

## **Excerpt #1**

[from a psychology lab experiment involving 64 undergraduate students]

[S]ubjects were asked to memorize strings of letters that were, unbeknownst to them, constructed according to a certain algorithm. Then, they were informed of the use of the algorithm (though not what it specifically was) and asked to determine whether new strings were made according to it....

In phase one, the experiment was explained as an exercise in memorizing “unmeaningful material” (Jonides and Rozin, 1999). Beginning with list 1, the subject was asked to study and try to memorize the lists’ four strings for 15 seconds. This was immediately followed by a 15-second period for which the list was removed, and the participant was given a blank slip of paper and told to write down as much of each string as possible. The slip was then replaced by the list for another 15-second study period, followed by another 15-second recall period with a new slip. For each of the five lists, there were five such study-recall pairs, presented continuously.

In phase two, subjects were informed that the strings of letters in phase one had been constructed according to a certain algorithm, though the rule itself was not specified. They were then presented with 24 new strings of letters and asked to write down on the response sheet whether each string was constructed according to the same rule that governed the strings in phase one. (In reality, twelve of the new strings came from the algorithm.) Each string was presented individually, and there was no time limit. After all 24 had been classified, the participant was asked to write a statement of what she thought the algorithm was.

In phase two, the mean number of correct string classifications the subjects gave was 17.3 out of 24; all but two participants correctly identified more than 12 strings, and the mode number of correct responses was 18. To determine whether this mean was significantly different from

what we would expect from chance guessing on each question, a normal approximation for a binomial distribution with  $n=24$  and  $p=.50$  was used. The null hypothesis was that the mean would be greater than 12, because some sort of implicit learning had occurred during the memorization work. The result was highly significant ( $z=17.30$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ) and supported the alternative hypothesis....

It was expected that the participants would be able to correctly classify more than 12 of the 24 strings in phase two, so the result is not especially surprising. Still, the data provide a striking example of implicit learning. With such a high average score and so few participants scoring 12 or below, it is clear that participants were not just “guessing” on each string. A likely explanation for their performance is that they unknowingly learned aspects of the rule while performing the memorization task.

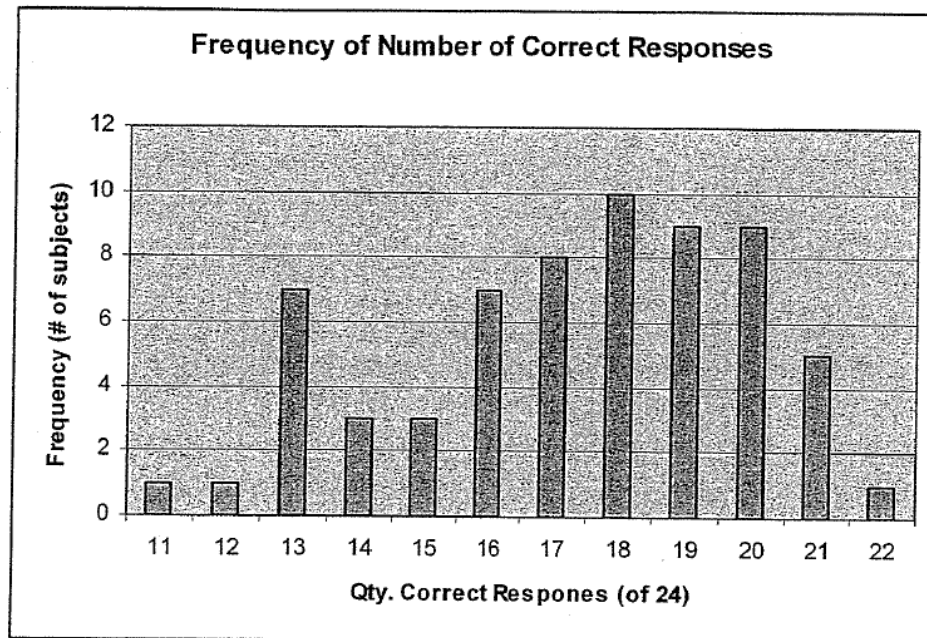


Figure 1. *Frequency of scores among experiment participants.* Most participants correctly identified between 16 and 21 strings. Notice that nearly all participants scored higher than 12 (the response that would likely be the most frequent if they were simply guessing).

