

Chess-1 Logic Puzzle – Solution

1. c3 is E.

We are told that all the pieces are on white squares and as a chessboard a1 is black,

2. c1, d2, d4, e1,e3, f2, f4,g1, g3, h2 and h4 are all E.

—	E	○	E	○	E
E	○	E	—	E	—
—	E	—	E	—	E
E	—	E	—	E	○

We are told there are 2 kings and 2 rooks at the places marked “o”, one of each colour. We are told that the position is legal and that by looking at the diagram we can tell it is White’s move. This means White is in check from a Black rook. This means e4 and g4 must be a WK and a BR, in some order.

If e4 were a WK, then d3 could not be a BK, and so it would have to be a WR. But we are told that no piece is defended and a WKe4 would defend a WRd3. So

3. e4 is a BR and g4 is a WK.

If d3 were a BK, then the BRe4 would be defended. So

4. d3 is a WR and h1 is a BK.

The position is therefore (red pieces are White)

—	E	R	E	K	E
E	R	E	—	E	—
—	E	—	E	—	E
E	—	E	—	E	K

To have any hope of winning White must come up with immediate threats. After some thought, one might spot the two-move combination 1Kg3 threatening mate beginning with 2Rd1. Black’s only defence against this (apart from giving the rook away) is 1...Re1. But then White’s 2nd move 2Kf2! threatens both KxR and 3 Rh3 mate. There is no defence. So 1Kg3 is entered as far away from the BK as possible, on a4, and then 2Kf2 is entered on the mating square h3. So

5. a4 is 1Kg3 and h3 is 2Kf3.

The remaining squares when filled by !! give the inspiration for the puzzle. Well done!