

The London System

Chess

A setup you can play against almost anything, and its trade-off.

1.d4, 2.Bf4 and a standard development scheme.

1

1.d4 and 2.Bf4

The bishop develops outside the pawn chain before e3 shuts it in.

2

e3

Supports d4 and opens the f1 bishop.

3

Nf3, Bd3, c3

A solid triangle of pawns and easy development.

4

Nbd2, then O-O

Complete development.

5

Then Ne5 or a queenside plan

The middlegame plans depend on Black's setup.

TRADE-OFF

Very little theory to learn

Reaches a playable position against anything

Rarely gives White a large advantage

Can become passive if played automatically

Popular because it saves study time. Playing the moves without thinking about Black's setup is where it goes wrong.