if the clubs are really 4-1 as your ♣Q play would indicate. However if you hesitate, then the ♣Q play will be a waste of time as a competent declarer will easily see through your attempt to swindle him. Give yourself 10 points for the ♣Q play and deduct 5 if you came up with any spurious reason to play the ♣9 thinking that it might be seen as a suit preference signal for spades!!

10)

East should definitely be in no hurry to close the auction in 3NT with such a flimsy club stopper. It would have been much better to rebid 3♣, fourth suit forcing, second time round. That would have elicited a 3♦ reply from West and now the road would have been clear to start investigating a possible diamond slam or at least to get to the safe 5♦. If you blamed East AND correctly guessed why he is at fault give yourself 10 points.

The results:

150-130 You are a genius! Your bridge I.Q. must be only second to your modesty, which is why I am writing these column and not you!

120-100 You are an above average player with considerable talent for the game.

90-70 You are a player with some ability but you could do a lot better if your concentration skills were equal to your potential

60-40 Time to get busy studying if you want to become more competitive. I am sure that there are lots of nice courses for players like you at your local clubs. Try them! Learning can be a lot of fun!

30-0 Hmmm. Don't worry, your secret is safe with me. Besides, your score means that there really is a lot, but A LOT, of space for improvement!