

IMPROVER LESSON 6: QUIZ ANSWERS

Opening Leads

In all questions below, you are West. Unless indicated, East-West pass throughout. What is your opening Lead ?

1.	North	South	
	1♥	1NT *	* 6-9 no 4+ card major
	3NT	All pass	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ Q875	♠ 753	♠ A843	♠ 9763
♥ 753	♥ Q875	♥ JT4	♥ JT4
♦ K972	♦ K942	♦ AQ4	♦ QJ963
♣ A6	♣ A6	♣ 654	♣ 5
.....♠5.....	.....♦2.....	.....♠3.....	.....♦Q.....

a) Low from longest suit. Spades is a better option as South has denied 4 spades.

b) Since North bid hearts, lead the unbid suit.

c) Fourth highest from longest suit (it is OK to lead away from an ace against NT).

d) Longest suit - top of a sequence lead.

2.	West	North	East	South	
		1♥	1♠	1NT *	* 6-9 with a spade hold
		3NT	All pass		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)		
♠ K73	♠ K6	♠ 5	♠ 952		
♥ 942	♥ A853	♥ 854	♥ Q832		
♦ 876	♦ 876	♦ KT763	♦ A963		
♣ A842	♣ 9876	♣ A842	♣ 74		
.....♠3.....	.....♠K.....	.....♦6.....	.....♠9.....

a) Partner's suit. Lead low if you hold three or more cards to an honour

b) Partner's suit. Lead low from three or more cards to an honour

c) Fourth highest from a potentially good suit of your own. Your spade holding is poor and the opposition may not be prepared for a diamond lead. You have an "outside entry" card in ♣A.

d) Partner's suit. Lead top of poor suit (♠9). Not ♠2, since smallest card promises an honour in the suit.

3.

	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
		1NT	(12-14)
	2♣*	2♠	* Stayman
	2NT	3NT	All pass
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ Q874	♠ Q874	♠ A6	♠ 842
♥ 874	♥ 874	♥ 982	♥ 963
♦ K432	♦ J82	♦ KJT54	♦ AK842
♣ K6	♣ A72	♣ T63	♣ Q6
.....♦ 2.....	.....♥ 8.....	.....♦ J.....	.....♦ 4.....

- a) Low from longest suit. Do not lead a spade because South bid the suit
- b) Your longest suit (spades) has been bid by South. Because North bid Stayman and does not have four spades, they must have four hearts. Therefore lead a heart through North, hoping partner also has four hearts.
- c) Your longest suit and top of an interior sequence. By leading the jack, your partner knows you do **not** hold the ♦Q, but **could** have the ♦A or ♦K.
- d) Your longest suit. In no trumps, lead fourth highest because you are unlikely to win all five diamond tricks without losing the lead. If your partner has the doubleton Qx, leading ♦AK would be fatal. NB: against a suit contract, you would lead ♦A ... always!

4.

	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
		1♥	
	3♥*	4♥	* 10-12 with 4+ hearts
	All pass		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ A843	♠ J632	♠ K962	♠ KQ5
♥ 96	♥ 7	♥ A83	♥ KQ5
♦ Q732	♦ 9854	♦ 7	♦ A876
♣ J84	♣ K732	♣ 109876	♣ J843
.....♦ 2.....	.....♣ 2.....	.....♦ 7.....	.....♠ K.....

- a) Lead fourth highest promising an honour. Do not lead a spade. It is wrong to underlead an ace in a suit contract, or to lead an ace without holding the king.

b) It is fine to lead away from a king. We hope to find our partner with the queen or ace. This is better than leading away from a jack. Do not lead a singleton trump.

c) Lead your singleton. When you win the ♥A, you hope to find partner with an entry so they can give you a diamond ruff.

d) Top of a sequence. This is better than leading a diamond, as per hand (a) or leading away from a jack.

5.

North

South

1♦

1♠

2♠

3♠

All pass

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠	J6	♠ QJ74	♠ Q6	♠ QJ4
♥	AQJ8	♥ 9	♥ J1042	♥ Q1095
♦	Q86	♦ 874	♦ 872	♦ 83
♣	9632	♣ K8632	♣ AK74	♣ 9632
	♣9	♣3	♣A	♥10

a) It is best to lead top of nothing. Leading a heart could give away a trick

b) Lead fourth highest from an honour to develop club trick(s). Do not lead a singleton when you have good trumps. With four trumps you may score tricks without the need to ruff.

c) Top of a sequence. You may even be able to give partner a ruff on the third round!

d) Top of an interior sequence