

Carefully read the excerpt below, taken from an article in The Wall Street Journal, then answer the three questions that follow.

1 It’s a popular notion that learning chess can make you smarter. Chess clubs and federations
around the world promote the game for inclusion in school curricula, especially at the
elementary level. In Armenia, every second-, third- and fourth-grader takes a chess class.
5 American “tiger parents” often see chess lessons in the same light as music and computer
classes—a way to give their children a leg up in the quest for better grades and admission to
an elite college.

The game of kings has long been associated with intelligence, and chess grandmasters are
capable of astounding mental feats. Magnus Carlsen, who is currently defending his title as
world champion in New York against Sergey Karjakin, reportedly had a prodigious memory as
10 a child. In a recent exhibition match in New Jersey, he played 11 opponents at once and beat
every one of them in less than 20 minutes.

So are chess players smarter? Several research teams have tried to find out by administering
various cognitive tests. Reviewing these studies in the journal *Current Directions in
Psychological Science* in 2011, the psychologists Guillermo Campitelli and Fernand Gobet
15 concluded that tournament chess players score higher on tests of intelligence than do
comparable non-players.

In a paper this year in the journal *Intelligence*, the psychologists Alexander Burgoyne and
David Hambrick analyzed the results of 19 studies, involving a total of nearly 1,800 chess
players, that correlated IQ scores with skill ratings. They found that stronger chess players
20 tend to score higher than weaker ones, and that this was especially true of newer players and
younger players.

These results don’t necessarily mean that chess makes anyone smarter. It could also be that
chess, with its reputation as a difficult mental challenge, attracts more intelligent people—and
that the smartest players tend to improve their games the most.

Source Reference: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/does-chess-make-you-smarter-1479403551>

1. Which of the following statements refutes the idea “learning chess can make you smarter” (line 1)?
 - A) “The game of kings has long been associated with intelligence” (line 7)
 - B) “...Its reputation as a difficult mental challenge, attracts more intelligent people...” (line 23)
 - C) “...Tournament chess players score higher on tests of intelligence than do comparable non-players” (line 15)
 - D) “American ‘tiger parents’ often see chess lessons in the same light as music and computer classes” (line 4)
2. What is the relationship between the first paragraph of this excerpt and the last paragraph?

- A) Both paragraphs promote the idea that playing chess can increase intelligence
- B) The first paragraph supports the conclusions drawn in the last paragraph
- C) Both paragraphs reject the cognitive tests administered by psychologists
- D) The last paragraph undermines an idea suggested in the first paragraph

3. In line 8, the word “feat” most nearly means

- A) intelligence
- B) obstacle
- C) triumph
- D) memory

Answer Key:

1. B
2. D
3. C