



FAA Inc. BOARD OF EXAMINERS

# **EXAMINATION INFORMATION BOOKLET**

2009

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# INTRODUCTION

This book is designed to provide information about the Federation of Australian Astrologers (FAA) examination structure, syllabi and FAA qualifications.

Its aim is to outline the role of the Examination Board and explain examination, marking and appeal procedures.

This information may be obtained in booklet form, either on CD ROM, or downloaded in either Word or PDF format from: <http://www.faainc.org.au/Exams/exam.htm>

This booklet will be updated on a regular basis, and your feedback is welcome.

***Please direct all comments to the FAA National Exam Board Director***

***Tess Cullen***

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## FAA EXAM BOARD

The Board of Examiners is a subcommittee of the FAA Inc. National Council. Under Council guidelines, the Board consists of up to eight members, depending on the need at any particular time. All Board members must hold a FAA Diploma and an AAT (FAA).

The FAA National Exam Board

- Sets and marks the FAA exams which determine the FAA Practitioner Qualification,
- Decides on examination procedure,
- Provides syllabi for teachers and students,
- Aims to set a standard for the education of astrologers in Australia.

The National Exam Board comprises:

- Director
  - The Director administers all aspects of the day to day running of the exam system and acts as treasurer for the Board. This position or does not act as an examiner (i.e. set or mark papers) but rather oversees and supports Exam Board members, coordinates exam setting and marking, and liaises with candidates.
- Board Members

- Board members support the Director, set and mark examinations, collaboratively modify Exam syllabi, and collectively determine the future direction of the FAA Exam system and Exam Board activities.

## **HOW THE BOARD OPERATES**

The Exam Board aims to be financially self-sufficient. Exam Board members, like all other office holders in the FAA, are volunteers whose primary interest is advancing the professionalism of Astrology. Fees are paid to Board members for the setting and marking of exams. Set fees for marking are based on the number of papers marked by an examiner or specialist marker, with a percentage of the candidates' fees paid to the Director. Exam Board members are reimbursed for expenses incurred in their role as Exam Board members.

The Exam Board meets twice a year – typically January and July.

The January meeting is held prior to the annual FAA National Council Meeting. At this meeting, agenda items are dealt with and exam results and awards are finalised. A report is prepared for the National Council, which will then be presented by the Director at the National Council meeting.

## **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Current Board members are:

### **Director**

Tess Cullen: Dip Astro (FAA), Dip Ancient Astrology (Astrologos), APA  
50A Cowper St Byron Bay NSW 2481.  
e: astrotess@hotmail.com  
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### **EXAM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Jeannie Monks: QLD  
Dip Astro (FAA), AAT (FAA), APA.

Patricia Shepherd: NSW  
Dip Astro (FAA), AAT (FAA), APA

Maggie Kerr: QLD  
AAT (FAA), APA

Christine Rothwell: VIC  
Dip Astro (FAA), AAT (FAA), APA.

### **NATIONAL PRESIDENT:**

Anita Ings Dip Astro (FAA), APA  
Email: jonita11@bigpond.net.au

# **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR APPLYING TO SIT AN EXAM**

If you are thinking of sitting any of the FAA Exams, the following steps are a guide to assist you in:

- What to consider before applying to sit an exam
  - How to apply
  - What happens after the exam period has been completed.
1. Download and print the Exam Syllabus from the Exam Book (this document)
  2. Go through Syllabus very carefully, identifying what you do and don't know.
  3. Begin to study the topic areas of the Syllabus that you have identified in step 2, in which you feel your knowledge is lacking. This can be done by:
    - a. Buying or borrowing books on these topics (from libraries or friends). Also consider the resources of your state Astrological Association (books or tapes etc)
    - b. Join or form a study group in your area.
    - c. Find a teacher. The Exam Board Director holds a database of many Astrology Teachers throughout Australia.
  4. Download and review past exam papers and Exceptional Essays from the FAA Exam Board website to identify examples of standards that Examiners are seeking.

Once you feel you have competency in a particular exam module's technical area, plus a competency in essay writing skills, then apply for the examinations. Information on Essay Writing can be obtained from most University websites.

5. Download and submit an Exam application form (available approx one month before exam date) from the FAA Exam Board Website here: <http://www.faainc.org.au/Exams/exam.htm>. Send your completed application form together with your Exam application fee to the Director by the due date.
6. Once your application form is received, and prior to the Examination date, the Exam Board Director will advise you of the exam details and your candidate number. For the Calculation Exam, the exam venue details will be provided. The Calculation exam is a 3.5 hour supervised exam.
7. For essay type exams (Interpretation, Advanced and Dynamic Exams), the Exam paper will be sent either by email or post, timed to arrive immediately prior to the exam commencement date. These exams are a 4 week (at home) Open Book exam.
8. Utilise the full (4 week) time frame to complete the Essay type exams (Interpretation, Advanced & Dynamic Modules) to properly prepare, research and write the essays. There is a significant commitment required. All statements made in your essays must be supported by Astrological reasoning.
9. Completed Essays (2 copies of each with accompanying charts) are to be returned to the Director, postmarked on or before the last day of the 4 week examination period, preferably by Express Post.
10. Results will be sent by post or email within 6 weeks of the closing date of the Examination. Contact the Director if results not received within that six week period.

# FAA Certificates & Awards Overview

## Advanced Diploma of Astrology

The Advanced Diploma is the highest academic honour awarded by the FAA. Applicants must first hold the FAA Diploma. The Advanced Diploma is awarded on the submission of a research thesis of your own choosing. (Click [here](#) for more information or go to page 21)

## Practitioner's Diploma of Astrology

The FAA Diploma is awarded to candidates who successfully complete all four modules of the Examination process. The Diploma is the FAA's qualification to practice astrology professionally. Therefore, a high standard is expected of candidates. Those holding the FAA Diploma are entitled to use the post-nominals of "Dip Astro (FAA)" after their name.

### Silver Medal for Excellence

#### Alan Johnson Award

The Alan Johnson award is awarded to candidates achieving the highest aggregate marks in either the Calculation or the Dynamic exams.

