

The Queen's Gambit

Chess

Not really a gambit, and what happens if Black takes.

Declined (2...e6)

- Solid and classical
- Blocks the light bishop, like the French
- Aims for ...c5 or ...dxc4 later
- The main line at every level

Accepted (2...dxc4)

- Black cannot hold the pawn
- 3.e3 or 3.Nf3 prepares to recover it
- Black gets free development
- ...c5 counterattack in the centre

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Trying to keep the pawn with ...b5 fails to a3 and axb5 ideas. Black should take and then develop rather than cling to it.

The Slav (2...c6) is the third main answer, keeping the light bishop free — the same idea as the Caro-Kann.