

Question # 1

North (dummy)

S J82
H KJ8
D Q85
C A1073

South (you)

S AK6
H AQ5
D 9732
C QJ4

The bidding has gone

S N
1NT 3NT

When we do not have a sequence, we lead fourth best of our longest and strongest suit. We assume that this is what West has done.

Now we, as declarer, use the Rule of Eleven. We subtract the size of the spot card LHO (Left Hand Opponent) has led from the number 11. Provided that the spot card was the 8 or lower.

$11 - 6 = 5$. THIS ANSWER TELLS YOU THAT THERE ARE 5 CARDS in the REMAINING three hands that can beat the C 6.

You, as declarer, can see 5 cards in dummy and declarer's hand that can beat the 6. Therefore, you know that East can have NO cards that can beat the C6. Therefore, you can win the first tricks with C7.

The Rule of Eleven was designed to allow you to win tricks as economically as possible.

Provided W has led fourth of longest and strongest, the Rule of Eleven cannot ever fail. **Answer: Play the C7**

West leads the C 6. What card does declarer win this trick with?

- a) C 10
- b) C J
- c) C Q
- d) C 7
- e) C A

Question # 2

Partner has opened with 1NT. Pass by opponent. What do you do with this hand?

S Q874
H J862
D 9732
C 5

- a) Pass
- b) Bid 2C
- c) Say goodnight and leave

Normally, we need 8 or more HCP to use Stayman. But when we have this shape:

4-4-4-1 (the 1 being a Club) OR 4-4-5-0 (void being in Clubs) we can use Stayman and plan to pass whatever partner bids. This is an attempt to improve the contract as you are giving partner nothing in NT. She cannot make 1NT, most likely but if she had 4S or 4H or 4D, at least she is more likely to be able to make a trump suit contract. Some call this Garbage Stayman. **So our bid is 2C.**

Question # 3

Partner has opened with 2C. What will you respond with this hand?

S 1062
H AQ52
D 985
C AJ6

- a) 2H
- b) 3NT
- c) 2NT
- d) 2D

To bid a suit in response to 2C opener, we must have 8 or more HCP and a 5 card suit headed by 2 of the top 3 honours. So we cannot bid 2H. We do not bid NT because IF opener had a big balanced hand, we would prefer to let them now bid NT and let the strong hand become the closed (hidden) hand.

So our bid is **2D**. Waiting.

Question # 4

Partner has opened with 1H

You have

S QJ1054
H 532
D QJ6
C 54

What will you respond with this hand?

- a) 1S
- b) 1NT
- c) 2H

Bid 2H. Whenever you have 6-9 points and 3 or more of partner's major, always raise to 2 of the major.

If you had 4 of partner's major and 6-9, you might consider using a Bergen Raise instead 1H – 3C. **IF** you have agreed with partner to play Bergen Raises.