

Can a specific claim about consciousness be tested?

A sample protocol leaflet for a proposed, independently audited study. The central question is what a theory predicts before measurements are made.

DESIGN ONLY No approval, recruitment, data collection or field detection.

TWO DISTINCT RESEARCH TRACKS

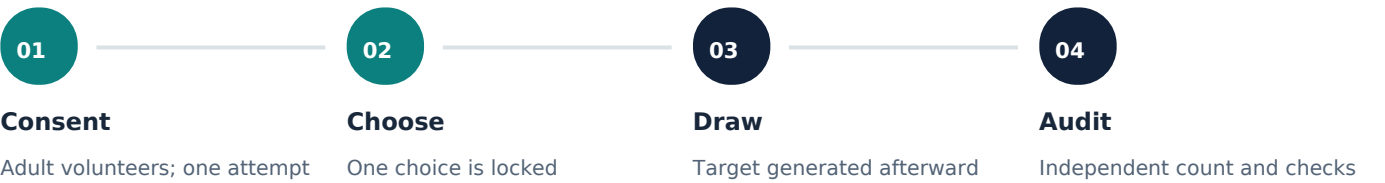
A · PHYSICAL PREDICTION

A named model must predict a measurable physical difference from a rival model, with units, sensor, timing, controls and a result that could challenge it.

B · FUTURE-TARGET TASK

A person makes one four-symbol choice. After the choice is locked, a separate service randomly selects the target. This tests a specific future-target claim.

TRACK B · WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS



PRESET TEST / TWO INDEPENDENT STAGES

1,200 valid first attempts per stage

25% chance match rate

340 matches required in each stage

HOW RESULTS WOULD BE INTERPRETED

Either stage below threshold: the strict two-stage claim is not met. A reliable null challenges this specific 30% prediction, not every theory of consciousness.

Both stages above threshold, audits clean: a replicated statistical anomaly in this task. Investigate software, selection and ordinary causal routes before proposing a novel mechanism.

Safeguards: ethics review before recruitment; separate target generator; signed records; fixed stopping rule; no performance-based exclusions; privacy protections; independent replication.

How the proposal would be tested

ELIGIBILITY AND DESIGN

Adults who can give informed consent make one choice from four neutral symbols. No belief, meditation or unusual experience is required. Recruitment runs through at least two supervised channels with 600 valid first attempts each. A separate cohort and team repeat the study with another 1,200 valid attempts.

SEQUENCE AND MASKING

- 1 Record consent and the participant's one irrevocable choice.
- 2 Issue a signed receipt for that choice before any target is drawn.
- 3 An isolated service generates two cryptographic random bits, mapping to one of four targets.
- 4 An auditor checks event order, duplicate attempts, missing receipts and software logs.
- 5 A masked analyst scores the locked dataset after validity rules and code are frozen.

PRESPECIFIED PRIMARY ANALYSIS

Null probability: 1 in 4 matches. Stage size: 1,200 valid first attempts. Decision: at least 340 matches in each independent stage (one-sided exact binomial tail about 0.00463 per stage). At a true 30% match rate, the chance of reaching the threshold is about 90.2% in one stage. All starts, exclusions and failed receipts are reported.

WHAT MUST HAPPEN BEFORE RECRUITMENT

- A named proponent signs the exact claim this task predicts; Track A needs a separate measurable field prediction.
- Institutional ethics review approves consent, recruitment, accessibility, privacy and retention.
- Independent reviews verify the random-target service, the analysis code and the stated sample size.
- A public preregistration freezes outcomes, exclusions, stopping rules and interpretation before data.

Interpretation boundary: even a clean replicated result would show unusual matching in this future-target task. It would not establish a physical consciousness field, panpsychism, cosmopsychism or personal survival.