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# Survival Top Forty Evidence Scoring System

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A Project of ÆCES

The Association for Evaluation and Communication of Evidence for Survival

We do not do research. We do not assume the role of scientists or investigators. We apply set criteria to the work of scientists and investigators in an attempt to objectively determine which cases are the most likely to convince, and then we inform the public of our results.

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## ESS Defined

This is a system for objectively determining what cases provide the most convincing evidence for Survival of the human personality after the demise of the physical body.

## Purpose

There are thousands of cases on record that have been cited by one expert or another as being good evidence for the existence of an afterlife, that is for “Survival” (with a capital S). Up until now, there has been significant disagreement as to which cases make the very best evidence. Although we recognize that the inherent differences among people will always ensure a wide range of personal preferences, we think that a consistent, coherent, and objective system for ranking these cases will enable a clearer and more concerted educational effort. The more agreement that researchers and communicators can demonstrate, the more efficient their work and the more effective their message.

## Coverage Exclusions

To minimize damage to the list in the most unlikely – but possible – event that credible doubt is cast on the veracity of a source, no more than three cases from the same source may be part of the Top 40 at any given time.

Any case that has an indication of improper influence, tampering, or fraud is rejected and not considered under this system.

OBEs (Out-of-Body, or Other-Body, Experiences) are limited to people who continue to live. While certainly suggestive of a spirit world, of themselves they are not good evidence of what happens after the body dies and, thus, are not considered herein unless they involve the reception of confirmable information known only to discarnate beings.

This system does not cover arguments for Survival based on deductions from observations of human behavior. For instance the origin of musical genius in children or the origin of unexplained experiential referents in the blind or deaf. Furthermore there are certain characteristics that automatically remove a case from consideration, no matter how strong it may be otherwise. These six disqualifying characteristics are:

(1) **Hard To Comprehend.** If readers have to puzzle out a case, they will assume that they are missing something, and assume that that “something” is the explanation, rather than contact with spirits. This is why the cross-correspondences will never make good evidence for any but the most erudite.

(2) **Hints of Deception.** Any association with magic or illusion will seriously undermine confidence in the evidence, no matter how deserving of confidence that evidence might be. This is one reason why physical mediumship will never convince an unbeliever. Not even when filmed with six cameras in broad daylight. After all, if David Copperfield can do it . . . ?

Nothing is more closely associated with deception than darkness. One is justified in being reticent to accept any effect that requires turning out the lights. There are hundreds of cases of poltergeist and similar activity in which solid objects levitate, fly around in controlled patterns, appear, and disappear in lighted rooms and outdoors in the daytime. Furthermore, there are mediums, such as Sophia Williams (see case 16) and Elizabeth Blake (case 30), whose direct voices have managed quite well in normal room light.

Those physical mediums who will not even allow filming with infrared or other passive systems are asking to be approached with the utmost incredulity.

Nevertheless, the above does not rule out consideration of cases in which inexplicable information is provided by a medium who happens to be in a darkened room.

(3) **Outrageous Personages.** Skeptics often denigrate reincarnation by asserting (falsely) that most people recall lives of famous people. Although it is certainly possible that Napoleon or Lincoln may be born again, any case in which someone claimed such a provenance should be automatically rejected. Likewise, cases wherein famous people speak through mediums **C** although they may be true **C** are so outlandish that they have no power to convince. Moreover, these cases are worse than useless, because they provide the skeptics with such easy targets for derision.

(4) **Grotesque or Offensive.** Few people can retain open, objective attitudes in the face of goopy stuff oozing from ears or rods extending from abdomens. If one's audience is grossed out, they'll never be convinced. Likewise, people tend to avoid close examination of physical deformities and related information.

(5) **Political or Social Agendas.** Cases that seem to promote causes or try to change the behavior of the listener will always be viewed with suspicion. Blatant attempts to gain followers are, of course, the most distrusted; but moral, ethical, and even environmental discourses can also raise suspicions and detract from the evidential value of an incident.

(6) **Alien Suspects.** If there is any evidence or testimony suggesting that the incident was the result of the use of super-advanced technology – whether extra-terrestrial, extra-dimensional, or otherwise alien – then the case is outside the scope of the ESS and should not be ranked; nor will it be considered for the Survival Top Forty.

## Scoring

Cases that seem legitimate are scored according to the value assigned under two parameters.

The first parameter (CS) is the certainty of the source being discarnate. That is, how likely are possible alternatives that might explain the information being communicated or the occurrence of the incident. The less likely the alternatives, the higher the CS rating. This is the main scale and can be used alone.

The second parameter (WR) indicates the reliability of the report on which the case is based. Having a separate score allows evaluators to see if there are any correlations between who is telling the stories and how evidential are the tales. It also provides a means to distinguish rank between cases with equal CS scores.

For WR, the highest possible value is 100. The CS parameter, being most critical, is weighted heavier (up to a maximum of 200).