#### Doris Greaves Award

The Doris Greaves award is awarded to candidates achieving the highest aggregate marks in either the Interpretation or the Advanced exams.

### Gold Medal for Excellence

In January each year, The Board reviews the results all four exams completed by the recipients of FAA Diploma awarded in the previous 12 months. The person with the highest aggregate mark attained over all four exams, (80% and above) will receive the Board of Examiners Gold Medal for Excellence.

## Exam Papers

All exams are presented in draft form to Exam Board members for proof reading and comment prior to being sent to candidates. Every attempt is made to ensure errors or inconsistencies are removed and that the standard of papers is maintained.

- Each exam will be set by one of the Board's examiners.
- The Director will distribute completed papers equally to all examiners for marking.
- Once all exams have been marked, the Director collates the marks and disseminates the results to Board members.
- Final results will only be released to candidates after the Board has reviewed the final results.

## APPEAL AND REVIEW SYSTEM

Candidates have **30 days** from the date their results are sent, to request a review of their papers. Such requests should be addressed to "The Director", in writing via post or email. The fee for the review of the first question of each paper will be \$50. Any further questions will be reviewed at a cost of \$40 each to the candidate. The questions to be reassessed will be independently reviewed by an examiner other than the one who originally marked the question. *The reviewing marker's results will be final, and no further appeal allowed.*

## DISCLOSURE OF MARKS

A candidate may request full disclosure of the marks attained for each question as well as the overall total mark. Additionally, a breakdown of the marks given for each question (for essay examinations only) is available upon request. Requests should be lodged with the Director within 30 days of exam results being released.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Candidates are issued with a candidate number when their application for an exam is processed by the Exam Board Director. All completed exam papers are forwarded to Examiners for marking, using candidate numbers only so that full anonymity is maintained between candidate and examiner. At no time, prior to results being sent to candidates, will the person marking the exam know the identity of the candidate whose paper is being marked.

Exam results are published in the FAA Journal only if signed consent is given by the candidate on their Exam Application form. The information published will only be general in nature and relate to the candidates name, their state of FAA membership, and the fact that they were successful. No marks or grades will be publicly released, nor will any information be released if the candidate was unsuccessful.

## **Association of Professional Astrologers**

Once a candidate has attained the FAA Diploma, they are eligible<sup>#</sup> to apply for membership to the Association of Professional Astrologers (APA). The APA is the affiliated professional arm of the FAA. More information on the APA is available on their website: <http://www.apainc.org.au/>

<sup>#</sup> Other membership criteria may apply.

## **FAA Diploma The Four Exams**

Four exams make up the FAA Exam System leading to the FAA Diploma. These exams are:

- **Calculation – offered Aug**
  - **Interpretation – offered February**
  - **Dynamic – offered October**
  - **Advanced Techniques – offered May**
- Each exam is held at approximately the same time each year.
  - The exams may be attempted in any order
  - There is no time limit to complete all four exams
  - It is not necessary to successfully complete one exam in order to do another.
  - Any person may apply to sit an exam - the only requirement to sit an exam is that the candidate must be a financial member of an affiliated FAA association.
  - Application forms, closing dates and exam dates are published on the home page of the Exam Board website and advertised in the FAA National Journal.
  - The present fee for the Interpretation, Calculation & Dynamic exams are \$130 and the Advanced Exam is \$140. (Fees will be subject to variation when reviewed by National Council.)
  - A \$10.00 late application fee applies to applications received after the published application closing date.

## Essay Marking Guide - Interpretation, Advanced and Dynamic Exams

For the Essay style of Examination questions (Interpretation, Advanced and Dynamic Exams), a marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking.

- Guide A - client /practitioner based questions
- Guide B - theoretical questions

The marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

<b>Guide A</b> <b>Interps, Advanced, &amp; Dynamic</b>	<b>Guide B</b> <b>Advanced Theoretical</b>																				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>20 marks</b> – Answering the question succinctly</li> <li>• <b>10 marks</b> – Presentation</li> </ul> <p>12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organization, flow; word length, source material, references and Bibliography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60 marks</b> – Accuracy of data, content and depth of understanding.</li> </ul> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">relevance</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">(15 marks),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>analysis &amp; synthesis</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(15 marks),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>development of argument</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(10 marks),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>judgments and conclusion</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(10 marks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>positive framing</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(10 marks)</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10 marks</b> – Originality</li> </ul>	relevance	(15 marks),	analysis & synthesis	(15 marks),	development of argument	(10 marks),	judgments and conclusion	(10 marks)	positive framing	(10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>20 marks</b> – Answering the question succinctly</li> <li>• <b>10 marks</b> – Presentation.</li> </ul> <p>12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organisation, flow; word length, source material, references and Bibliography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>60 marks</b> – Accuracy of data, content and depth of understanding.</li> </ul> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">relevance</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;">(15 marks),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>analysis &amp; synthesis</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(15 marks),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>development of argument</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(10 marks),</td> </tr> <tr> <td>judgments and conclusion</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(10 marks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>accuracy of data</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(10 marks)</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10 marks</b> – Originality</li> </ul>	relevance	(15 marks),	analysis & synthesis	(15 marks),	development of argument	(10 marks),	judgments and conclusion	(10 marks)	accuracy of data	(10 marks)
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## FAA Diploma

- A candidate must pass all four FAA exams to gain the FAA Diploma.
- The FAA Diploma is the FAA's qualification to practice astrology professionally. Therefore, a high standard is expected of candidates.

# CALCULATION EXAM

The candidate will be assessed on an understanding and ability to correctly apply the stated techniques and applications of astrology as outlined in the syllabus.

