

# Comparison of Performance on Subsensory and Extrasensory Perception Tasks

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As part of a line of research on possible relationships between extrasensory and subsensory perception, a pilot study was carried out to look for significant correlations between scores on subsensory and intentional extrasensory perception tasks. Twenty high school students were tested on a binary ESP task followed by a binary light discrimination task providing slight sensory cues. The overall scoring rate on the ESP trials was suggestive at 52.08% ( $p = .054$ , two-tailed). Scoring on the subsensory perception task was not signifi-

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cantly different from chance. A Spearman rank order correlation between ESP trials and subsensory perception trials was in the positive direction but was not significant ( $p = .07$ , two-tailed). Post hoc analyses indicated significant ESP scoring by the last 10 subjects tested. These subjects also showed significant declines in their ESP performance. Post hoc analyses were carried out in an attempt to separate subjects into high and low ESP scorers based on their subsensory scores. The difference between the predicted high and predicted low ESP groups was marginally significant ( $p < .05$ , two-tailed), with the mean score of the predicted high group independently significant ( $p < .01$ , two-tailed). A similar but reversed set of analyses were used to predict high and low subsensory perception scorers based on their ESP scores. The difference between these two groups was marginally significant ( $p < .05$ , two-tailed).

Comparison of this experiment with other studies showed contradictory results, with correlations of about the same magnitude but in opposite directions. The nonsignificant scoring rate on the subsensory perception tasks of this and other studies raised the possibility that the correlations reflected performance on two psi tasks rather than a sensory-psi relationship. Another alternative interpretation would suggest that the correlations were due to intersubject differences in response to the experimental conditions.

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