## Ranking Principles

The evidential value for most cases depends on the existence and probability of alternative sources for the information imparted or alternative causes for the incidents. No case is considered if a prosaic explanation is apparent or reasonably suspected. Therefore, the possible alternatives involve degrees of paranormal powers varying from receiving the projected thoughts of an involved individual to tapping directly into an omniscient cosmic consciousness to causing solid objects to dematerialize.

To better understand this concept, imagine that a young man goes to see a medium whom he has never met before. The medium goes into a trance and gives the man various bits of information. If we were to rank those facts according to the difficulty of psychically acquiring the information (without input from the spirit world), our list might look like this:

- The name of a departed friend from whom the sitter hoped to hear. (Reading an involved person's thoughts.)
- The name of the departed friend's fiancé, whom the sitter was not thinking about. (Reading an involved person's conscious mind.)

- The name of the departed friend's first dog, which the sitter had once known but cannot now recall. (Reading an involved person's unconscious mind.)
- That the departed friend had a brother who died in infancy; a fact the sitter had never known. (Reading the mind of an uninvolved person, *e.g.* a still living relative of the sitter's friend.)
- Where the departed friend had hidden some money; a fact that no one else but the friend knew. (Pulling information from a cosmic data bank.)
- That the departed friend's grave marker had been damaged by lightning the day before; a fact that was never known to any person while living. (No alternative explanation conceivable.)

It should be pointed out here that the act of mental telepathy is, in and of itself, strong evidence for the existence of a non-physical plane of consciousness, and thus is indirect evidence of Survival. The problem with telepathy is not in the transmission or the reception but in the tuning. It isn't so difficult to accept that we can mentally send and receive thoughts; it is virtually impossible to imagine how a mind, acting alone, could sort through all the billions of thoughts that are being sent out at any given moment and read only the sought-for message. Without some structure, all any mind could ever receive is the 'white noise' created by the intermingling of the thoughts of every being in the universe. This argues strongly for the existence of some sort of universal mind or discarnate communications system that routes and delivers mental images according to our intention or desire. Such a system couldn't be limited to our own minds; it would have to exist in a mental plane independent of the physical.

The same is true for other non-local mental powers such as remote-viewing. Some have conjectured that remote-viewing could account for obtaining information that does not reside in a living mind, but this is most unlikely. Successful remote-viewing procedures require that a target be consciously selected and then carefully concentrated on. If a skilled practitioner were given the coordinates of a particular grave, he might be able to 'view' it and report back as to whether the headstone appeared to have been struck by lightning. But even then, the ability to wend one's mental way through the vastness of the universe to a specific spot demands the existence of some sort of map and navigation system. So, we're right back to the requirement for a cosmic consciousness.

Without being given a specific target, there is no conceivable way that a medium's mind, operating solo, could first sense that something had been struck by lightning, then identify what it was and who it belonged to, and then discover its placement. Such a feat could only be achieved with the guidance of someone who already knew the location and had observed the damage (presumably, the spirit of the person whose body was buried in that grave).

Information is not limited to facts about the four w's (who, what, where, and when). It also can be in the form of how. For instance, if a person who has never played chess instantaneously acquires master-level skill at the game, they have received a great deal of information that might only be explained by spirit involvement.

In addition to cases involving the communication of information, there are some very convincing cases that simply involve some unusual or inexplicable occurrence that, of itself, indicates the presence of a departed spirit. In a manner similar to the "information cases," these are rated according to how difficult it might be to reproduce the effect by mental powers alone. Thus, a radio turning on "by itself" is considered less evidential than a tape cassette disappearing in front of one's eyes, because it is intuitively easier to affect electrical systems by "mind power" than it is to alter the basic structure/existence of materials. Nevertheless, the analyst must remember that we have no solid evidence that spirits residing in physical bodies somehow gain marvelous powers upon leaving those bodies. We must always ask, therefore, why the effect could not have been caused by the unconscious mind of a living person.

Then there are the instances when the image of a departed person (a ghost or apparition) is observed. If the observer was familiar with the appearance of the deceased, then a memory-based hallucination might be the cause, and the case will not be convincing. If the observer had never seen the person (or a picture of the person) yet is able to describe the person in sufficient detail for others to recognize the person, then we have a strong case for Survival. The case becomes even stronger if the apparition appears at a time and place of significance, such as the deathbed of a spouse. Such a well-timed visitation indicates both awareness and volition on the spirit's part.

### **Meaning of Low Scores**

A low score for a particular case does not mean that it is false or dubious in any way. (As indicated above, if there is reason to suspect deception, then the case would not be considered for scoring.) Nor is a low-scoring case deemed without value or merit to believers. A low score simply indicates that the case does not make a very effective argument when trying to convince an uninformed or dubious public of the existence of life after death.

### **Definitions of Terms used in the ESS**

An **apparition** differs from a vision in that it seems to be manifested in the same locale as the percipient.

A **current event** can be confirmed to have happened at the same time as the perception of it.

