

Sem 1 Week 11

This is an exhausting week, with me actually feeling slightly depressed. While I managed to get my work done on time and make things go on smoothly (which is fortunate), I messed up with a bunch of choices this week. Instead of typing a regular weekly entry, I've decided to do something different - to write a passage about choices.

Notorious MCQ choices

All the course quizzes I have taken were composed of multiple-choice questions - questions that we could guess the answers, but easily get wrong. Those choices often got me confused, and I happen to always get one or two wrong among all of them, which is pitiful. (This somewhat recalled my painful memories in completing MC papers in my DSE - I filled in the wrong MC boxes in Econ MC!)

While the correct solutions are narrowed down to four or five options in MCQs, traps and misleading choices are everywhere. We pick the 'correct' choices either based on our previous studying/ experiences, or pure, professional guessing, like some of us might have done so. We choose with our intuition, our previous experiences, or guess.

Choices and risks

But what exactly are choices and why do we have to make choices? Economically speaking, choices are made because we have limited resources but unlimited wants. We wish for the best according to our preferences, with the least possible costs - because we, as humans, are greedy after all. We wish to spot the correct answers for test credits. We, as consumers, always want to make best-valued choices, that we bargain for lower prices. We choose to save money early in life, for our future consumption and a comfy retirement. We choose in order to fulfill our preferences with scarce resources.

Choices present numerous opportunities, but there always happen to be risks. Firms make correct production choices with respect to the market to make profits and thrive. Several wrong choices, such as providing services of sub-optimal quality to cut costs, or diversifying towards a wrong direction, could risk the entire firm's survival.

What if - your choices are not correct? You didn't pick the best deal? You didn't spot the market niche? We certainly don't prefer losing. We, as risk-averse individuals who want to secure our gains, want to estimate our incoming risks and make corresponding preparations, and that's why there are academic and commercial branches of statistics, risk management and techniques like hedging.

Choices of life under uncertainty

In most of the above cases, we may be pretty certain about the direction of the outcomes, be them good or bad, with our predictions. The problem is that, when you view life as a bunch of choices. Yes, the sequence of strategic and fate-changing choices that you choose in order to move on. Unfortunate enough to say that I am not a particularly good choice-maker. Examples are that, making sub-optimal choices in relationships may cost your entire relationship; or cutting off ties in your early stages of life would make you worse off in the future, when much collaborative power is needed.

As we progress in life, we develop a better understanding of the world, and are finally to interpret the consequences of the choices we have made, but it is often too late for perfectionists who want to know everything in advance and position themselves ahead - I am probably an imperfect example of this, considering that I have already turned 18, and am still heavily confused about the choices I am making. And that's why I have to learn making choices effectively: With an open mind, to come up with the decisions I won't regret thereafter, and to maximize and secure the gains.

Of course, there are events that human cannot control - disasters, calamities, accidents. But we humans can control the way we think, the way we proceed, and the way we focus on. After all, one has to be very clear of their expectations and future wishes in order to pave the way for themselves, to learn

to make the correct choices, and to prosper. Choices are everywhere and life is, just, a bunch of choices. Think about the values of the choices you have made. While the correctness of choices are ultimately subjective, it is important to know what you are doing and where will your choice take you?

Life is about choices. Some we regret, some we're proud of. Some will haunt us forever. The message: we are what we chose to be. —Graham Brown.

So, what do you want to be? And correspondingly, what choices are you to pick?