- This is a 3.5 hour **supervised** exam, designed to test the skills of the candidate in the mechanics of everyday chart construction, ability to use an ephemeris and basic astrological and astronomical knowledge. LAPTOP COMPUTERS OR PDA'S MAY NOT BE USED. Other aids such as a non-programmable scientific calculator are permitted.
- This is the only 'supervised' examination within the FAA Exam system. It is held in August of each year, at the same time, on the same date at a number of venues around Australia.
- Exam application forms will be available from the FAA Exam web site at <http://www.faainc.org.au/Exams/exam.htm> from mid May each year.
- The current fee is \$130.00 (AUD)
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will be three weeks prior to the exam date. Due to the extra administrative workload in processing late applications, a late lodgment fee of \$10 will be payable for late applications.

- Candidates are notified in the week before the exam of their candidate number and the venue, usually within in respective state's capital city.
- Alternate venues may be possible for Country or Overseas candidates who reside more than 100 kilometres from their home state metropolitan exam venue ([See notes for Country Candidates](#))

The Calculation Exam is divided into three sections:

**SECTION 1** assesses the ability to *manually* calculate a natal chart without the aid of a computer. The candidate is required to calculate the house cusps (to the nearest degree) and the planetary positions of two charts, each with a different date, place of birth and GMT. Unless otherwise stated, any house system and any system of calculation.

**SECTION 2** assesses the ability to find aspects, recognise declinations, chart rulerships and the calculation of such points as the Vertex and Part of Fortune.

**SECTION 3** assesses the skills of basic dynamic calculation. This section specifically covers transits, secondary progressions and solar arc directions. These three areas are nominated because they are currently amongst the most popular methods of dynamic work.

**CALCULATION EXAM GRADING:**

To pass this exam a candidate must attain a mark of 60% or over. If a candidate is not successful, they are able to re-sit this assessment each year in July when it is next offered.

Above 90% - High Distinction,  
 80% - 89% - Distinction,  
 70% - 79% -,Credit,  
 60% - 69% - Pass,  
 Below 60% - Not yet competent.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

The overall pass mark for this exam is 60%. Candidates must also achieve a mark of at least 50% in sections 1, 2 & 3 of the Exam in order to gain an overall pass (explanation of sections above).

**RETURN OF CALCULATION EXAM ANSWER SHEETS:**

At the conclusion of the Exam, candidates have the option of paying a \$20 fee to enable their answer sheet to be copied and returned. A time limit of 30 days after receipt of marks is allowed for request of papers. The return of papers is not a review or included in the Review fee. Calculation question sheets may be retained by the candidate immediately after finishing the exam. Application for return of the Answer Sheets should be made in writing to the Director.

**Certificates and Awards**

The candidate with the highest aggregate mark for this exam will receive the Alan Johnson Silver Medal for Calculation. All successful candidates will receive a certificate of success for this exam. This certificate however, is not a qualification to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level as defined by the FAA.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES  
 OF THE CALCULATION EXAM**

Candidates are encouraged to take advantage of any coaching classes for basic calculations being held in their area. The local FAA affiliated association may be able to provide information on revision or coaching classes.

On the day of the exam, candidates will need:

- Exam Candidate number (as provided by the Director prior to the exam)
- Ephemerides (20th & 21st Century)
- Tables of Houses.
- Calculator,
- Personal blank calculation sheets may be used but final answers must be transposed to the supplied FAA answer book to be handed up at the end of the exam.
- Items of stationary, eg pens, pencils, erasers etc.

**All answers must be written in the supplied exam answer booklet. Failure to do so may result in the exam not being submitted for marking.**

- The candidates Exam ID Number must appear on top of every piece of paper you hand up. Candidates' names **should not** appear anywhere on the paper.
- All work sheets should be handed in. Examiners may award some marks for an incorrect answer if the methodology is correct.
- The marks allocated to each question are a guide to the amount of information or level of detail expected.
- As a guide, weighting of marks is – **one mark = two minutes of exam time.**
- If a candidate is unsure of any aspect or question on the paper during the exam, the supervisor should be immediately notified.
- Candidates are advised to read questions carefully. The examiners will be marking according to the questions as they appear on the paper.
- In the Examination paper, students will be given the Standard Time Zone for the place of birth eg. AEST (am/pm) or GMT +/- . Whether Daylight Savings are in effect or not will be indicated in brackets. The candidate will be expected to know how to action the adjustment appropriately.

## COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS CANDIDATES

If candidates reside 100kms or more from their state's metropolitan exam venue, they may elect to sit at a closer location. In this instance, a venue and supervisor (invigilator) for the exam must be submitted for approval by the Director of the FAA National Exam Board.

The invigilator should be a person who is not related to the candidate and has had no input into the candidate's astrological studies for this exam. Any expense in securing an invigilator must be borne by the candidate.

Examples of suitable supervisors and venues are public libraries or community centers and the administrative staff at these centers.

The Exam paper will be sent to the nominated invigilator. They will be supplied with full instructions for the exam and details of returning the finished paper. The paper should be returned accompanied by a Statutory Declaration stating that:

- The paper was not sighted prior to the exam start.
- A computer was not used during the exam.
- The candidate did not receive any assistance with exam answers.
- The exam was completed within the required time limit.