**Current information** is on-going or sufficiently recent that it can be investigated without recourse to historical records.

**Information** refers to the evidential and confirmable information received or perceived by the percipient. "Confirmable" information consists of descriptions of things, events, or situations that can be verified as existing or occurring. This verification may be achieved in either one of two ways: by direct observation and/or by supporting testimony.

If a supposed spirit tells you that a bar of gold is buried amidst the roots of a certain oak tree, and you dig there and do discover the shining ingot, you have confirmed the information by direct observation. On the other hand, if a discarnate informs you that the streets of heaven are paved with gold, direct observation is not an option, at least not as long as you remain among the living. Nevertheless, fairly reliable confirmation, or denial, is possible by comparing that statement with descriptions of heaven given by other souls. The greater the consensus among many different witnesses, the stronger the confirmation.

Heavenly environments are not the only scenes that cannot be directly observed. Hypnotic regressions to unrecorded lives and progressions to future lives are likewise dependent for substantiation upon corroborating testimony rather than direct observation.

An **interviewer** is a reporter who was not involved in the incident being reported, but who learns about it via communication from one or more persons who were involved.

An **involved person** is any percipient or witness to the event. At a seance or reading, this would include the medium (whether conscious or entranced), the sitter(s), and any others present in the immediate vicinity. Exception: persons being read are not considered "involved" if they are not in the presence of the medium and there is no contact or identification made to associate the person(s) and the medium.

**Links** are associations – via family, friends, occupation, or other personal history – that might reasonably be followed by an investigator of the case.

An **OBE** (Other-Body or Out-of-Body Experience) is an incident in which a person experiences a current event as if he/she was physically present at a location distant from their physical body. (Such experiences may be labeled astral travel, remote viewing, or clairvoyance.)

The **percipient** is the direct receiver of the information or the focus of the occurrence. If a sitter receives information through a medium, the medium is the percipient, the sitter is a witness. If three people simultaneously see a ghost, each of the three is a percipient. But, those using a talking board or planchette are considered witnesses, not percipients.

The **reporter** is any identified person or persons who writes about, publishes, broadcasts, posts, or otherwise disseminates the particulars of a case. This could be the percipient, a witness, or an interviewer. For a case to be evaluated via the ESS, the reporter must be identified sufficiently to be (or have been) contacted; no pseudonyms, no anonymous submissions.

A **vision** differs from an apparition in that it is accompanied by a feeling or understanding that it is occurring at a different place than the percipient is located.

A **witness** is any person who was in a position to observe the percipient during the manifestation, séance, regression, or other incident. Both operators using a talking board are considered witnesses, not percipients.

### **Determining the Scores**

The Certainty of Discarnate Source (CS) and Witness Reliability (WR) scores are derived by following a path through a collection of questions, most of which can be answered either “yes” or “no,” the answer determining the next question to be answered and the number of points (if any) to be deducted from the base score. A few questions prompt the user to choose from a short list of options. Altogether, these “decision trees” provide an objective and replicable means of assigning a numeric score to both parameters.

If the answer to a question is “yes,” go to the next (occupied) cell below the current one, if the answer is “no,” go to the cell to the right of the current one.

## ESS - CS Calculator

Base = 200

Q Section: Qualify for ESS		
Q0. Is there any way possible way, no matter how unlikely, in which the events/results could have been caused by fraud or fakery on the part of the percipient or subject?	→ Q2	
Q1. Have unanswered questions or accusations of fraud, fakery, or misrepresentation been made by anyone involved or by subsequent researchers?	Q99. Did anyone with a key role in the events (percipient, subject, or medium) gain from the outcome?	-2 → Q2
Reject	- 6, →Q2	
Q2. Can the incidents and their significance be clearly described for easy comprehension?	Reject	
Q3. If the evidence hinges on physical activities, do they occur in sufficient light for clear observation?	Reject	
Q4. Does the case involve physical phenomena of the sort commonly associated with illusionists or magicians?	Q5. Does the case purportedly involve the apparent spirits of famous personalities?	-> Q6
Reject	Reject	
Q6. Does the case involve actions or materials that the typical person would find grotesque or offensive?	Q7. Does the case involve actions or situations commonly associated with UFOs or alien technology?	->Q8
Reject	Reject	

Q8. Are any involved persons apparently promoting a political or social agenda other than psychic/spiritual awareness?	Q9. At the time the case was first related, was the reporter sufficiently identified to be traceable by other researchers?	Reject
Reject	Q10. Was the reporter in a position to initiate direct contact with an involved party?	Reject
	->T1	

