

THE UFO/IFO SENSITIVITY TEST

INVESTIGATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS

1. The test attempts to assess a witness' ability to identify unusual aerial phenomena by recording their responses to fifteen photos of ambiguous stimuli. Your job, as a professional and conscientious investigator, is to obtain the relevant data as quickly and efficiently as possible.
2. It is extremely important that you learn to administer the test in a rigorous, controlled way that excludes any unintentional 'experimental effects'. For example, you should always ensure that you can carry out the test in a room which does not have a TV or Radio turned on. Other witnesses, investigators or friends/relatives etc should not be present as they will undoubtedly influence the subject's behaviour and concentration. The only occasion when other people should be present is when you are carrying out the test on a minor. It is also important not to speak during the test or to make non verbal reactions to the subject's response. Even smiling may influence the response.
3. If you are unable to use a house because the investigation is a one-off meeting on site, use your car at a quiet spot. If you think the subject is going to be unwilling to do the test or there is likely to be a lack of concentration, it is better to postpone the test to a more suitable time or not to do it at all. Do not try to hurry the test, it is better to take a few extra seconds recording data than to hurriedly tick the wrong box. Also, do not alter the recorded responses after the test has finished because the subject has changed his or her mind, or because they think they have scored badly.
4. Before you administer the test you must do the following:-
 - explain the reason for the test (that BUFORA is interested in assessing the subject's ability as an observer),
 - that the test is entirely voluntary and can always be terminated at the subject' request',
 - the test is included in BUFORA's Registration under the 1984 Data Protection Act and consequently their results will not be conveyed to any third person (other than a BUFORA officer) nor used in any published account of their sighting unless written permission is obtained from the subject by the investigator,
 - that you will provide the results of the test at a future date if they are interested.
5. You should also try to point out that the test has been developed because BUFORA exists to carry out RESEARCH into UFO Reports, that the test is the first of its kind in the world and that we have very high hopes as to the usefulness of the test. If the subject wants to know what BUFORA is going to do with the results of the test you should explain that the results will be used with the results of many other tests to compare different sorts of UFO subjects with eachother.

6. You will need the following items to carry out the test:-

- the 15 ambiguous photos (numbered 1 to 15),
- a clean table or desk, and
- about ten minutes of the subject's time.

7. Explain that you will begin the test by turning over the first photograph and then you will expect the subject to tell you what they think the photograph shows. Explain to the subject that if they don't know what the photograph shows they should respond 'DON'T KNOW'. Alternatively, if the subject isn't sure what the photograph shows, they should be encouraged to report all their thoughts. If a subject guesses several times for each photograph, this is an important piece of information.

8. Explain that you are not allowed to talk throughout the test but that this should not be interpreted as being a sign of disapproval on your part, it is simply a requirement of the test.

9. THE TEST METHOD

You have fifteen photographs of potential or 'real' UFOs. These have been grouped into three classes with the following numbers:-

EASY	Numbers	1 to 5
INTERMEDIATE	Numbers	6 to 10
DIFFICULT	Numbers	11 to 15

Your task is to present the photographs in a class order, ie. You could carry out the test by showing the INTERMEDIATE class first, followed by the EASY class and finally the DIFFICULT class of photographs. Alternatively, you might show the DIFFICULT class first followed by the INTERMEDIATE and EASY classes. To allow proper statistical analysis of the test results you will need to rotate this order so that all possible combinations are carried out about the same number of times. So, if you have a case involving six subjects, you would carry out the test with the following class order:-

<u>Subject Number</u>	First Class	Second Class	Third Class
1	EASY	INTERMEDIATE	DIFFICULT
2	EASY	DIFFICULT	INTERMEDIATE
3	INTERMEDIATE	EASY	DIFFICULT
4	INTERMEDIATE	DIFFICULT	EASY
5	DIFFICULT	EASY	INTERMEDIATE
6	DIFFICULT	INTERMEDIATE	EASY

Of course, if you have more than six subjects you should allocate the first order to the seventh subject and the second order to the eighth subject and so on.

