

Victor of the Horoscope Tests of Ibn Ezra's Victor Model

October 4, 2023

Abstract

Objective. The objective of this paper is to test Ibn Ezra's method for computing the Victor of the Horoscope. This is one of three models for the Victor which I am currently testing. The others are the Antiochus/Porphiry model and Gematria. Test results of these models will be released in subsequent papers.

Victor of the Horoscope. Of several natal rulers discussed by Hellenistic authors, the Lord of the Nativity (kurios) introduced by Antiochus/Porphiry is the forerunner of the Medieval Ruler of the Chart, or what Benjamin Dykes has named the **Victor**. While many victors can be computed for different chart topics, this paper is concerned with the overall chart ruler which I refer to as the **Victor of the Horoscope**. The planet chosen as Victor of the Horoscope is considered the most important planet in the natal horoscope. As conceived by Antiochus/Porphiry, the planet signifies choices made by the soul prior to incarnation according to Plato's *Myth of Er* which is told in the final pages of Plato's *Republic*. As such, the planet defined as Victor of the Horoscope has implications for an overall life purpose which generally manifests in career and profession. Since Antiochus/Porphiry lists only guidelines for choosing the victor, the compound almuten scoring table solution proposed by Ibn Ezra has drawn interest from traditional astrologers because it offers a closed-end solution for which there is no disagreement.

Procedure. Twelve different permutations of Ibn Ezra's Victor model were computed. These include both 1507 and 1485/1537 published versions, the use of the in-sect triplicity ruler as an alternative to all triplicity rulers for essential dignity scoring, whole sign and quadrant house systems, and both Chaldean and Triplicity decan systems. Computed Victors were compared to empirical Victors selected by myself based on an in-depth study conducted for each horoscope.

Results. Ibn Ezra's model correctly identified the empirical Victor 34-40% for the twelve model permutations. This is a very low success rate only moderately higher than one would expect from chance. These results fall well short of an ideal 70-80% success rate sought by traditional astrologers for model accuracy. The model is not recommended for astrologers who employ traditional tools and methods in their practice.

History and Acknowledgements. This paper closes out a 12 year cycle of research. I published my first tests of Ibn Ezra's model on 21-Sep-2011 with a sample of 40 horoscopes. I gratefully acknowledge technical edits by Benjamin Dykes for the first set of calculations done by hand. The final expanded sample is 330 horoscopes drawn from my rectification work over the last 12 years. I gratefully acknowledge programming by João Ventura for the final phase of this research study.

References

- Guido Bonatti. *Book of Astronomy*. Translated by Benjamin Dykes. Minneapolis, Minn.: The Cazimi Press, 2007.
- Hermann of Carinthia. *The Search of the Heart*. Translated and edited by Benjamin Dykes. Minneapolis, Minn.: The Cazimi Press, 2011.

Victor of the Horoscope: Ibn Ezra

Ibn Ezra published two models for computing the Victor of the Horoscope based on a numerical scoring system summed across multiple significators. The models score Victor candidates by three types of inputs:

- Essential dignities for planetary rulers of the Sun, Moon, Ascendant, Lot of Fortune, and the syzygy.
- Planetary strength based on numerical scores for house position.
- A third criterion which differs in versions published in 1507 and in 1485/1537. The 1507 model awards additional points for superior planets for specific solar phases. The 1485/1537 version awards planets additional points if they are either the planetary day or hour ruler.

Additional versions can be constructed based on choice of triplicity rulers, house system, and decan system.

Triplicity Rulers. Should all triplicity rulers be used for each planet or just the single in-sect triplicity ruler? Robert Zoller taught the 1485/1537 model in his Diploma of Medieval Predictive Astrology using all three triplicity rulers for each planet. Benjamin Dykes recommends the single in-sect triplicity ruler based on his translation of Hermann of Carinthia's *Search for the Heart* (2011). For this study, the 1507 model uses only the in-sect triplicity ruler. Scoring for the 1485/1537 model is computed in two ways: the in-sect triplicity ruler (Dykes) and all triplicity rulers (Zoller).