T Section: Determine Type of Case		
T1. Is the evidentiary nature of the case based on information recalled from one or more past lives and later confirmed?	T2. Is the evidentiary nature of the case based on information received via a vision, dream, or apparition and later confirmed?	->T3.
->T6	->D1	
T3. Is the evidentiary nature of the case based on the replication of the handwriting of a deceased person?	T4. Is the evidentiary nature of the case based on information received via mediumship, direct voice, automatic writing, talking board, possession, overshadowing, or ITC and later confirmed or demonstrated?	->T5
->H1	->M0	
T5. Is the evidentiary nature of the case based on a physical occurrence or activity?	Reject as non-ratable type.	
->A1		
T6. Is the evidentiary nature of the case based on information obtained through intentional regression or other trance-inducing technique?	->C1	
->R1		

A Section: Physical occurrences indicating a spirit presence		
A1. Was the incident inexplicable in terms of generally accepted principles of cause and effect?	A2. Did the event involve activities or occurrences of such rarity as to justify surprise or consternation among the observers?	Reject
	-10 ->A3	
A3. Was the timing or location of the event clearly linked to the supposed spirit?	-12 -A5	
A4. How many separate occurrences of the event took place simultaneously? single event ->A5 2 occurrences -4 ->A14 3 or more ->A14		
A5. Did the event involve the observed appearance or disappearance of a physical object?	A6. Did the event involve the unobserved but apparent appearance or disappearance of a physical object?	->A7
->A14	-10 ->A14	
A7. Did the event involve the permeability of a solid object (e.g., items apparently moving through walls)?	A8. Did the event involve the violation of gravity or inertia (e.g. flying items)?	->A9
-11 ->A14	-13 ->A14	
A9. Did the event involve the activity of an inanimate chemical system or process?	A10. Did the event involve the operation of an electrical or magnetic device or system?	->A11
-15 ->A14	-17 ->A14	

A11. Did the event involve an unexplained movement or vibration of an object or surface? (This would include raps and bangs that have no intelligible pattern.)	—>A12	
-18 —>A13		
A12. Did the event involve an apparent outside influence on the behavior of a biological organism?	Unknown	
A12. Does the organism have a central nervous system?	-20 —>A14	
-21 —>A14		
A14. Was the event reasonably interpreted as the fulfillment of an agreement or promise made between two or more persons prior to one of their deaths?	-12 —>End - Subtotal	
A15. Was the event observed by anyone who was unaware of the agreement or promise?	-7 —>End - Subtotal	
A16. Was the event observed by anyone who was aware of the agreement or promise?	—>End - Subtotal	
-10 —>End - Subtotal		

D Section: Evidence based on information received from or about an apparent spirit via a dream, vision, or apparition		
D1. Is there evidence that the percipient was ever aware of the entirety of the evidential information or had reason to be aware of it subconsciously?	D2. Was the entirety of the evidential information ever known to any person or group of persons who ever lived? (This includes the predeceased spirit.)	->D17 (skip k, t, & written v)
Reject	->D3	
D3(k1). Does the apparent spirit seem to show dedication and/or persistence in initiating and/or pursuing communication?	D4(k2). Is the information accompanied by expressions of emotions (anger, worry, exaltation, etc.)?	-12 ->D5
-8 ->D5	-10 ->D5	
D5(t1). Was the apparition or vision perceived by more than one person?	D6(t2). Was the entirety of the evidential information known to any person or group of persons living at the time of the incident? This includes images of people and scenes or locations seen by anyone. (That is, could it all have been gained by mind-reading?)	->D10 (skip to v)
-4 ->D21 (skip remaining t, v, & p)	->D7	
D7(t4). Was all of the evidential information known by a single person or could it reasonably be expected to exist in the subconscious of a single person living at time of event?	D8(t5). Were all parts of the information either known or could reasonably have been known subconsciously within the collective minds of three or fewer people living at time of event?	-4 ->D19 (4 or more minds)
-12 ->D9	-8 ->D9	

D9(t6). Is there a known or probable link between the mind(s) that knew the information and the percipient?	->D19	
-10 ->D19		
D10(v1). Did all of the evidential information consist of descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of one or more locations, documents or artifacts? (That is, could it all have been obtained via clairvoyance?)	D11(v2). Did the evidential information exist in some combination of thoughts and descriptions of locations, documents, or artifacts?(That is, could it all have been obtained via a combination of mind-reading and clairvoyance?)	->D20
->D12	-6 ->D19	
D12(v3). Did all of the evidential information exist in mass-produced public articles, books, or other documents?	D13(v4). Did all of the evidential information exist in a single written, pictorial, or otherwise archived form (book, letter, municipal record, tombstone, etc)?	->D14
-30 ->D19	-12 ->D18	
D14(v6). Was all of the evidential information spread across two or more written, pictorial, or otherwise archived forms (books, letters, municipal records, tombstones, etc)?	D15(v7). Did the evidential information contain descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of one or more artifacts?	-2 ->D17
-4 ->D19	D16(v8). Were three or more specific parameters (e.g. color, shape, size, location, etc.) specified accurately?	-7 ->D17
	-4 ->D19	