## **NOTES FOR SUPERVISORS OF THE CALCULATION EXAM**

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- The exam is to be held at the same time nationally.
- Any person who has students being examined must not be a supervisor. Further, an Exam Board member is disqualified from being a Supervisor if they are responsible for marking any papers from that particular examination.
- The supervisor will be supplied with a list of the names of the sitting candidates which should be checked off for attendance.
- The exam should not be held in any room which is a normal 'classroom' for any of the students. By June each year, the local Association should arrange for a room in which the exam can be held, and notify the Director of the address and the name of the supervisor by the end of June. The Director will send the papers by express post to the supervisor in the week preceding the exam. This same supervisor is responsible for also sending the completed papers back to the Director following the exam by **Registered Post**.
- The exam room should be of adequate size to comfortably accommodate the number of candidates. A clock should be in the room that is visible to all candidates. Suitable heating or cooling should be available and applied if requested.
- All candidates should be present 15 minutes before the papers are handed out. Candidates are given 15 minutes reading time at the commencement of the exam. Notes may be made on scribble paper during this time but no answers should be written on the answer book. Candidates should be encouraged to thoroughly read the paper during this time. Writing in the exam book should only commence after this 15 minutes. The three and a half hours is from commencement of writing.
- Candidates must bring their own Ephemerides, tables of houses and a non programmable calculator for the exam.
- Mobile phones should be switched off prior to the exam and remain off until the candidate completes their exam paper and leaves the exam room. Supervisors are requested to remain silent as far as possible throughout the exam to avoid distraction to candidates.
- Supervisors will be provided with a contact number if any queries on the paper arise during the exam. **All queries, on the day, must be dealt with by the Director or their delegate in the first instance.** If a supervisor does not have a phone available, or is unable to contact the Director on the day, then any queries on the paper should be logged on an information sheet by the supervisor and sent on with the completed exam papers.
- Candidates may leave the room during the exam at the discretion of the supervisor (eg toilet breaks), but only one at a time. Normal exam conditions apply. There should be no communication between candidates or candidates and supervisors, except to answer queries. Papers may not be removed from the examination room while the examination is in progress
- Papers are to be returned by the invigilator to the Exam Board Director as soon as possible after the exam by **registered mail**.
- It is customary for the local Association to pay for the room and for the postage of the papers back to the Director. This is regarded as the local Association's way of contributing to and encouraging their members to become qualified, and keeping the exam fee as low as possible for the candidates.
- It is also customary for the local Association to arrange a special presentation of the certificates at one of their meetings. For this reason the certificates will be sent to the candidate's local Association for distribution unless otherwise directed by the candidate.

# CALCULATION EXAM SYLLABUS

## 1. Longitudes and Latitudes

- Understand the Meridians of Longitude and Latitude and be able to find the Longitude and Latitude of any place on the planet. The concept of the International Date Line and the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer will also need to be understood.

## 2. Time

You will need an understanding of:

- G.M.T. (E.T.) L.M.T. (Local Mean Time) Sidereal Time, Standard Time, Time Zones, L.S.T. (Local Sidereal Time), Daylight Saving or War Time; and display an ability to find the Time Zone and ascertain whether Daylight Saving or War Time was or was not operative for any place on the planet.

## 3. Calculation of L.S.T.

- Be able to calculate Local Sidereal Time (LST) and to include the acceleration of the interval.

## 4. Basic Astronomy

- The Ecliptic, Prime Meridian, Celestial Latitude, Celestial Equator, Horizon, Prime Vertical, Zodiacal Longitude, Planetary Periods, Synodic Periods, Declination and phases of the Moon.
- Understand the astronomy of the planets (including Chiron) and luminaries.

## 5. House Systems and Table of Houses

An understanding of:

- What house system is being used.
- The use of a table of houses to find the Ascendant, M.C., Vertex and the house cusps to within one degree.
- The principles upon which the chosen house system is based.
- Derived Houses

## 6. Planets and Points

- Calculations of all planets (including Chiron) and luminaries to the nearest minute.
- Retrograde and Stationary Planets, how they occur.
- Calculation of the Moon's Nodes to the nearest minute.
- The difference between the Moon's mean and true Node.
- Definition of the Moon's nodes in astronomical terms.
- To determine the phase of the Moon for any chart.
- Calculation of the Part of Fortune - diurnal and nocturnal formula.

## 7. Rulership

- When a planet or luminary is in its rulership.
- Determining the planetary ruler of a house in the natal chart.
- Determining the Ruler of the Chart by any method.
- The concept of the Lord of the Chart (ruler of the ascendant).
- The concept of Mutual Reception.

## 8. Zodiac Signs

- The difference between the Tropical Zodiac and the Sidereal Zodiac.

## 9. Elements and Modes

- The four elements and what signs belong to them.
- The three modes (qualities) and what signs belong to them.
- Finding the chart signature - emphasised zodiac sign by Element and Mode.

## 10. Eclipses

- The geometry of Solar and Lunar eclipses.

## 11. Harmonics, Aspects

- Aspecting a chart, using a prescribed orb, for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th & 12th harmonic aspects.
- The definition of the 5th, 7th and 9th harmonic aspects.
- Be able to recognise the following aspect patterns:
  - The T-Square, the Grand Cross, the Grand Trine, the Grand Sextile, Stelliums, Singletons, Mystic Rectangles, Kites and Yods.
- Using a prescribed orb, find parallels and contra-parallels for a chart.

## 12. Chart Shapes

- Be able to recognise the following chart shapes: The Splash, the Bundle, the Locomotive, the Bowl, the Bucket, the See-Saw, the Splay, Fan Handles.

## 13. Mythology

- Mythological background of the planetary pantheon.

## 14. Ancient Systems

- The concept of Accidental Dignity (when a planet is in its natural house).
- Final Dispositor.
- The Modern Decans.
- The concepts of Rulership, Exaltation, Detriment and Fall.

## 15. Midpoints

- The calculation of a midpoint.

## 16. Definitions: to be familiar with the following terms and their meaning:

- Geocentric, Heliocentric, Cosmobiology, Natal, Mundane, Electional, Horary & Sidereal

## 17. Cycles in Astrology

- The student should be able to recognise and calculate the timing of:
  - Generic planetary cycles.
  - Personal planetary cycles.
  - Nodal cycles.

## 18. Dynamic Astrology Calculations

- Able to find a secondary progressed planet or luminary for any date, to the nearest minute of arc.
- Relating the secondary progressed planet or luminary back to the natal chart and, using a defined orb, list the aspects the progressed planet or luminary are making to a natal chart for a given period of time.
- Calculation of an Adjusted Calculation Date (A.C.D.), and its significance.
- Calculation of the Solar Arc directed positions of the planets and luminaries for any given date.
- Relating the Solar Arc directed planets to the natal chart, and using a defined orb, list the aspects the Solar Arc directed planets are making to the natal chart over a given period of time.
- The ability to establish the transits to a natal chart for any given period of time.

## 19. Use of the Ephemeris

- The student should be able to show an understanding of an ephemeris and how it may be used to understand the movements of the planets. In general, know how to read an ephemeris thoroughly, and know how to find information from it.