House system. Both whole sign and quadrant house systems are used to compute the house placement of each planet. The Alchabitius semi-arc house system is used as the quadrant house system. Using the 5-degree offset rule, if a planet is within 5 degrees of the next house cusp, the planet is judged in the following house.

Decan system. Chaldean decans were the most popularly used house system by Medieval astrologers. An alternate decan system based on the triplicity of signs was also known. Both decan systems are tested.

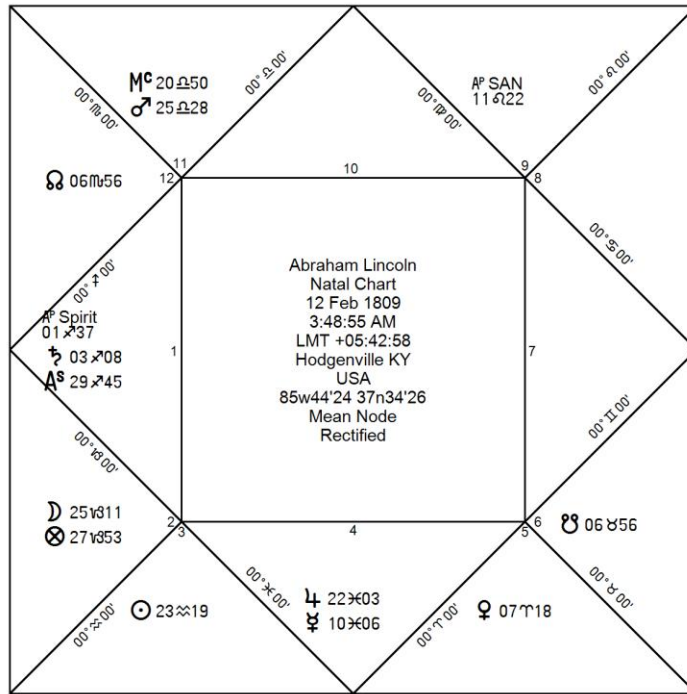
Considering each of these versions yields 12 different permutations for testing.

	Version	Triplicity Rulers	House System	Decan System
1	1507	In-sect	Whole Sign	Chaldean
2	1507	In-sect	Alchabitius Semi-Arc	Chaldean
3	1485/1537	In-sect	Whole Sign	Chaldean
4	1485/1537	In-sect	Alchabitius Semi-Arc	Chaldean
5	1485/1537	All	Whole Sign	Chaldean
6	1485/1537	All	Alchabitius Semi-Arc	Chaldean
7	1507	In-sect	Whole Sign	Triplicity
8	1507	In-sect	Alchabitius Semi-Arc	Triplicity
9	1485/1537	In-sect	Whole Sign	Triplicity
10	1485/1537	In-sect	Alchabitius Semi-Arc	Triplicity
11	1485/1537	All	Whole Sign	Triplicity
12	1485/1537	All	Alchabitius Semi-Arc	Triplicity

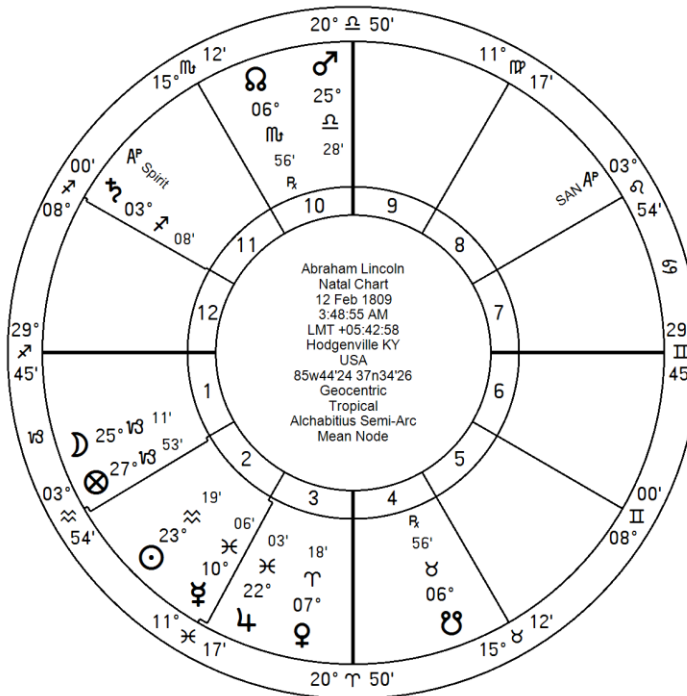
For Abraham Lincoln, full tables for all models are presented next.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN – HOUSE SYSTEM VARIATIONS

