

The Equal-Value Consent Test (EVCT)



EVCT: The Two Levels of Democratic Fairness

How citizens and systems stay neutral, fair, and incorruptible.

The Purpose

Democracy only works when both citizens and institutions apply the same standard of justice on *every side*.

The **Equal-Value Consent Test (EVCT)** ensures that fairness, truth, and reason hold equal value whether you're in power or not.

If fairness changes with circumstance, corruption has begun.

If it doesn't — it's true and just.

EVCT operates on two levels:

- **Level 1 — The Mirror Test:** keeps *people* honest.
 - **Level 2 — The Civic Test:** keeps *systems* legitimate.
-

LEVEL 1 — PERSONAL: The Mirror Test

Would I Still Support This?

Purpose:

To keep your reasoning fair — even when emotion, advantage, or identity try to capture it.

Core Question:

“Would I still believe this is fair if the roles were reversed?”

If the answer is no — if fairness depends on advantage — then the reasoning fails the test.

This means an outcome has captured us, and our reasoning has been reversed.

The Equal-Value Consent Test (EVCT)



The Root Problem: Self-Centered Consent

Humans naturally justify what benefits them or their group.

This bias infects conscience and corrodes democracy through *selective fairness*.

Symptoms:

- Defending double standards (“It’s wrong when they do it, but not when we do.”)
- Treating power as proof of virtue.
- Excusing injustice when it favors your side.

The Mirror Test breaks this pattern — it forces us to apply the same measure of justice universally.

Nature is not fair. Our human systems that create fairness are what set humanity and civilization apart from beasts and chaos.

Three Personal Checks

| Question | What It Reveals |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Would I still support this if I were restrained by it? | Fairness of power |
| 2. Would I still call this just if my opponents used it against me? | Moral consistency |
| 3. Would I still believe this process legitimate if my side lost? | Principle over outcome |

If you can answer *yes* to all three, your reasoning meets the Level 1 standard of **Equal-Value Consent** — fairness constant, not conditional.

The Equal-Value Consent Test (EVCT)



LEVEL 2 — SYSTEMIC: The Civic Test

Does the System Treat All Consent Equally?

Purpose:

To ensure that democratic processes and institutions weigh every citizen’s consent equally — in both process and consequence.

Core Principle:

No one’s consent counts for more than another’s.

The Three Civic Questions

| Question | What It Tests | Why It Matters |
|---|----------------------|---|
| 1. Was everyone equally informed? | Information equality | Consent based on ignorance or manipulation is not valid. |
| 2. Was everyone equally free to decide? | Independence of will | Coerced or socially punished choices aren’t real consent. |
| 3. Will everyone be equally represented or affected? | Fairness of impact | No group should bear unequal burdens or privileges. |

If any answer is *no*, the decision fails the EVCT — and must be reconsidered or redesigned until equality of consent is restored.

The Equal-Value Consent Test (EVCT)



How the Two Levels Work Together

| Level | Focus | Protects Against |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Personal (Mirror Test) | Fairness of the mind | Self-serving bias and moral capture |
| 2. Systemic (Civic Test) | Fairness of the process | Institutional corruption and partisan dominance |

Level 1 governs **how we reason**.

Level 2 governs **how we decide**.

Together, they protect both **integrity** and **legitimacy**.

The Spirit of EVCT

When truth and justice retain their value on every side — within each person and across the entire system — democracy becomes incorruptible.

This empowers reason and justice, as democracy intends.

Summary

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Goal | Equalize fairness in both thought and governance. |
| Key Rule | Fairness must hold its value on every side. |
| Core Practice | Apply the Mirror Test to yourself and the Civic Test to the system. |
| Outcome | Independent citizens and neutral institutions — united by reason, not rivalry. |