D17(). Did the evidential information contain accurate descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of an otherwise unobserved location?	Unrecognized	
D18. Was more than one location described?	-6 ->D19	
-3 ->D19		
D19(v4). Is there a known or probable link (other than the deceased) between the sources used to confirm the information and the percipient?	D20(p1). Does the apparent spirit show personal characteristics recognizable by those who knew the source prior to death but unknown to the percipient?	-4 ->D21
-10 ->D20	->D21	
D21(c1). Does the information contradict either the accepted view or the thinking of persons known to the percipient?	-2 ->End - Subtotal	
->End - Subtotal		

G Section: Evidence based on the demonstration of inexplicable mental skills (game playing, puzzle solving, music composing, language competency, etc.) claimed to be made possible by spirit involvement.		
G1. Was more than one skill demonstrated?	-3 →G2	
G2. How often was the skill manifested or demonstrated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once -10 → G3</li> <li>• Twice or thrice -5 →G3</li> <li>• More than 4 times →G3</li> </ul>	G3. Once acquired, was the involvement of a spirit apparently required for each demonstration?	- 15 →G4
	G4. What portion of the demonstrated skills were enhancements of existing skills? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All -8 → G5</li> <li>• Majority -4 →G5</li> <li>• Minority -2 →G5</li> <li>• None → G5</li> </ul>	G5. How many of the current population possess this level of skill? Majority -15 →G6 Many -10 → G6 Few -5 → G6 One or two → G6 None known → G7
G6. Was more than one distinct personality the source of the information?	G7. How well did the technique involved match that of the spirit's during its incarnation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost perfectly → G8</li> <li>• Well -2 → G8</li> <li>• Somewhat -5 → G8</li> <li>• Not at all -10 → G8</li> <li>• Not known – 8 → G8</li> </ul>	
-4 →G8		
G8. Did the reported information contain confirmed facts in addition to demonstrated skills?	- 8 → G9	
G9. Was the confirmed information known entirely by involved parties?	G10. Was the confirmed information known by anyone at any time?	→ end
-8 → end	-3 → end	

H Section: Evidence based on the replication of the handwriting of a deceased person		
H1. Has the medium ever had the opportunity to study the deceased's handwriting [script]?	H2. Has any person other than the medium stated that the sample has a strong resemblance to that of the person whose deceased spirit is claiming to communicate?	Reject
Reject	H3. Has an expert certified by the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners (or a similar group in other countries) stated that the script is indistinguishable from script produced by the pre-deceased?	-15 ->H4
	->H5	
H4. Have more than one person stated that the sample has a strong resemblance to that of the person whose deceased spirit is claiming to communicate?	-17 ->H5	
H5. Is the script written in a language unfamiliar to the medium?	-13 ->H7	
H6. Is the script written in two or more languages unfamiliar to the medium?	-6 ->H7	
H7. Does the script sample(s) contain more than 100 words?	H8. Does the script sample(s) contain more than 10 words?	-18 ->H9
->H9	-7 ->H9	
H9. Does the structure of the incident minimize opportunity for mis-perception and misinterpretation? (That is, the potential for outside factors to unknowingly affect the results.)	-10 ->End - Subtotal	
->End - Subtotal		

M Section: Information received from an apparent spirit via mediums, direct voice, talking board, overshadowing, possession, or ITC.		
<p>M0. The evidential information received consisted mostly of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated mental skills → G1</li> <li>• Demonstrated physical skills → S1</li> <li>• Confirmed facts → M1</li> </ul>		
<p>M1. Is there evidence that the percipient was ever aware of the entirety of the evidential information or had reason to be aware of it subconsciously?</p>	<p>M2. Was the entirety of the evidential information ever known to any person or group of persons who ever lived? (This includes the predeceased apparent spirit.)</p>	<p>→M30</p>
<p>Reject</p>	<p>→M4</p>	
<p>M30. Was the information received partially by each of two or more recipients and later correlated to make sense (<i>i.e.</i> cross-correspondences)?</p>	<p>M3. Does the information contain sequential instructions that demonstrate the source's ability to intelligently respond to changing status or position of the percipient?</p>	<p>→M16 (skip k &amp; t)</p>
	<p>→M26 (skip k, t, &amp; v)</p>	
<p>M31. How many recipients/mediums were involved?</p> <p>2 -5 → M32</p> <p>3 -2 → M32</p> <p>4+ →M32</p>	<p>M32. How many points of congruence or matches were involved?</p> <p>1 -10 → M33</p> <p>2 -6 → M33</p> <p>3 -2 → M33</p> <p>4+ → M33</p>	
<p>M33. Is the resulting writing/document an entirely new construct (as opposed to references to, or quotes from, existing documents)?</p>	<p>-8 → M34</p>	