Whole Sign Houses



Quadrant Houses – Alchabitius Semi-Arc



#1. 1507, in-sect triplicity ruler, whole sign houses, Chaldean decans

		☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈
Sun	23AQ19		1	3		2			5
Moon	25CP11	1	3			4			7
ASC	29SA45					2	8		1
POF	27CP53	1	3			6			5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					4		2
Superiors – Oriental						1	0		2
Houses		3	6	9	7	8	9		12
TOTAL		10	13	12	7	23	21		34

#2. 1507, in-sect triplicity ruler, Alchabitius semi-arc houses, Chaldean decans

		☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈
Sun	23AQ19		1	3		2			5
Moon	25CP11	1	3			4			7
ASC	29SA45					2	8		1
POF	27CP53	1	3			6			5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					4		2
Superiors – Oriental						1	0		2
Houses		6	12	3	3	11	3		2
TOTAL		13	19	6	3	26	15		24

KEY

Rulerships: house=5; exaltation=4; in-sect triplicity=3; bound=2; face=1

Houses:

House	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	12	6	3	9	7	1	10	5	4	11	8	2

Superiors – Oriental: helical rising to sextile=3; sextile to square=2; square to 1st station=1

#3. 1485/1537, in-sect triplicity ruler, whole sign houses, Chaldean decans

		☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Sun	23AQ19		1	3		2		5
Moon	25CP11	1	3			4		7
ASC	29SA45					2	8	1
POF	27CP53	1	3			6		5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					4	2
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		3	6	9	7	8	9	12
TOTAL		10	13	12	7	22	21	45

#4. 1485/1537, in-sect triplicity ruler, Alchabitius semi-arc houses, Chaldean decans

		☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Sun	23AQ19		1	3		2		5
Moon	25CP11	1	3			4		7
ASC	29SA45					2	8	1
POF	27CP53	1	3			6		5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					4	2
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		6	12	3	3	11	3	2
TOTAL		13	19	6	3	25	15	35

KEY

Rulerships: house=5; exaltation=4; in-sect triplicity=3; bound=2; face=1

Houses:

House	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	12	6	3	9	7	1	10	4	5	11	8	2

Note: points for houses 8 and 9 are switched in this version compared to the 1507 version. This will have no effect for Lincoln with no planets in either house.

Day ruler = 7 points, Hour ruler = 6 points.

#5. 1485/1537, all triplicity rulers, whole sign houses, Chaldean decans

		☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Sun	23AQ19		1	3		2	3	8
Moon	25CP11	1	3		3	7		7
ASC	29SA45	3				2	8	4
POF	27CP53	1	3		3	9		5
Syzygy	11LE22	8					4	5
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		3	6	9	7	8	9	12
TOTAL		16	13	12	13	28	24	54

#6. 1485/1537, all triplicity rulers, Alchabitius semi-arc houses, Chaldean decans

		☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Sun	23AQ19		1	3		2	3	8
Moon	25CP11	1	3		3	7		7
ASC	29SA45	3				2	8	4
POF	27CP53	1	3		3	9		5
Syzygy	11LE22	8					4	5
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		6	12	3	3	11	3	2
TOTAL		19	19	6	9	31	18	44

KEY

Rulerships: house=5; exaltation=4; in-sect triplicity=3; bound=2; face=1

Houses:

House	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	12	6	3	9	7	1	10	4	5	11	8	2

Note: points for houses 8 and 9 are switched in this version compared to the 1507 version. This will have no effect for Lincoln with no planets in either house.