# FAA INTERPRETATION EXAM

For the purpose of the FAA Interpretation exam, Interpretation is considered to be the ability to synthesise the components of a chart (or other technique) and communicate the information in a clear and constructive manner. The candidate will be expected to show counselling ability in the written interpretation of a chart. A candidate, at this point in their studies, is expected to have received some supervised counselling training. Examination Markers are looking for the candidate's ability to relay information to the client in a constructive and supportive way, whilst maintaining an emphasis on astrological knowledge and understanding.

The candidate must be able to deal with adults' and children's charts and combinations thereof (relationships), dealing with the normal variety of questions and issues.

- This is a four week 'open book' (do at home) exam, and is sent out to candidates in January each year.
- Exam date and exam application forms are available from the FAA Exam Web site at <http://www.faainc.org.au/Exams/exam.htm> from early November each year.
- The current fee is \$130.00 (AUD)
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will usually be one week prior to the exam date. Due to the extra administrative workload in processing late applications, a late lodgment fee of \$10 will be payable for late applications.

The syllabus consists of all chart interpretive techniques, including children's and relationship charts. The exam takes the form of essays, with a choice of three out of five questions;

- Three questions on natal interpretation, of which two must be answered.
- Two relationship interpretation questions, of which one must be answered.
- A minimum of two essays must receive a grade of Pass or more to gain an overall result of a Pass or more in the Exam
- A brief background/history of the chart(s) to be interpreted is given, each with a specific focus. The examiners are looking for synthesis of the chart as a whole, clarity of expression and the ability to answer the 'client's' question constructively and accurately.
- Computers may be used in this assessment, but the software programs used must be stated. A candidate's name and other identifying statements must not appear on any of the charts submitted to maintain candidate anonymity.
- All the questions are worth equal marks. Each essay must comply with a maximum word limit of up to 2,500 words with a 10% variation. The 2,500 word limit applies to the essay's Introduction, body and conclusion, this includes any footnotes, references or appendices. Any title pages, charts, tables, and the bibliography are not included in the word limit. If the candidate goes over the word limit the extra words will not be read and thus cannot be awarded marks.
- The candidate is assessed on their astrological knowledge, and consideration is given to their ability to write a properly structured, succinct and academic work, which later may (with consent) be published in the FAA Journal. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failure and the candidate will be no longer able to sit for the FAA Diploma.

- All questions are to be kept separate, and two copies of each are to be sent to the Director by Express Post, postmarked no later than the return date given. A personal copy must be kept for reference.
- Extension of time. An extension of a maximum of one week can be granted in the first instance at the discretion of the Director. This will only be granted on the grounds of personal hardship of an 'unforeseen' nature on condition that a request from the candidate is received prior to the published mail back date.
- Each year, the top student in this exam will receive a Doris Greaves Silver Medal for Interpretation.
- All successful candidates will receive a certificate of success in this exam. However, the candidate is reminded that this certificate is not a qualification to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level.

## Essay Marking Guide – Interpretation Exam

For the Essay style of Examination questions (Interpretation, Advanced and Dynamic Exams), a marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking. The following marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

- **20 marks** – Answering the question succinctly
- **10 marks** – Presentation eg. 12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organisation and flow; word length, source material, references and Bibliography
- **60 marks** – Accuracy of data, content and depth of understanding. eg. relevance (15 marks), analysis & synthesis (15 marks), development of argument (10 marks), judgments and conclusion (10 marks) positive framing (10 marks)
- **10 marks** – Originality

### INTERPRETATION EXAM GRADES:

90% & Above – High Distinction,  
 80% - 89% - Distinction,  
 65% - 79% - Credit,  
 50% - 64% - Pass,  
 Below 50% - Not Yet Competent.

## INTERPETATION EXAM SYLLABUS

Assessed in January/February each year. (See Exam Board website for Exam timetable)

1. This Exam tests the candidate's competence in the interpretation of astrological charts. Answers must demonstrate an understanding of planets, houses, signs and aspects as applied to a chart pertaining to any particular moment in time. This may include any or all of the following but does not exclude any other tool that a candidate may consider valid:

- The astrological significance of intercepted signs, house cusps, ruler of a house.
- The astrological significance of a derived house.
- Planets, Points & Rulership.
- The meanings of planets, luminaries, asteroids and centaurs as used in astrology.
- The astrological significance of Direct, Retrograde, and Stationary Planets.
- The astrological significance of when a planet or luminary is in a sign with which it is traditionally associated. The significance of accidental dignity, exaltation, fall, detriment and Mutual Reception.
- The astrological significance and interpretation of the Nodal axis.
- Elements and Modes.

- Eclipses.
- The astrological significance of aspect patterns and Chart Shapes.
- Midpoints.

2. This exam also requires an understanding of relationship astrology and synthesis of the interpretation. This may include any or all of the following but does not exclude any other tool the candidate may consider valid:

- To be able to compare one astrological chart with another.
- Relationship charts of all kinds, Eg, Composite, Synastry.

## **FAA DYNAMIC EXAM**

The exam will assess the candidate's ability to use the techniques as defined within the syllabus, either separately or in combination, to build a picture of an individual's future trends. The candidate must be able to synthesize these techniques and relate the resulting information to the client in a meaningful, non-fatalistic way.

Interpretation is considered to be the ability to synthesise the components of a chart (or other technique) and communicate the information in a clear and constructive manner. The candidate will be expected to show counselling ability in the written interpretation of a chart. A candidate, at this point in their studies, is expected to have received some supervised counselling training. Examination Markers are looking for the candidate's ability to relay information to the client in a constructive and supportive way, whilst maintaining an emphasis on astrological knowledge and understanding.

- This is a four week 'open book' (do at home) exam and is sent out to candidates in October each year.
- Exam date and exam application forms will be available from the FAA Exam web site at <http://www.faainc.org.au/Exams/exam.htm> from early August each year.
- The current fee is \$130.00 (AUD)
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will usually be one week prior to the exam date. Due to the extra administrative workload in processing late applications, a late lodgment fee of \$10 will be payable for late applications.

