

STUDENT ASSESSMENT FORM

Name _____

Rating _____

Indicate your strengths and weaknesses by writing the number that you feel represents your present skill level. If you don't know anything about the item write 0. If you know how to evaluate and/or play the item listed and have used it successfully in over-the-board play several times, write 4. Write 1, 2, or 3 if your strength falls between the two extremes.

Pawn Structure

- ___ outside passed pawn
- ___ as a determinant of strategy
- ___ pawn mobility
- ___ passed pawns
- ___ isolated pawns
- ___ doubled and tripled pawns
- ___ weak squares/strong squares
- ___ pawn chains
- ___ queen side majority
- ___ minority attacks
- ___ bad bishop/good bishop
- ___ weak pawns
- ___ unequal distribution of pawns
- ___ blockaded pawns
- ___ hanging pawns
- ___ pawn salient
- ___ backward pawns
- ___ connected pawns
- ___ pawn islands
- ___ central majority

Strategy

- ___ force
- ___ space
- ___ time
- ___ judging and planning
- ___ positional advantage
- ___ in quiet positions
- ___ aim in opening
- ___ prevention of castling
- ___ overprotection of center
- ___ exploitation of weaknesses
- ___ center attack
- ___ open lines
- ___ equal positions
- ___ localized material advantage
- ___ outposts
- ___ convert advantages
- ___ coordination of pieces

Endings

- ___ the elementary mates
- ___ king and pawn endings
- ___ knight and pawn endings
- ___ bishop and pawn endings
- ___ minor piece endings
- ___ rook and pawn endings
- ___ rooks and minor pieces
- ___ queen endings
- ___ opposition
- ___ using the king
- ___ zugzwang
- ___ triangulate

Tactics

- ___ pins
- ___ double attacks
- ___ skewer
- ___ overworked defenders
- ___ false protections
- ___ discovered attack
- ___ double check
- ___ defend by counter-attacking
- ___ perpetual check
- ___ knight and other forks
- ___ direct attack against the king
- ___ combinations
- ___ sequence of moves
- ___ aggressive moves
- ___ art of defense
- ___ art of sacrifice
- ___ mating attacks
- ___ exchanging
- ___ seventh and eighth ranks
- ___ alternation
- ___ zwischenzug
- ___ decoying
- ___ clearance
- ___ interference
- ___ divert

How to Analyze

- ___ calculate variations
- ___ selection of candidate moves
- ___ flexibility
- ___ how to annotate games
- ___ visualize and evaluate positions

Psychology of Chess

- ___ style (aggressive vs. passive)
- ___ intuition in chess
- ___ attention/concentration
- ___ auto-conditioning
- ___ effective behavior during game
- ___ winning a won game
- ___ relaxation after game

How to study chess

- ___ most helpful books
- ___ how to use Informants, ECO, etc.
- ___ effective study methods
- ___ how to prepare for tournaments

Openings

- ___ general principles
- ___ queen pawns (with 1. d4 d5)
- ___ queen pawns (without d5)
- ___ Bird's and Nimzovitch's Attack
- ___ king pawn (with 1. e4 e5)
- ___ king pawn (other than 1. ... e5)
- ___ Reti and English
- ___ irregular openings

(Specify your best openings and rate)

1. Write down the theory behind the openings you mentioned above. _____

2. How many masters' games have you studied related to your preferred openings?

3. What variations do you prefer? _____

4. List other strengths and weaknesses you have in chess. _____

5. What are your goals for this year? _____

6. Are you an aggressive player? _____

7. What chess books have you read (place an 'X' beside the most helpful.)? _____
