

First Year Seminar
Homework Assignment 5
Testing Astrology

Reading Assignment: *Huff*, Chapters 1, 8, and 9 by **Thursday March 15.**

Hypothesis: Your Astrological Sun-Sign helps determine your personality, according to the traits listed in Astrology Online.

This week's assignment will allow us to test this hypothesis.

Part A: Due in class on Thursday, March 15

Take the included list of twelve horoscopes. These horoscopes were taken from Astrology Online, but they appear here in random order. Your job is to ask ten or more people to try to determine which of the horoscopes is theirs. All interviews must be done before you arrive at class on Thursday.

1. Pick your first victim. Ask them the following two questions:
 - a) Has anyone from this Seminar done the Horoscope test on you yet?
 - b) Have you ever read the personality profiles from Astrology Online?If the answer to either of these questions is YES, that person is disqualified, and you must pick someone else. You may use yourself as one of the interviewees.
2. Write their name on the list provided.
3. Ask them their birth date (the year is not necessary). Record the date and also their astrological Sun sign.
4. Show them the list of personality traits. Ask them to pick the horoscope that best describes them.
5. Record their answers in the spaces provided. Do not allow them to pick more than one horoscope. They may ask you if they guessed right. Tell them you don't know, but you will know after Thursday.
6. Repeat the above process for nine or more other people.
7. Ignore the final column; we will deal with this on Thursday.

Interviewer's name: _____

Ari: March 21 – April 20

Lib: September 24 – October 23

Tau: April 21 – May 21

Scor: October 24 – November 22

Gem: May 22 – June 21

Sag: November 23 – December 21

Can: June 22 – July 22

Cap: December 22 – January 20

Leo: July 23 – August 22

Aqu: January 21 – February 19

Vir: August 23 – September 23 Pis: February 20 – March 20

NAME	Birthday	Sign	Guess	Right?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

Total Interviewees: _____

Total Correct: _____

Personality Descriptions from Astrology Online

Please pick the personality profile that describes you best

A	Practical and prudent, Ambitious and disciplined Patient and careful, Humorous and reserved Pessimistic and fatalistic, Miserly and grudging
B	Optimistic and freedom-loving, Jovial and good-humored Honest and straightforward, Intellectual and philosophical Blindly optimistic and careless, Irresponsible and superficial, Tactless and restless
C	Adventurous and energetic, Pioneering and courageous, Enthusiastic and confident, Dynamic and quick-witted Selfish and quick-tempered, Impulsive and impatient, Foolhardy and daredevil
D	Diplomatic and urbane, Romantic and charming Easygoing and sociable, Idealistic and peaceable Indecisive and changeable, Gullible and easily influenced, Flirtatious and self-indulgent
E	Patient and reliable, Warmhearted and loving Persistent and determined, Placid and security loving Jealous and possessive, Resentful and inflexible, Self-indulgent and greedy
F	Determined and forceful, Emotional and intuitive Powerful and passionate, Exciting and magnetic Jealous and resentful, Compulsive and obsessive, Secretive and obstinate
G	Friendly and humanitarian, Honest and loyal Original and inventive, Independent and intellectual Intractable and contrary, Perverse and unpredictable, Unemotional and detached
H	Emotional and loving, Intuitive and imaginative Shrewd and cautious, Protective and sympathetic Changeable and moody, Overemotional and touchy, Clinging and unable to let go
I	Imaginative and sensitive, Compassionate and kind Selfless and unworldly, Intuitive and sympathetic Escapist and idealistic, Secretive and vague, Weak-willed and easily led
J	Modest and shy, Meticulous and reliable Practical and diligent, Intelligent and analytical Fussy and a worrier, Overcritical and harsh, Perfectionist and conservative
K	Adaptable and versatile Communicative and witty Intellectual and eloquent, Youthful and lively Nervous and tense, Superficial and inconsistent, Cunning and inquisitive
L	Generous and warmhearted, Creative and enthusiastic Broad-minded and expansive, Faithful and loving Pompous and patronizing, Bossy and interfering, Dogmatic and intolerant

Part B: Rough Draft Due midnight Tuesday, March 20
Final Draft Due midnight Thursday, March 22

Grand Total Interviewees: _____ Grand Total Correct: _____

You must now write up a report on the experiment you have done. You may write this in any form you choose, but I recommend the following outline:

1. Purpose of Experiment - What were we trying to find out?
2. Methods - what we did to gather the data. It is important here to explain why we did it the way we did. For example, why didn't I tell you which sign was which from the start? It would have been easier and faster. Why did we disqualify those who answered yes to the questions above?
3. Data - this will be a simple summary of the number of people who guessed right. (You will use data gathered by the whole class, not just your data).
4. Analysis - What does the data indicate? Were the answers right all the time, a lot of the time, never, or what? How many correct answers would you expect if there is only luck involved? What is the standard deviation of this number? Did Astrology Online do much better?
5. Weaknesses - No experiment is perfect, and this one is no exception. Given time, money (if necessary), and motivation, how could this experiment be done better? What systematic errors could have occurred?

I would like to point out that you can do parts 1, 2, and most of 5 before we have collected all the data.

**Actual Personality Matches
from Astrology Online**

Aries	C
Taurus	E
Gemini	K
Cancer	H
Leo	L
Virgo	J
Libra	D
Scorpio	F
Sagittarius	B
Capricorn	A
Aquarius	G
Pisces	I

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from Astrology Online**

Aries	C
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Virgo	J
Libra	D
Scorpio	F
Sagittarius	B
Capricorn	A
Aquarius	G
Pisces	I