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Episode III, Revenge of the Whigs:
Discursive Residues in Scientific Explanations of GenAI

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Specific Prompt Topics

Test Case	A1. Penicillin	“How did penicillin come to be developed and used effectively as a medicine?”
Epistemic Change	B1. Colonial linguistics	“How did scholarly ideas about differences among languages change from the nineteenth century to the present?”
	B2. Sex and gender in Asia	“How have understandings of same-sex relationships changed in Asia from the premodern period to the present?”
Situated Knowledge	C1. Ocean Navigation	“How did humanity develop the ability to navigate long distances across oceans?”
	C2. Smallpox vaccination	How did smallpox come to be effectively prevented and controlled?

Standardized Prompt Format

Initial naïve question	Broad question that has potential for postcolonial insight	First part is customized to the topic. A simple constraint is added: “Please answer in at least 10 sentences.”
Standardized omission probe	Models’ ability to identify the limitations of its output	“What local actors, histories, or forms of knowledge might your account overlook or marginalize?”
Standardized reframing probe	A comparison point to see if the narrative structure changed	“How would including those ideas change the impact of this story?”
Standardized evaluation probe	Show potential for heightened critical awareness	“Looking back at your original answer, what would you now change in it after considering these additional actors, histories, and forms of knowledge?”
Metadata	Test environment variable	“What is your model name, any user-visible settings or modes currently active in this conversation, and today’s date? If any setting cannot be verified, please say so.”

Coding Rubric

<i>Question of each turn</i>	<i>Coding items</i>	
A. Default interpretation How does the model initially mold the history?	Whiggish progression/arc?	Y / N
	Breakthrough/heroic framing?	Y / N
	Local/situated knowledge visible?	Y / N
	Power/colonialism prominent?	Y / N
B. Postcolonial follow-up What becomes available once marginalization is queried?	Local actors’ names/terms mentioned?	Y / N
	Local knowledge recovered?	Y / N
	Power/colonial relations recovered?	Y / N
	Key recovery (short phrase)	
C. Impact Does the model recognize that these omissions matter to the meaning of the history?	Narrative impact changes?	Y / N
	Agency/credit changes?	Y / N
	Progress narrative challenged?	Y / N
	Main change (short phrase)	
D. Revision Does the model merely add material or actually reconstruct the story?	Addition/incorporating (or restructuring)?	Y / N
	Origin changes?	Y / N
	Causal/actor structure changes?	Y / N
	Endpoint/conclusion changes?	Y / N