

Imbalances in the Opening (1) Help Guide

Diagram 1:

Black to move. The White player has played the French Defense. This opening sometimes cramps Blacks position, but luckily for Black there are some things that can be done to open up the position. Black wants to try to break down Whites center by attacking the base of the Pawn chain. The Pawn at the base of the chain is the d4 Pawn. Which option attacks the d4 Pawn, Black Pawn to a6 (a6) or Black Pawn to c5 (c5)?

Diagram 3: questions 1 - 5

At this point in the game no player has lost any material, or has a Pawn structure problem. Whites light squared Bishop is on a nice open diagonal, keeping both sides fighting for the center. White is battling for space while Black seems to be developing quite fast, this will make for a great game.