M34. Was the event so tightly controlled and/or closely and extensively observed as to ensure no conceivable possibility of influence by outside factors?	- 4 → End	
→ End		
M4. Do the events include a conversation via a medium with an apparent spirit in a language that the medium does not speak?	M5. Does the apparent spirit react to changes in the percipient's surroundings? [conditions, not conversations]	→M7
	-5 →M10	
M6. Does anyone aware of the confirming evidence speak this language?	→M26	
→M18		
M7. Does the apparent spirit seem to show dedication and/or persistence in initiating and/or pursuing communication?	M8. Is the information accompanied by personality expressions (anger, worry, reticence, exaltation, etc.) appropriate to the deceased source?	-12 →M10
-8 →M10	-10 →M10	
M10. Was all of the evidential information present in the conscious thoughts of a single involved person?	M11. Was all of the evidential information previously known by a single involved person or could it reasonably be expected to exist in the subconscious of an involved person?	→M12
-40 →M28	-25 →M28	

M12. Was all of the evidential information ever known by a single non-involved person living at time of event?	M13. Were all parts of the information consciously known collectively to several people who are linked to each other by association or family ties?	->M14
-15 ->M15	-10 ->M26	
M14. Were all parts of the information known, or could they reasonably have been known, within the collective minds of three or fewer people living at time of event?	-2 ->M26 (info in four or more minds – go to p)	
-5 ->M26	M15. Was there a link between the mind(s) that held the information and any involved person?	->M28
	-10 ->M26	
M16. Did all of the evidential information consist of descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of one or more locations, documents or artifacts? (That is, could it all have been obtained via clairvoyance?)	M17. Did the evidential information exist in some combination of thoughts of living persons and descriptions of locations? (That is, could it all have been obtained using a combination of mind-reading and clairvoyance?)	->M26 (go to p)
->M19	M18. Is there a known or probable link between the sources used to confirm the information and any involved person?	-5 ->M26
	-11 ->M26	

M19. Did all of the evidential information exist in mass-produced public articles, books, or other documents?	M20. Did all of the evidential information exist in a single written, pictorial, or otherwise archived form (book, letter, municipal record, tombstone, etc)?	->M21
-30 ->M26	-12 ->M25	
M21. Was all of the evidential information spread across two or more written, pictorial, or otherwise archived forms (books, letters, municipal records, tombstones, etc)?	M22. Did all of the evidential information consist of descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of one or more artifacts?	-2 ->M23
-4 ->M25	-7 ->M25	
M23. Did all of the evidential information consist of descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of a single, otherwise unobserved location?	->M24	
-10 ->M25		
M24. Did all of the evidential information consist of descriptions of the current arrangement or characteristics of two or more geographically separate locations?	M25. Is there a known or likely link between the location/document and any involved person?	-6 ->M26
-4 ->M25	-10 ->M26	
M26. Are the personality traits of the deceased important to the case?	-4 ->M28	

M27. Does the apparent spirit demonstrate personality traits or characteristics recognizable by those who knew the deceased prior to death?	-8 ->M28	
M28. Was the event so tightly controlled and/or closely and extensively observed as to ensure no conceivable possibility of influence by outside factors?	-4 ->M29	
M29. Does the information contradict either the accepted cultural view or the consensus of the involved persons?	-2 ->End - Subtotal	
->End - Subtotal		

R Section: Evidence based on recollections of one or more past lives. These cases involve a person or persons (subject[s]) reliving – either spontaneously or with assistance – scenes or experiences from another lifetime.		
R1. Is there evidence that the subject was ever aware of the entirety of the evidential information or had reason to be aware of it subconsciously?	R2. When first recalled, did any of the information seem at odds with accepted history?	-4 ->R4
Reject	R3. Did new research confirm the accuracy of the recall?	-15 ->R4
	R4. Did multiple subjects detail the same scene or experience from separate points of view?	->R6
	R5. Did three or more subjects detail the same scene or experience from separate points of view?	-4 ->R8
	->R8	
R6. Was the prior existence (name, place, & era) of the recalled identity confirmed?	-15 ->R7	
R7. How many distinct facts (other than name, place, and era) unknown to the subject were later confirmed? 1-2 -7 ->R11 3-5 -3 ->R11 6-12 - 3 ->R13 13+ ->R13		
R8. Had these subjects been in a position to share the evidentiary information prior to their regression?	R9. Was confirmation also based on information uncovered by research?	R10. How many distinct facts were agreed upon? 1-2 -8 ->R18 3-5 -5 ->R18 6+ -2 ->R18
-10 ->R9	->R16	
R11. Did the subject recall more than one past life?	-5 ->R13	
R12. Were three or more past lives recalled by the same subject?	-3 ->R13	