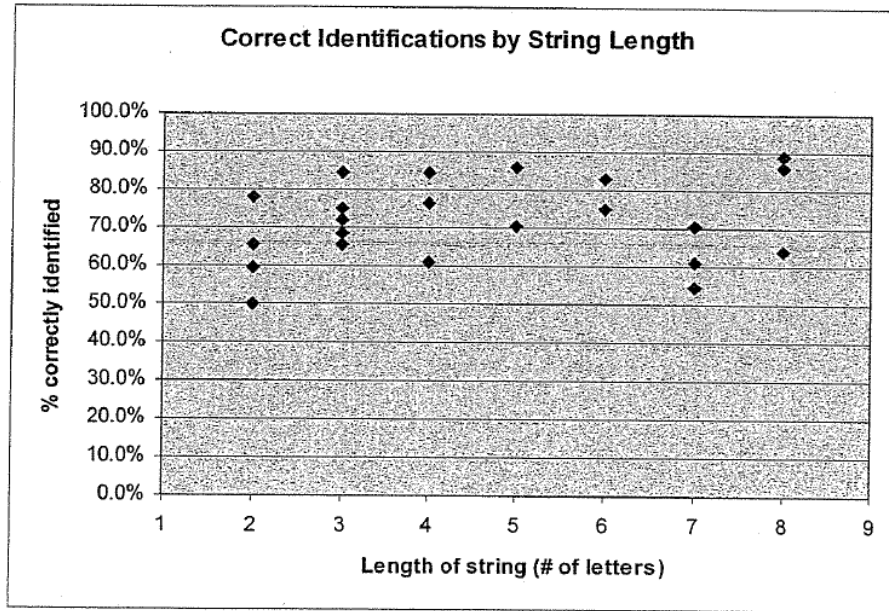


Figure 2. *Percent of correct responses for each phase two string, categorized by string length.* Each data point represents the rate of correct identification of a distinct string of the length specified on the x-axis. Notice that strings of two and seven letters had the lowest rates of correct identification, while strings of six and eight letters were most readily identified correctly.

## **Excerpt #2**

[from a political science paper arguing that Denmark is a model of social democracy for the rest of the European Community]

In order to support its world-class standard of living, Denmark has traditionally had high labor costs and high taxation. This latter point has proven to be the cause of much reform or "retrenchment" in the Danish system in the past 20 years. Starting in 1974, an economic crisis took hold due to "stagnant economic growth and unemployment ... [and] high inflation." <sup>8</sup> The social democrats were unable to successfully reform government to the point of recovery - which opened up a door for a right-wing coalition to step in and make some drastic changes to recover the macroeconomic stability of the nation. "A vigorous anti-inflationary economic policy was introduced with abolished automatic indexation, reduced public spending, and raised the cost of consumer credit."<sup>8</sup>

Inflation was subsequently brought under control, and the market began to recover.

With the conservative-led government from 1982-1993, Denmark headed down the path of reform. Streamlining the system and reducing the overwhelming tax burden (which was driving inflation skyward at an alarming rate) became a necessary step to keep the economy viable. While it may seem the best way to "retrench" the welfare state in Denmark would be to cut benefits and programs (which did occur, to an extent), rather even the right-of-center conservative party chose to maintain the social-democratic paradigm and simply restructure existing programs so only very few benefit cuts would be necessary. This further illustrates the Danes' commitment to universality and a high standard of living through their extensive welfare system.

Macroeconomic stability (and monetary policy) is also an important component of Danish policy. The issue of the European Union is at the core of this policy debate. After all, Denmark was one of the founding EU members; however, Denmark has so-far chosen to opt-out of the first-round of the currency consolidation process. However, in order to stabilize the Danish currency, the Krone was first pegged to the Deutschmark and then subsequently agreed to maintain the Krone in a band within 2.25% of the Euro. Many have suggested that Denmark is holding out on Euro adoption for similar reasons as the British - and if the British were to switch from Pound Sterling the Danish would follow closely behind.<sup>9</sup>

Organized Labor is yet another vital component of the Danish economic model....

While the Danish economy has remained fundamentally strong throughout the post-war period, one unforeseen event had great economic impact (both positive and negative) on Denmark. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 dried up an export market that had been vital to the Danish economy nearly overnight - and since 1992, Denmark's export performance has slipped considerably.<sup>11</sup> Denmark is working hard to find new markets for its exports, but as it is a traditionally economy based on small firms (which have a difficult time entering new international markets) its export performance has not significantly recovered. This need for a recovery explains Denmark's new focus on techno-centric industries discussed earlier....

### **Excerpt #3**

[Introduction to a discussion of alternative theoretical understandings of poverty]

Every parent wants to provide his or her child with the best; the 'best' homes, the 'best' education, the 'best' opportunities. With rising inflation and costs of living, many families are forced with decisions concerning the 'best' experiences for their children. Should both parents work in hopes of improving their standard of living in the face of leaving their children in day care? Nonparental child-care is on the rise as more and more mothers choose to work during the infancy and childhood of their children. Such an increase has led to concerns among parents and researchers alike on the effects of this choice on the child's development. Many maintain that the well-being of the child is being jeopardized in day care while others point to benefits of day care. Recent studies have shown a wide variety of responses to this apprehension. The research studied in this paper points to varying effects of nonmaternal child-care, specifically on socioemotional adjustment and cognitive development.

#### **Excerpt #4**

[from introduction of a paper arguing that India represents a challenge to dominant political models of the determinants of democracy that can help refine that theory]

The first step for a study about the development of democracy in India is a look at how strong it really is there. In the over five decades since the establishment of democracy, there have been 12 parliamentary elections. All political offices are contested, peaceful transfers of power between rival parties have taken place seven times in the central government, and incumbent governments have repeatedly been voted out of office. The judiciary is independent, all adults are eligible to vote, and the percent who have taken advantage of this has been steadily increasing, turnout is often greater than 60 percent (Varshney 36). The press is active and independent, all people have the freedoms of assembly and association, and the people are able to express dissent and protest government actions (Kohli 3). Democracy was suspended from June 1975 to November 1977 under Indira Gandhi, but was reinstated afterwards and has continued to thrive since then. Overall, despite the problems that do undeniably exist in India, its democratic record appears quite convincing.