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Q. 1 – As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠4 ♥K Q 6 ♦Q 10 6 5 ♣A J 9 8 3

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♥ 1♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A – You have a good hand and, while it is likely that you should aim for game in hearts, there might be a slam in either clubs or hearts. Start with a simple bid of two clubs. That is an absolute force, and leaves you the most room for exploration.

Q. 2 – As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K Q 7 4 ♥9 ♦A 10 6 ♣A K 9 8 4

The bidding has proceeded:

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1♥ Dbl Pass 1♠

2♦ ?

What do you bid now?

A – You have a very good hand, but bear in mind that partner might have next-to-nothing for his simple response! A raise to two spades is a whit conservative while a leap to three spades is a trifle aggressive. Since the bidding suggests spades are breaking badly, we opt for the slower approach.

Q. 3 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A Q 10 7 ♥A K 10 7 ♦Q 9 4 3 ♣7

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A – If you play splinter bids, this is the perfect hand for a jump to four clubs, promising a singleton club and values for a game-force in hearts. If not, make whatever forcing heart raise you have available.

Q. 4 – As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A K 10 8 7 ♥9 6 ♦Q 6 ♣K 10 5 4

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A – If you play that a two-over-one response to your opening bid is a game force, by all means bid three clubs – that promises no more than a minimum opening bid. However, if you play it as invitational, we would prefer to limit our opening bid and rebid just two spades.

Q. 5 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠9 5 ♥5 ♦A K Q 7 6 5 ♣A K 5 3

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♦ 1♠ 1NT Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A – You have a hand that will produce seven or eight tricks at no trump, and partner has shown values with his bid of one no trump. We would take our chances with a jump to three no trump.