R13. Did all of the evidential information exist in mass-produced public articles, books, or other documents?	R14. Did all of the evidential information exist in a <u>single</u> written, pictorial, or otherwise archived form (book, letter, municipal record, tombstone, etc)?	->R15
-30 ->17	-8 ->17	
R15. Was all of the evidential information spread across two or more written, pictorial, or otherwise archived forms (books, letters, municipal records, tombstones, etc)?	R21. Did all of the confirmed information exist within the mind(s) of one or more persons living at the time of the recall?	→ R20
-4 ->R17	R16. Did all of the confirmed information exist within the mind(s) of a single person or family living at the time of the recall?	-3 → R17
	-6	
	R17. Is there any known or reasonably presumed link between any involved person and the people, records, or locations used to confirm the most evidential information?	->R20
	-9 ->R20	
R20. Did the subject(s) seem to experience or remember being different ages of the same person?	-2 ->R22	
R22. Was there a regression done for a therapeutic purpose?	R25. Did recall or confirmation of the memories alleviate or significantly reduce troubling symptoms, or bring satisfaction/closure to the subject?	-3 ->R24
	-> R24	
R23. Did the regression have a therapeutic effect?	-10 ->R24	
R24. Was the event so tightly controlled and/or closely and extensively observed as to ensure no conceivable possibility of	-6 ->End - Subtotal	

influence by outside factors unknown to those involved?		
->End - Subtotal		

## Section C – Children’s Memories

a - Was the case initiated due to observations of statements or actions of more than one child in the same family? no = -6,  $\rightarrow$  e, y  $\rightarrow$  b

b - Was the case initiated due to observations of statements or actions of identical twins (triplets, etc.)? n  $\rightarrow$  d, y  $\rightarrow$  c

c - Do the twins (etc.) exhibit characteristics or behaviors unexpectedly different in identical siblings but congruent with the past lives? no = -5  $\rightarrow$  d, y  $\rightarrow$  d

d - Were both (all) children’s actions and statements congruent or complementary to the others’? n = -10  $\rightarrow$  e, y  $\rightarrow$  e

e - How many distinct characteristics (derived from the child’s statements and actions) were clearly related to confirmed facts about a past life?

1-2 -7  $\rightarrow$ f

3-5 -3  $\rightarrow$ f

6-12 - 3  $\rightarrow$ g

13+  $\rightarrow$ g

f – Did the child give confirmable details about more than one past life? no = -5  $\rightarrow$ f, yes  $\rightarrow$ f

g – Did all of the confirmed information exist within the mind(s) of one or more persons living at the time of the recall? n  $\rightarrow$ k, y  $\rightarrow$ h

h - Did all of the confirmed information exist within the mind(s) of one or more members of the child’s current family? no  $\rightarrow$  i, yes = -7  $\rightarrow$ k

i - Did all of the confirmed information exist within the mind(s) of a single person or family living at the time of the recall? no = -3  $\rightarrow$ k, yes = -6  $\rightarrow$ i

k - Did the child seem to experience or remember living in different locales as the same person? y  $\rightarrow$  m, no = -2  $\rightarrow$  m

m - Did the child seem to experience or remember living in different periods of life (toddler, youth, teen, adult, senior) as the same person? y  $\rightarrow$  stop, no = -2  $\rightarrow$  stop

S Section: Evidence based on the demonstration of inexplicable skills claimed to be made possible by spirit involvement.		
<p>S1. On how many occasions were the skills demonstrated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One -20 → S3</li> <li>• Two or three -10 →S2</li> <li>• Four or five -5 →S2</li> <li>• Six or more → S2</li> </ul>	<p>S2. Once acquired, was the involvement of a spirit allegedly required for each demonstration?</p>	<p>- 15 →S3</p>
	<p>S3. How many separate types of skills were demonstrated?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One -9 → S4</li> <li>• Two or three -5 →S4</li> <li>• Four or five -2 →S4</li> <li>• Six or more → S4</li> </ul>	
<p>S4. What portion of the demonstrated skills were enhancements of existing skills?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All -8 → S6</li> <li>• Majority -4 →S5</li> <li>• Minority -2 →S5</li> <li>• None → S5</li> </ul>	<p>S5. Were any of the demonstrated skills contrary to or repugnant to the normal personality or sensitivities of the performer?</p>	<p>-5 →S6</p>
	<p>S6. How many distinct personalities were the source of the information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One -5 → S7</li> <li>• Two or three -2 →S7</li> <li>• Four or more →S7</li> </ul>	
<p>S7. Did the reported information contain confirmed facts in addition to demonstrated skills?</p>	<p>-12 → end</p>	
<p>S8. Was the confirmed information known entirely by involved parties or their relations?</p>	<p>→ end</p>	
<p>-8 → end</p>		