The candidate will be assessed on the ability to interpret all forms of Dynamic charts, including Return charts and Generic Cycles. It will be an essay type of exam with a choice of three out of five questions to answer.

- The exam will consist of a choice of three (3) out of five (5) questions
- A minimum of two essays must receive a grade of Pass or more to gain an overall result of a Pass or more in the Exam.
- The questions will consist of a brief background and natal data of a 'client', and a specific query concerning their current life. The examiners will be looking for synthesis of the relevant Dynamic chart(s) with the Natal chart, clarity of expression and the ability to advise the client based on the astrological information constructively and accurately.
- Computers may be used in this assessment, but the software programs used must be stated.

- A candidate's name and other identifying statements must not appear on any of the charts submitted to maintain candidate anonymity.
- All the questions are worth equal marks. Each essay must comply with a maximum word limit of up to 2,500 words with a 10% variation. The 2,500 word limit applies to the essay's Introduction, body and conclusion, this includes any footnotes, references or appendices. Any title pages, charts, tables, and the bibliography are not included in the word limit. If the candidate goes over the word limit the extra words will not be read and thus cannot be awarded marks.
- The candidate is assessed on their astrological knowledge, and consideration is given to their ability to write a properly structured, succinct and academic work, which later may (with consent) be published in the FAA Journal. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failure and the candidate will be no longer able to sit for the FAA Diploma.
- All questions are to be kept separate, and two copies of each are to be sent to the Director by Express Post, postmarked no later than the return date given. A personal copy must be kept for reference.
- Extension of time. An extension of a maximum of one week can be granted in the first instance at the discretion of the Director. This will only be granted on the grounds of personal hardship of an 'unforeseen' nature on condition that a request from the candidate is received prior to the published mail back date.
- Each year, the student receiving the highest aggregate mark in this exam will receive the Alan Johnson Silver Medal.
- All successful candidates will receive a certificate for this exam. Candidates are reminded that this certificate is not a qualification to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level.

## Essay Marking Guide - Dynamic Exam

For the Essay style of Examination questions (Interpretation, Advanced and Dynamic Exams), a marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking. The following marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

- **20 marks** – Answering the question succinctly
- **10 marks** – Presentation eg. 12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organisation and flow; word length, source material, references and Bibliography
- **60 marks** – Accuracy of data, content and depth of understanding. eg. relevance (15 marks), analysis & synthesis (15 marks), development of argument (10 marks), judgments and conclusion (10 marks) positive framing (10 marks)
- **10 marks** – Originality

### DYNAMIC EXAM GRADES:

90% & Above - High Distinction,  
 80% - 89% - Distinction,  
 65% - 79% - Credit,  
 50% - 64% - Pass,  
 Below 50% - Not Yet Competent.

## FAA DYNAMIC EXAM SYLLABUS

*To be assessed in October each year*

**Transits**

- The use and interpretation of transits.

**Progressions**

- The use and interpretation of progressions. This may include but is not limited to the secondary progressed lunation cycle, regressions etc.

**Directions**

- The use and interpretation of directions.

**Returns**

- The use and interpretation of returns.

**Cycles**

- The use, significance and interpretation of generic and personal planetary cycles.

# ADVANCED TECHNIQUES EXAM

The candidate will be assessed on an understanding and ability to correctly apply the stated techniques and applications of astrology as outlined in the syllabus.

- This is a four week 'open book' (do at home) exam, and is sent out to candidates in April each year.
- Exam Dates and exam application forms are available from the FAA Exam web site at <http://www.faainc.org.au/Exams/exam.htm> from early March each year.
- The current fee is \$140.00 (AUD)
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will usually be one week prior to the exam date. Due to the extra administrative workload in processing late applications, a late lodgment fee of \$10 will be payable for late applications.

The candidate is not expected to be an 'expert' in any of these techniques. However, the examiners will expect the candidate to display:

- Competency in a technique
- Core knowledge of a technique and why it may be valid for specific situations
- An ability to research a subject in the context of the question asked
- An ability to critically appraise published material on the technique
- An ability to produce an original essay within the constraints of the question asked in the exam.
- An ability to argue one's own original interpretation of the technique in a critical and logical way, within the context of the question asked.
- Candidates are reminded that any material displaying obvious plagiarism will be failed.

Read the exam questions carefully and address the question set by the examiners. The most common cause of a poor result in all essay type exams is a failure by the candidate to clearly read and understand the question. An exam question is set by the examiner to elicit an essay displaying the candidate's ability to display a core knowledge of the technique, synthesis and original interpretations, counselling ability and a sensitivity to the client in the specific context of the question.

The questions will comprise of a brief situation or scenario which will require the application of a specific technique, principle or rules. The examiners will be looking for an understanding of the technique/rules being used and their correct application, clarity of expression and the ability to advise the client (where relevant) based on constructive and accurate astrological information.

- The exam will consist of a choice of five (5) out of twelve (12) questions
- A minimum of three essays must receive a grade of Pass or more to gain an overall result of a Pass or more in the Exam
- Computers may be used in this assessment, but the programs used must be stated.
- A candidates name and other identifying statements must not appear on any of the charts or essays submitted to maintain candidate anonymity.
- All the questions are worth equal marks. Each essay must comply with a maximum word limit of up to 1,500 words with a 10% variation. The 1,500 word limit applies to the essay's Introduction, body and conclusion, this includes any footnotes, references or appendices. Any title pages, charts, tables, and the bibliography are not included in

the word limit. If the candidate goes over the word limit the extra words will not be read and thus cannot be awarded marks.

