

# **ASTR1002: Planets and the Universe**

## **Assignment 3, Testing Astrology**

**Joseph Curtis  
ID: 3952239**

**To carry out this test, I obtained three different sets of horoscopes and removed the labels. I randomly changed the order of them and kept a key so that the person could not simply count them down the page and cheat. I then surveyed six different people, two people to a horoscope. The results are tabulated below.**

**Horoscope A:**

Person	Starsign	Starsign picked	Correct?
1	Libra	Saggitarius	NO
2	Leo	Gemini	NO

**Horoscope B:**

Person	Starsign	Starsign picked	Correct?
3	Libra	Saggitarius	NO
4	Libra	Pisces	NO

**Horoscope C:**

Person	Starsign	Starsign picked	Correct?
5	Taurus	Taurus	YES
6	Libra	Scorpio	NO

Only one person out of the six correctly identified their horoscope for the week. Two conclusions could be drawn from this. One could say that a mere 16.7% accuracy is terrible and that horoscopes are supposed to be reliably correct, or are claimed to be. However if you look at it, statistically there would be a 1 in 12 chance of correctly guessing the star sign. So the result that was reached is actually twice that of the theoretical result. These results however are largely inconclusive because of the small nature of the survey. To get a decent result you would have to obtain at least 30 records. For even better results you would test at least 30 people with 30 different horoscopes, this however would yeild 900 records.

To obtain the fairest results for the experiment I took the following precautions. When I was editing the horoscopes I randomized the positions of the different star signs to make it harder for people to cheat, conciously or subconsciously. I used 6 different people to increase the accuracy of experiment. I also tested a number of different horoscope sets so as to test the more broad range of horoscopes and not just one. If you test but one set then it may just be that one which is incorrect and not a realistic reflection on horoscopes as a whole.

The main problem with this method of testing is that it is largely dependent on the person's interpretation of what the horoscope is trying to say. In general the descriptions can be vague at best and so when the person is reading it they may be subconsciously being influenced by the horoscope. Also because of the relitvly few records in this study the results are really not indicitive of reality and may indeed be a statistical anomily.