

Department of Psychology

Problem-solving and the choice of learning strategies

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APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR THIS STUDY TO BE CARRIED OUT BETWEEN
01/06/2025 AND 30/09/2025

Debrief form

We would like to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** for taking the time to participate in our study.

You were invited to take part in this study as you are a UK resident and registered Prolific user aged over 18. Please be assured, all data collected is anonymised and will be treated with the strictest confidence. No personal identifying data is collected in this study, so you will be unable to withdraw your data from the study. The data collected may be stored securely for a minimum of 10 years in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The completed research will help gain an understanding of how individuals choose different learning strategies in a problem-solving task. We manipulated two aspects associated with the complexity of the problem: the length of the sequence and how easy it is to discover the best payoff. During the experiment, we allowed you to choose from three possible learning strategies: copy, innovate and maintain. When copying, we wanted you to experience the scenario as though you were engaging in an online game with three other players. This was not the case and the three players were just simulated agents who were designed to offer you solutions.

If you were unduly or unexpectedly affected by taking part in the study, please feel free to feed it back to the researcher. If you feel unable for whatever reason to talk with the researcher, then please either contact the Chair of the Ethics Committee, Professor Louise Mansfield (louise.mansfield@brunel.ac.uk).

Thank you once again for your valuable contribution to this research.