- The candidate is assessed on their astrological knowledge, and consideration is given to their ability to write a properly structured, succinct and academic work, which later may (with consent) be published in the FAA Journal. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failure and the candidate will be no longer able to sit for the FAA Diploma.
- All questions are to be kept separate, and two copies of each are to be sent to the Director by Express Post, postmarked no later than the return date given. A personal copy must be kept for reference.
- Extension of time. An extension of a maximum of one week can be granted in the first instance at the discretion of the Director. This will only be granted on the grounds of personal hardship of an 'unforeseen' nature on condition that a request from the candidate is received prior to the published mail back date.
- Each year, the top student in this exam will receive the Doris Greaves Silver Medal for Interpretation.
- All successful candidates will receive a certificate of success in this exam. However, the candidate is reminded that this certificate is not a qualification to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level.

## Essay Marking Guide - Advanced Exam

For the Essay style of Examination questions (Interpretation, Advanced and Dynamic Exams), a marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking.

The following marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

### Essay Marking Guide A

- **20 marks** – Answering the question succinctly
- **10 marks** – Presentation:-  
12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organization, flow; word length, source material, references and Bibliography
- **60 marks** – Accuracy of data, content and depth of understanding: - relevance (15 marks), analysis & synthesis (15 marks), development of argument (10 marks), judgments and conclusion (10 marks) positive framing (10 marks)
- **10 marks** – Originality

In the **Advanced Exam Essay Marking Guide B** will be used for a theoretical based question

- **20 marks** – Answering the question succinctly
- **10 marks** – Presentation:-  
12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organization, flow; word length, source material, references and Bibliography
- **60 marks** – Accuracy of data, content and depth of understanding. eg. relevance (15 marks), analysis & synthesis (15 marks), development of argument (10 marks), judgments and conclusion (10 marks) accuracy of data (10 marks)
- **10 marks** – Originality

### ADVANCED EXAM GRADES:

90% & Above – High Distinction,  
80% - 89% - Distinction,

65% - 79% - Credit,  
50% - 64% - Pass,  
Below 50% - Not yet competent.

# ADVANCED EXAM SYLLABUS

## 1. Astro-History

- The study of long term astrological cycles of planets and planetary combinations and their significance in history.

## 2. Astrology of space

- Principles of relocation of a chart, the calculations involved and interpretation.
- The concepts and interpretation of astrological world maps (including the use of Parans).
- The concepts and interpretation of Local Space wheels and maps.

## 3. Asteroids

- The mythology and psychology of the four major Asteroids and Lilith

## 4. Electional and Horary Astrology

- Understand the rules and principles of both Electional and Horary Astrology and demonstrate the ability to interpret and apply these principles to an Electional or Horary chart.

## 5. Mundane astrology

- An understanding of the interpretation of Ingress and national charts in relation to the country's politics, people etc.
- Options available for Australia's chart.
- Weather forecasting
- Precession and the Great Ages.

## 6. Rectification

- Astrological methods of finding a rectified time where the time is known within one or two hours or where the time is totally unknown. Guessing, using pendulums etc. or any other method not complying with the FAA Code of Ethics will not be accepted. For this purpose, the FAA Code of Ethics is considered to mean that rectification is the calculation of angles using events in a person's or entity's life as a timing mechanism.

## 7. Astro Economics

- Astrological theory of planetary cycles as applied to business.

## 8. Stock Market Astrology

- Astrological theory of planetary cycles as applied to the stock market.

## 9. Cosmobiology

- The use of Solar Arc directions with midpoint trees and the use of the Graphic Ephemeris.
- An understanding of the concepts and interpretation of Uranian astrology.

## 10. Eclipses

- An understanding of the concepts and geometry of eclipses including Saros Cycles.

## 11 Fixed Stars

- Understanding of the use and interpretation of fixed stars in the natal chart.

## 12. Harmonics

- The theory of harmonics and calculation of an harmonic chart. The ability to find an aspect family of any harmonic. The use of planetary arc harmonic charts.

## 13. Health

- The correspondence of astrological symbols to human anatomy and physiology. The maintenance of health via life style choices using the natal chart.

#### **14. Heliocentric astrology**

- Principles and interpretation of particular charts.

#### **15. House division systems**

- The theory and history of space and time derived zodiacal systems.
- The concept and uses of Solar charts.

#### **16. The Media**

- Using astrology in the media.
- Sun sign columns.
- Telephone counselling.

#### **17. Comparative astrology**

- An understanding of the sidereal zodiac and its relationship to the tropical zodiac.
- An understanding of other cultural systems

#### **18. Ancient Astrology**

- An understanding of the theory and application of ancient, medieval, and Hellenistic systems
- The history of astrology

## **THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA**

The Advanced Diploma is the highest academic honour given by the FAA. In order to apply for an Advanced Diploma the applicant must hold the FAA Diploma. Candidates may apply at any time.

An Advanced Diploma is awarded:

1. On the submission of a research thesis of your own choosing. Candidates are asked to submit a synopsis of their thesis with their application, which is then judged by the Board as to its suitability. This is to avoid those subjects which are obviously invalid or inappropriate to the standard of the Diploma.
2. On submission of a published work, or work that has contributed significantly to the standard of Australian astrology. The applicant must again submit a synopsis of the work on application.

The thesis or work is judged by two Examiners who have some expertise in the field of the work submitted. If there is no member of the Board with such expertise, the work will be sent to recognised experts in that field for evaluation.

It is intended that submissions for Advanced Diploma may be marked by an individual subject expert on the Examination Board, a full panel of the Examination Board or a subject expert/s from wherever in the world they may exist. The most appropriate method will depend on the type of submission and the expertise available at any particular time.

An initial submission of the proposed Advanced Diploma must be made on the appropriate application form (available from the Exam Board Director) together with a non refundable deposit of \$50. Dependant upon the depth of marking required a total fee of up to \$400 per applicant may be required. This is to cover costs of paying a subject expert to mark the submission (no matter where in the world that expert may reside). An Advanced Diploma must be submitted for assessment within 2 years of its initial submission for approval by the Board to ensure no additional cost is incurred.