Day ruler = 7 points, Hour ruler = 6 points.

#7. 1507, in-sect triplicity ruler, whole sign houses, Triplicity decans

		☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈
Sun	23AQ19			3	1	2			5
Moon	25CP11		3	1		4			5,2
ASC	29SA45	1				2	5,3		
POF	27CP53		3	1		4,2			5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					3,1		2
Superiors – Oriental						1			2
Houses		3	6	9	7	8	9	12	
TOTAL		9	12	14	8	23	21	33	

#8. 1507, in-sect triplicity ruler, Alchabitius semi-arc houses, Triplicity decans

		☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇	♈
Sun	23AQ19			3	1	2			5
Moon	25CP11		3	1		4			5,2
ASC	29SA45	1				2	5,3		
POF	27CP53		3	1		4,2			5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					3,1		2
Superiors – Oriental						1			2
Houses		6	12	3	3	11	3	2	
TOTAL		12	18	8	4	26	15	23	

KEY

Rulerships: house=5; exaltation=4; in-sect triplicity=3; bound=2; face=1

Houses:

House	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	12	6	3	9	7	1	10	5	4	11	8	2

Superiors – Oriental: helical rising to sextile=3; sextile to square=2; square to 1st station=1

#9. 1485/1537, in-sect triplicity ruler, whole sign houses, Triplicity decans

		☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇
Sun	23AQ19			3	1	2		5
Moon	25CP11		3	1		4		5,2
ASC	29SA45	1				2	5,3	
POF	27CP53		3	1		4,2		5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					3,1	2
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		3	6	9	7	8	9	12
TOTAL		9	12	14	8	22	21	44

#10. 1485/1537, in-sect triplicity ruler, Alchabitius semi-arc houses, Triplicity decans

		☉	☽	♃	♄	♅	♆	♇
Sun	23AQ19			3	1	2		5
Moon	25CP11		3	1		4		5,2
ASC	29SA45	1				2	5,3	
POF	27CP53		3	1		4,2		5
Syzygy	11LE22	5					3,1	2
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		6	12	3	3	11	3	2
TOTAL		12	18	8	4	25	15	34

KEY

Rulerships: house=5; exaltation=4; in-sect triplicity=3; bound=2; face=1

Houses:

House	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	12	6	3	9	7	1	10	4	5	11	8	2

Note: points for houses 8 and 9 are switched in this version compared to the 1507 version. This will have no effect for Lincoln with no planets in either house.

Day ruler = 7 points, Hour ruler = 6 points.

#11. 1485/1537, all triplicity rulers, whole sign houses, Triplicity decans

		☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Sun	23AQ19			3	1	2	3	5,3
Moon	25CP11		3	1	3	4,3		5,2
ASC	29SA45	3,1				2	5,3	3
POF	27CP53		3	1	3	4,3,2		5
Syzygy	11LE22	5,3					3,1	3,2
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		3	6	9	7	8	9	12
TOTAL		15	12	14	14	28	24	53

#12. 1485/1537, all triplicity rulers, Alchabitius semi-arc houses, Triplicity decans

		☉	☽	♃	♀	♂	♄	♅
Sun	23AQ19			3	1	2	3	5,3
Moon	25CP11		3	1	3	4,3		5,2
ASC	29SA45	3,1				2	5,3	3
POF	27CP53		3	1	3	4,3,2		5
Syzygy	11LE22	5,3					3,1	3,2
Day Ruler								7
Hour Ruler								6
Houses		6	12	3	3	11	3	2
TOTAL		18	18	8	10	31	18	43

KEY

Rulerships: house=5; exaltation=4; in-sect triplicity=3; bound=2; face=1

Houses:

House	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Points	12	6	3	9	7	1	10	4	5	11	8	2

Note: points for houses 8 and 9 are switched in this version compared to the 1507 version. This will have no effect for Lincoln with no planets in either house.