## ESS - WR Calculator

Base = 100

<p>WR1. Choose case type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past-life recall → WR100</li> <li>• Mediumship/ITC → WR200</li> <li>• Vision/Dream/Possession/Skill/Talent → WR300</li> </ul>		
<p>WR100. Was the case originally reported by the subject who was regressed or who experienced the recollections?</p>	<p>WR130. Was the case originally reported (in whole or in part) by a person (hypnotist, therapist, etc.) who regressed the subject?</p>	<p>→WR101</p>
<p>→WR104</p>	<p>WR141. Are audio or video recordings of any of the pertinent sessions available for public examination?</p>	<p>-2 →WR131</p>
	<p>WR131. At the time of the regression, was the reporter a credentialed psychiatrist or psychologist?</p>	<p>→WR102</p>
	<p>→WR121</p>	
	<p>WR102. At the time of the regression was the reporter an experienced hypnotherapist?</p>	<p>-10 → WR120</p>
	<p>-4 → WR121</p>	
<p>WR101. How many people have testified to witnessing an evidentiary recall? 1 → -8 WR103 2-3 -4 → WR103 4+ → WR103</p>	<p>WR103. Were verified details given by the subject written down or otherwise recorded by witnesses at the time(s) they were first made?</p>	<p>-6 → WR120</p>
	<p>→ WR120</p>	
<p>WR104. Was the subject a globally or nationally recognized public figure with a reputation for veracity?</p>	<p>WR105. Was the subject a doctor, police officer, priest, mayor, or other person with an elevated standing in the community?</p>	<p>-10 → WR106</p>
	<p>-5 → WR106</p>	

WR106. Are videotapes of the evidentiary sessions or incidents available for public viewing?	WR107. Are videotapes that support the reliability or veracity of the reports available for public viewing?	→WR108
→ WR112	-6 → WR112	
WR108. Are audio recording of the relevant sessions available for public hearing?	WR109. Are audio recordings that support the reliability or veracity of the reports available for public hearing?	→ WR110
-4 → WR112	-8 → WR112	
WR110. Are transcripts of the relevant sessions available for public reading?	-12 → WR111	
-9 → WR112		
WR120. At the time the report was made, was the reporter a researcher or investigator known to the paranormal community?	-5 →WR121	
WR121. Was the report published in a professional journal or delivered within a professional paper?	-4 WR122. Was the report published in print or video generally accessible to the public?	-6 →WR111
	→ WR111	
WR111. Were follow-up interviews/sessions/regressions conducted by the original researcher(s) that re-confirmed the evidentiary statements?	-3 → WR112	
WR112. Did more than one researcher contribute to the investigations/analyses of the occurrence or confirmations?	-6 END	
END		
WR200. Was the case a result of a well-designed, controlled, and implemented laboratory experiment(s)?	→ WR201	

→ WR112		
WR201. Is the case a result of field tests, séances, or interviews set up by researchers, investigators, or detectives?	WR202. Is the case a result of sessions with two or more mediums who, unknown to one another, provided identical or complementary evidence?	→ WR204
	WR203. Were different sitters involved during the separate sessions?	-7 → WR207
	-5 → WR208	
230. Does the case depend on information provided by a 'drop-in communicator' which is unrelated to those involved?	-4 → WR207	
→ WR218		
WR204. Was the case a result of a session(s) witnessed by a researcher known to the research community?	WR205. Was the case a result of a session of automatic writing done solo by a medium known to the research community?	-10 → WR206
-6 → WR207	-8 → WR207	
WR206. How many persons witnessed the occurrence? 1 -10 →WR207 2 -5 →WR207 3-4 -2 →WR207 5+ →WR207	WR207. How many persons total reported the occurrence(s) originally? 1 -3 →WR208 2 -5 →WR213 3+ →WR213	
WR208. At the time the report was made, was the reporter a globally or nationally recognized public figure with a reputation for veracity?	WR209. At the time the report was made, was the reporter a researcher or investigator known to the paranormal community?	→WR211
-2 →WR213	WR210. Was the report a published result of the reporter's own research or delivered as factual within a professional paper?	-6 →WR213
	-4 →WR218	

WR211. At the time the report was made, was the reporter a doctor, police officer, priest, mayor, or other person with an elevated standing in the community?	WR212. At the time the report was made, was the reporter a published author of one or more nonfiction works other than the one in which the case is reported?	-12 →WR213
-3	-9 →WR213	
WR213. Was one or more of the reporters a witness to the occurrence?	→WR214	
→WR218		
WR214. At the time of the occurrence was one or more of the percipients or witnesses a globally or nationally recognized public figure with a reputation for veracity?	WR215. At the time of the occurrence was one or more of the percipients or witnesses a doctor, police officer, priest, mayor, or other person with an elevated standing in the community?	→216
→WR218	-3 →WR218	
WR216. At the time of the occurrence was one or more of the percipients or witnesses a researcher or investigator with an unblemished reputation within the paranormal community?	WR217. At the time of the occurrence was one or more of the percipients or witnesses a published author of one or more nonfiction works?	-12 →WR218
-6	-8 →WR218	
WR218. Are there publicly available video or audio recordings that lend support to the case?	→WR219	
→WR112		
WR219. Are there publically viewable documents or photographs (not included in the original account) that lend support to the case?	-8 →WR112	
-5 →WR112		
WR300. Was the occurrence witnessed by a researcher known to the research community?	-10 →WR206	

-6 →WR207		
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Comments Encouraged

The ESS is a work in progress. Comments, especially from scientifically trained minds, are most welcome. [Send to [aeces@mail.com](mailto:aeces@mail.com)]