

Four Types of Pawns “Beginner” Help Guide

Isolated Pawn: A Pawn with no like-colored Pawns on either adjacent file.

Double Pawns: Two Pawns on the same color lined up on a file. This Doubling can only come about as the result of a capture.

Backwards Pawn: A Pawn that has fallen behind his comrades and can no longer be defended by another Pawn.

Passed Pawn: A Pawn whose advance to the 8th rank cannot be prevented by any enemy Pawn.

Diagram 1: The first problem asks you to circle the Isolated Pawn, and are these Isolated Pawns usually strong or weak. Well if you take a look at the diagram you will notice that there is only one Pawn on the board that has no other Pawns next to it. That is the Isolated Pawn and it is usually considered a weakness.

Diagram 2: The second diagram asks you to circle which two Pawns are Doubled and are they strong or weak. You can see that there are only one group of Pawns on the same file (remember that the files go up and down not left to right). If the Double Pawns are attacking the center of the board then they are considered strong but if they are nowhere near the center then they are considered weak.

Diagram 3: The third diagram asks you, which Pawns are Backwards a2, c3, or d6 and are these Pawns usually strong or weak? Well by using the process of elimination you can see that the Pawn on a2 and c3 have not fallen behind any of the other Pawns. That only leaves the Pawn on d6. This would have to be the Backwards Pawn because it has fallen behind its comrades and has no protection from the enemy. These Pawns are usually considered to be a weakness.

Diagram 4: The fourth problem asks you, which two Pawns are Doubled and are these Pawns usually strong or weak? Just like in diagram 2 you will notice that there are only one group of Pawns that are on the same file. These are the Doubled Pawns and remember that they are weak if they are not attacking the center and strong if they are.

Diagram 5: The final problem on your homework asks you, which Pawn is Passed and is that a strong or weak Pawn. Well take a look at the board and you will see that there is only one Pawn that cannot be captured by one of the enemy Pawns. That is your Passed Pawn and it is usually considered to be strong.