

ESP AND MOOD

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Over a period of eight months in 1954-55 a series of three clock cards were exposed each day in random order in G. W. Fisk's study. About 160 subjects, over the world, recorded their guesses day by day. They were also asked to state their mood each day at the time of guessing whether pleasurable, neutral or unpleasurable. The object was to detect the relationship, if any, between ESP scoring and mood fluctuations.

To overcome complications of the "stacking effect" due to a large number of subjects guessing the same targets, results were evaluated by taking the majority vote or most popular call at each trial, and matching this against the target series. This was done for all trials for which one of the three moods was recorded, then repeated for each of the three subdivisions of mood. Results were:

	No. of correct calls	Chance expecta- tion	t.	P.
All moods	77	54.75	3.06	0.0022
Pleasurable moods	76	45.04	4.67	$<3 \times 10^{-6}$
Neutral mood	37	41.04	-0.64	—
Unpleasurable moods	51	35.07	2.60	0.009

Thus the experiment as a whole produced a significantly positive result. *But the scores were conspicuously better on those occasions when a pleasurable mood was recorded.*

Additionally, the results were also evaluated by considering the frequency of above and below chance scores

during pleasurable and unpleasurable moods respectively. The following table shows the results:

Days on which mood was:	No. of times score was above chance expectation	No. of times score was below chance expectation
Pleasurable	2288	2168
Unpleasurable	675	732

X^2 (Id.f.) = 4.89 $P = < 0.03$

Thus the proportion of above-chance scores was significantly greater when the mood was pleasurable.

Finally, a direct correlation between size of a subject's score (in terms of standard deviation units) and days on which a pleasurable mood was reported, produced a highly significant relationship:

$$r = +0.252$$

$$P = 0.001$$

The conclusion is clear that those subjects who were most frequently in a pleasurable mood tended to produce the largest positive scores.

[Both authors were jointly responsible for designing the experiment and evaluating the data. G. W. Fisk was responsible for conducting the test]