Day ruler = 7 points, Hour ruler = 6 points.

Total Victor Scores for 12 Model Variations

Abraham Lincoln

	Model	Triplicity	House System	Decan System	☉	☽	☿	♀	♂	♃	♅	Victor
1	1507	In-sect	Whole Sign	Chaldean	10	13	12	7	23	21	34	Saturn
2	1507	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Chaldean	13	19	6	3	26	15	24	Mars
3	1485/1537	In-sect	Whole Sign	Chaldean	10	13	12	7	22	21	45	Saturn
4	1485/1537	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Chaldean	13	19	6	3	25	15	35	Saturn
5	1485/1537	All	Whole Sign	Chaldean	16	13	12	13	28	24	54	Saturn
6	1485/1537	All	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Chaldean	19	19	6	9	31	18	44	Saturn
7	1507	In-sect	Whole Sign	Triplicity	9	12	14	8	23	21	33	Saturn
8	1507	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Triplicity	12	18	8	4	26	15	23	Mars
9	1485/1537	In-sect	Whole Sign	Triplicity	9	12	14	8	22	21	44	Saturn
10	1485/1537	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Triplicity	12	18	8	4	25	15	34	Saturn
11	1485/1537	All	Whole Sign	Triplicity	15	12	14	14	28	24	53	Saturn
12	1485/1537	All	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Triplicity	18	18	8	10	31	18	43	Saturn

The above table summarizes results for each of the 12 model variations. Each row corresponds to scores presented in the final row labeled 'TOTAL' from each of the above tables.

Evaluation

Armed with computations for twelve different variations of Ibn Ezra's Victor model, an evaluation requires comparing each model result with a qualitative assessment of the 'empirical' Victor of the Horoscope. The empirical Victor requires a detailed biographical study of each individual and requisite tests of planetary rulerships of time lord systems including Firdaria and Zodiacal Releasing. Primary directions, solar arc directions, and transits to angles and relevant Lots are also considered. While Ibn Ezra's model allows either the Sun or Moon to be the victor, I limit empirical victor choices to Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Venus, or Mercury. Whenever the Sun or Moon is selected as Victor by Ibn Ezra's model, I replace the Sun or Moon with the respective bound ruler as the model's Victor output.

Introducing a qualitative assessment of the Victor is subjective and limits the conclusions of this study for the following reasons:

- Identification of the 'empirical' Victor is mine alone. Other astrologers may choose a different planet.
- Introduction of a qualitative element means the study is not repeatable by disinterested non-astrologers.

Despite these limits, I suspect that different victor choices will unlikely yield any material difference in this study's findings for large samples >200.

Sample Description

The total sample size is 330. All horoscopes are rectified by me as of 3-Apr-2020. In a handful of cases I have subsequently revised rectified times but it is unlikely these changes will alter the study's findings. The sample is comprised of several areas of personal interest: American Presidents as published in *A Rectification Manual*, 3rd edition (2009), subjects mentioned in James Hillman's *The Soul's Code* (1996), a sample of two dozen spree killers, Federal Reserve Chairman, and a few other non-categorized horoscopes. This is not a random sample.

Findings

	Model	Triplicity	House System	Decan System	High Score Match	Tied Score Match	Total Match	No Match
1	1507	In-sect	Whole Sign	Chaldean	36%	4%	40%	60%
2	1507	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Chaldean	33%	2%	36%	64%
3	1485/1537	In-sect	Whole Sign	Chaldean	35%	4%	38%	62%
4	1485/1537	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Chaldean	32%	3%	36%	64%
5	1485/1537	All	Whole Sign	Chaldean	31%	3%	34%	66%
6	1485/1537	All	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Chaldean	31%	3%	34%	66%
7	1507	In-sect	Whole Sign	Triplicity	35%	4%	39%	61%
8	1507	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Triplicity	33%	5%	37%	63%
9	1485/1537	In-sect	Whole Sign	Triplicity	34%	4%	37%	63%
10	1485/1537	In-sect	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Triplicity	32%	5%	36%	64%
11	1485/1537	All	Whole Sign	Triplicity	32%	3%	35%	65%
12	1485/1537	All	Alchabitus Semi-Arc	Triplicity	30%	3%	34%	66%

High Score Match: model's high scoring planet matched the empirical victor.

