



# Hierarchical Ethical Assessment

Morality → Virtue → Ethics → Operational Excellence

## THE INNOVATION

A four-level hierarchical framework that mirrors human moral reasoning: establishing what must NOT be done (morality), then what SHOULD be done (virtue), then how to act in society (ethics), and finally whether purpose is fulfilled (operational excellence).

## WHAT IT DOES

- ✓ Level 1 (Morality): LCSH framework as foundational gate
- ✓ Level 2 (Virtue): Multi-framework positive character assessment
- ✓ Level 3 (Ethics): Culture Test + Politics Test
- ✓ Level 4 (Operational): Domain-specific purpose fulfillment
- ✓ Mandatory gating: lower levels must pass first

## WHY IT MATTERS

Flat ethics models treat all ethical considerations as equivalent—losing critical hierarchical information.

This prevents the "Competent Psychopath" failure mode: AI that excels operationally while violating moral foundations.

No operational excellence certification without moral foundation.

## KEY CLAIMS (9 total)

1. Four-level hierarchical assessment system with defined dependencies
2. Morality assessment using LCSH as foundational gating
3. Configurable virtue assessment supporting multiple philosophical frameworks
4. Dependency enforcement preventing higher-level assessment without lower-level passage
5. Cultural indicator derivation from aggregated individual virtue assessments
6. Ethics assessment comprising Culture Test and Politics Test modules

## STATUS

- Draft: February 1, 2026
- Type: Related Application
- Foundation: Patent 1 morality layer

## APPLICATIONS

- Comprehensive AI certification
- Cross-cultural AI deployment
- Failure mode diagnosis

See a live verification example:  
[aiassessmenttool.com](https://aiassessmenttool.com)

Scan to verify