Try to ensure that you continue the rotation for different cases, so that you don't begin each case with the EASY, INTERMEDIATE and DIFFICULT sequence. The aim is to end up with say 100 test results for each sequence, NOT 600 of the first sequence.

10. SUB CLASS ORDER

Within each class the order of the photographs is not important, so, if you chose to show the EASY class followed by INTERMEDIATE and DIFFICULT you could show the photos in the following manner:-

EASY Class	Photo Nos 4, 1, 5, 3, 2 followed by
INTERMEDIATE Class	Photo Nos 6, 8, 7, 10, 9 and finally
DIFFICULT Class	Photo Nos 15, 14, 11, 13, 12

To obtain your desired sequence you will begin the test by sorting the photographs face down into their three classes:-

EASY	INTERMEDIATE	DIFFICULT
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Next, shuffle the photographs within each class so that they are in a random order. Make sure you do not shuffle the photos face up so that the subject observes them before the test begins.

11. When you and the subject are ready, turn over the first card. Note down all the subject's responses in the space marked 'subject evaluations', taking care to indicate the order of their response. So, if the subject says 'Oh, thats a star, or maybe its a comet' you would write down

① STAR ② COMET

It is unnecessary to write down verbatim what the subject says, simply record keywords. If they do not respond within 30 seconds or so, write down ? . If they say 'I don't know' (or similar) write down 'DON'T KNOW'.

12. Estimate the time taken between the photograph being turned over and the subject's FIRST response and tick the appropriate box. It may help to actually time the subject with a watch the first few times you carry out the test but some subjects may be intimidated by this procedure.
13. If the subject uses any term which has an extra-terrestrial connotation, tick the box which says 'Tick if the subject used an 'exotic' term'. This means tick the box if the subject used an of the following words:-

Spacecraft, Spaceship, Alien, Martians, Venusians, Spacerocket, Ray Guns,

or any similar term (remember, you may be testing minors).

14. Pause for a few seconds between the subject's last response and then record accurately what they have said. REMEMBER to indicate the photograph number in the appropriate box. If the subject recognises a photo (ie 'Oh, thats those funny clouds over Buenos Aries') tick the second box from the left hand side. In nearly all cases this box will be left blank; however, if one of the photos receives a great deal of publicity we would need to be able to distinguish this in the results.
15. At the end of the test you may tick Questions 1 to 4 as required. It may be prudent if the test has not been completed to omit completing Question 2 until after the visit.
16. ENSURE THAT YOU INDICATE THE SUBJECT'S NAME AND AGE as well as your own name in the spaces indicated. If you omit this obvious data, BUFORA will be unable to use the test results for research and you will have wasted your time and that of the subject.
17. If the subject is interested show them each photo and explain what it shows. However, in view of possible longitudinal studies we might wish to carry out the test on the same subject at a future date so do not explain what the photographs show unless asked to by the subject.
18. Now that the test is over you MUST thank the subject for their co-operation and record if they wish to know the results of the test in the appropriate box. Keep a copy of their responses and submit the original to your RIC or NIC. The results should ideally be made available within a month of submission.

These test instructions will also contain an explanation of each photograph and a method by which the scores can be summed. However, the final score must be evaluated by the same person to ensure compatibility.

BUFORA REF :-

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INVESTIGATOR'S NAME :-

SUBJECT'S NAME :-

SUBJECT'S AGE :-

TODAY'S DATE :-

Additional Questions:-

(1) Did the subject complete the test ?

YES	
NO	
PARTLY	

(2) What was the subject's attitude towards the test ?

VERY HELPFUL	
INTERESTED	
A LITTLE UNSURE	
UNWILLING	
DISMISSIVE	

(3) Indicate whether the subject used a visual aid to complete the test.

NO VISUAL AID	
GLASSES	
CONTACT LENSES	

(4) Indicate whether the subject used a visual aid during the sighting.

NO VISUAL AID	
GLASSES	
CONTACT LENSES	