Tied Score Match: one of model's tied high scoring planets matched the empirical victor.

Total Match: sum of High Score Match and Tied Score Match.

No Match: no model high scoring planet, whether single or tied, matched the empirical victor.

Overall: Ibn Ezra's model identified the empirical victor between 34 and 40% of the time.

Ibn Ezra Model Variants. Results for the 1507 model exceeded the 1485/1537 model between 1 and 4 percentage points. While this suggests the solar phase of superior planets is a better variable compared to the planetary day and hour, the absolute differences are small and may not be statistically significant. The same issue of statistical significance can be raised for the other variables tested.

Triplicity Rulers. Use of the in-sect triplicity ruler matched or exceeded the use of all triplicity rulers.

House System. Whole sign houses matched or beat as much as 4 points Alchabitus semi-arc houses.

Decan System. Decan systems had similar results with a difference of only 1 point across all models. Since the decan dignity is only awarded 1 point on a scale of 1-5, this result is not surprising.

Quick Assessment

An overall success rate between 34 and 40% is poor and only moderately better than random chance that one of the five planets might be the victor, e.g., ~20%. While it is possible to further refine the model results, the overall success rate is so low that additional work does not appear to be a fruitful exercise.

What a full-blown Statistical Assessment would entail

Properly compiled and presented in a statistical framework, Total Match scores should be broken down by planet and compared to the random chance that each planet might be the victor.

While one might conclude the odds of a single planet to be the computed Victor are 1 in 5, or 20%, there are enough biases in the essential dignity model that a Monte Carlo simulation of a random sample >2,000 is likely necessary to establish baseline odds for each planet to be selected as Victor. Why?

Consider the bounds. The odds that any significator fall in a planet's bound are: Mercury (21%), Venus (23%), Mars (18%), Jupiter (22%), Saturn (16%). This occurs because the bounds are unequal sign subdivisions with malefic bounds occupying fewer degrees than benefic bounds.

The skew is even more pronounced in triplicity rulers. Since Venus is the diurnal triplicity ruler for 6 of the 12 zodiac signs, even when considering that a horoscope may be of either sect, the odds that Venus will be the in-sect triplicity ruler of a significator are approximately 30%. This is much greater than one might suspect.

These and other biases of essential dignity scoring mean that we cannot assume the random chance a planet can be the victor is 20%. While probably not wildly different than 20%, I suspect a Monte Carlo simulation would tabulate a planet's victor odds of between 17 and 24% with malefic planets having lower odds than benefic planets.

Once baseline statistics are completed, we can learn with greater precision how often Ibn Ezra's model correctly identifies the Victor compared to chance. My best guess? Between 1.5x and 2x over chance odds. I suspect these results are statistically significant; but again, 30-40% model accuracy does not meet typical requirements sought by traditional astrologers of 70-80% [these odds from Robert Zoller].

Final Thoughts

The weakness of compound victor scoring models has been raised by Ben Dykes (Bonatti, 2007, lxxxiv - lxxxvi). The rationale of why the five essential dignities (sign, exaltation, triplicity, bound, and decan) are assigned the numerical values 5-4-3-2-1 has never been substantiated, e.g., why not 100, 90, 80, 70, 60? Nor does the lumping of scores for essential dignities for planets (think 'quality') and house position (think 'quantity') make any sense. My takeaway is traditional astrologers recognized the importance of a specific significator list, their essential dignity, their house placement; solar phase, and planetary day/hour rulerships as considerations for judgment. However important are these significators, Ibn Ezra's model does not appear a robust method for scoring and ranking these significators for Victor assessment.