## **What is acceptable for an Advanced Diploma under the new rules?**

Under the rules for granting of an Advanced Diploma the candidate may submit for consideration:

- An original research thesis with a minimum of 10,000 words. The proposed subject matter must be submitted for prior approval by the Examination Board;
- A book that has been published by a recognised publisher;
- A computer program that adds significantly to the practice of astrology – programs such as an astrological screen saver would not be accepted as adding significantly to the practice of astrology;
- Any other astrological undertaking that adds significantly to the advancement of astrology. Entries under this category will bear an onus of proof by the applicant that they do add significantly to the advancement of astrology.

A number of copies of the submission must be submitted on completion. This number will be advised at the time the entry form is lodged. All submissions remain the property of the applicant. However, a copy will be maintained in the FAA National Archives for future reference.

Where any submission for an Advanced Diploma is a joint undertaking or partnership, the applicants will bear an onus of proof to demonstrate that there are significant contributions made by each person. Depending on the amount of work involved in marking a joint submission the Examination Board may (upon written application by the applicants) waive a part of the examination fee for each person. Such waiver will be at the discretion of the Board.

This examination is considered to be of the highest level on an international basis and the Examination Board would like to see as many as possible aspire to gaining it as a qualification.

### **FAA Advanced Diploma Information**

A person may gain an FAA Advanced Diploma in the following ways:

1) The writing of an original research thesis which must be presented to the FAA Examinations Board for marking. The following rules shall apply to the thesis:

- The subject of the thesis together with a précis of the scope of the thesis must be approved by the Examination Board prior to presentation (on an approved "Diploma Entry Form");
- There shall be no time limit imposed for presentation of the thesis but the examination fee (amount to be set by the Board from time to time) must be paid with lodgement of the thesis. Unless the thesis is presented within two years of application, any change to the fee structure must be met by the applicant;
- The minimum length of the thesis shall be 10,000 words. The thesis must be typed, bound and submitted in triplicate;
- Should there be no member of the Examination Board who is capable in the field on which the thesis is written then an external expert shall be used by the Examination Board;
- All theses shall be marked by 2 suitably qualified markers;
- In the event of a dispute over marking of a thesis, the Examination Board shall forward the thesis to a third marker external to the Board (may be from an

overseas astrological organisation) who shall act as an adjudicator of the dispute.

2) By publication of an Astrological book judged by a full panel of the FAA Examination Board to:

- Contribute to a broader knowledge of Astrology;
- Make a knowledge of astrology more accessible;
- Introduce new techniques, methods etc.

3) By the writing of original Astrological software judged by a full panel of the Examination Board to be of International significance. Where the writing is a joint venture it must be demonstrated that each Diploma applicant played a significant role in the writing of the software package.

## **SPECIALIST COURSES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The FAA Advanced Diploma is a qualification given for a broad knowledge of all aspects of astrology. There are many subjects in the Advanced Techniques Exam syllabus that require years of study within themselves. Candidates for the Advanced Techniques exam are not expected to have studied any of these subjects at such depth, and the exam reflects that expectation. Astrologers who are recognised as experts in a particular technique or field will be accredited by the FAA to teach 'post-graduate' courses in their field. Having gained your FAA Diploma, it is expected that you will continue your professional development by availing yourself of these courses. It is especially essential, if you intend to specialise in one of them. For a list of these accredited courses, please contact the Director.

Professional development is provided for the practicing FAA qualified astrologer through membership of the affiliated profession branch of the FAA – the Association of Professional Astrologers (APA). Information for applying for APA membership can be obtained from the FAA web site <http://www.apainc.org.au/>.

## **ACCREDITED ASTROLOGY TEACHER (AAT)**

Although this is not an examined qualification, it is one that is required if a member of an FAA affiliated association wishes to become a member of the Exam Board. Affiliated associations are also asked to recommend AAT's over teachers not so qualified.

To gain an AAT, one must hold a FAA Diploma, and have put a minimum six students successfully through the Calculation Module and six students successfully through the Interpretation Module (or the prior Basic Certificate examination). In those cases where two people are teaching in partnership, both must hold a FAA Diploma, and eight students from the partnership must successfully complete the Calculation and Interpretation assessments, or the Basic Certificate.

Applications for AAT status should be sent to the Secretary of the FAA National Council. A copy of the application should also be sent to the Exam Board Director, so that a record of the students taught by the applicant can be checked. Teachers are credited with having provided tuition for either the Interpretation or Calculation modules by candidates on their individual examination application forms.

The application should state academic and professional experience - particularly astrological teaching experience and qualifications. The names of both the six students who (under the teacher's tuition) have passed the FAA Calculation exam. and the six students who have passed the FAA Interpretation Exam, (or have gained the prior Basic Certificate) must be nominated on the application.



# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF FAA AWARDS

At the time of writing, negotiations are taking place with International Astrological Associations with a view to their recognition of the FAA Awards and qualifications.

## Exam Board Membership

To apply to be considered for membership of the FAA Board of Examiners, the applicant must hold both a FAA Diploma or higher **and be an AAT**.

Applications should be sent to the Director of the Board of Examiners, and the Secretary of FAA National Council by 1 December each year. Applications will be reviewed at the January Exam Board meeting prior to the FAA National Council meeting. If supported by the Exam Board, the application will progress for review at the National Council meeting.

The applicant for Exam Board membership will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application within fourteen days of the National Council Meeting.

Membership of the exam board on an apprentice basis will also be considered from time to time. For apprentice membership, the applicant must hold a FAA Diploma and be actively teaching to and promoting the FAA Exam System. Applications should be made to the Director of the Exam Board. If accepted onto the Board in a training capacity, the apprentice member would work under the supervision of the Board to ensure standards of examinations and marking are sustained. **On attaining the AAT qualification, the apprentice member may apply for full membership of the Board as outlined above.**

## Sample Exams and Model Answers

Prior Exam papers and Example Essay Answers are provided on the FAA Exam Board Website at this address: <http://www.faa-inc.org.au>  
Documents can be downloaded in PDF Format only.

It must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and Astrological analysis. The essays reproduced on the website may represent different styles of essay construction and are not purported by the Exam Board to be perfect in all respects (eg. word length, grammar, syntax and astrological synthesis). They can however be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays. Exceptional essays are also published from time to time in The FAA Journal.