# Andrew’s Quiz (3)

*Answers to quiz*

1. Bidding 1♦ as an overcall requires a good diamond suit. Five+ cards satisfying the Suit Quality Overcall Test (SQOT): the number of cards in the suit added to the number of honours getting to (at least) the number of tricks bid for.

Hand (A) fails SQOT and is completely trickless and shapeless: a clear pass. Both Hand (B) and Hand (C) satisfy SQOT, but there is a much more descriptive bid with Hand (C): 1NT. Bidding 1NT as an overcall shows 15-19 points, balanced with a stopper in the opposing suit (here clubs). That leaves **Hand (B)** as the correct answer: a minimum point-count for an overcall, but worth making the bid even if you lose the bidding to give partner a lead in defence.

1. Your 1NT response is a “Dustbin” bid, showing 6-9 points, unable to do anything better. You’d bid a four-card suit at the one-level if you could, so that rules out Hand (B) – a 1♠ response. You’d also support partner with three decent cards (headed by a picture) in preference to bidding 1NT – and that rules out Hand (C) – a 2♥ response. Hand (A) looks least like a 1NT bid, but the 1NT response does not show a balanced hand or a desire to play in notrumps, it is merely a slowing down manoeuvre on a weak responding hand that has no other bid, a hand that fails the Rule of 14 (the points in the hand plus the number of cards in the suit not getting to 14). **Hand (A)** has no choice but to respond 1NT.
2. By opening and repeating spades in this auction, you are guaranteeing six(+) spades, but no more than 15 points. That rules out Hand (B) which should rebid 3♠, to show 16+ points and six spades. Hand (A) might rebid 2♠, but a better rebid, showing more about the hand, is 2♦: it is normally better to show a cheaper four-card second suit before repeating s six-card suit. [Saying “bidding and repeating a suit normally shows six cards” is not the same as saying “if you have six cards, you must bid and repeat it”]. That leaves **Hand (C)** as the correct answer: an opening bid using the Rule of 20 (points in the hand plus number of cards in two longest suits getting to 20).
3. When supporting a partner who has bid as an overcaller, you should bid to the level of the fit with fewer than 10 points (bidding to the trick level that equals the number of partnership cards – assuming partner for five); with 10+ points you should make an Unassuming Cue Bid (UCB), bidding opener’s suit at the lowest level. Hand (A) should therefore bid 2♦, a UCB. Hand (C) knows the partnership have a ten-card heart fit and should therefore preempt with 4♥. That leaves **Hand (B)** as the correct answer: the 3♥ bid showing four hearts and up to nine points.
4. Your 4♦ is a Trial Bid for slam, effectively a natural slam try. You are saying, “I am interested in 6♥ but I need help in diamonds”. [It is far better played that way than as an ace-showing cue bid]. Hand (A) is not right – indeed the hand is too flat to even look for slam and should just bid 4♥ (and hope to make it!). Hand (B) should make s slam Trail Bid of 4♣, asking for help in clubs. That leaves **Hand (C)** as the correct answer: “can you help me in diamonds for a spade slam, partner?”