

The following **exceptional essay** was written by **Narelle Duncan** of Queensland for the 2009 FAA Advanced Exam. It must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and Astrological analysis. The style of essay and essay construction are not purported by the Exam Board to be perfect in all respects (eg. word length, grammar, syntax and astrological synthesis). It can however be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays.

*Tess Cullen , Exam Board Director*

#### QUESTION 4 - Planetary Cycles

When we examine a person's lifetime from an astrological perspective we can identify primary planetary cycles that underpin the psychological development and expression through the stages of life from birth to adulthood and into eldership.

Using major aspects of Jupiter, Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto in their cycles to themselves and each other, create a timeline of their cycles and intersections, and what we may ideally expect to happen at each significant point in your timeline.

**Note:** Aspects may include conjunctions, square, trine and opposition.

#### ANSWER

Planetary cycles provide a wonderful insight into personal developmental stages. Serendipitously they align with mainstream psychological models of human growth as published by psychologists like Erik Erickson and Robert Gould. Planetary transits, particularly the Saturn cycles, correspond to personal development of the ego (0-29 1<sup>st</sup> ♄ cycle); fulfilment of responsibility and dharma to family/society (29-58 2<sup>nd</sup> ♄ cycle) and gaining authority and wisdom (58-84 3<sup>rd</sup> ♄ cycle). Astrologically there's a crowding of transitional planetary points at key identity developmental ages. These milestones are identified in both traditional psychological and astrological texts at the ages of 15, 21, 29, 42, 58, 65, 83 and 89.<sup>1</sup> Following is an astro-psychological human soul development time-line from 0-84 years:-

**3-6:** The first ♃ cycles, namely 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing ☐ at 3 and ☐ at 4, expand the toddler's horizons through learning fun games and activities at home, childcare and kindergarten. At the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ ♀ (6) the child begins primary education exposing their minds to new knowledge, beliefs and attitudes.

**7-9:** The 1<sup>st</sup> ♄ waxing ☐ at 7 marks major growth as the child integrates responsibility into their consciousness. School and home duties intensify as rules, regulations, and punishments stiffen. A demand to boost efforts and take on extra tasks increases commitment and duty.<sup>2</sup> Coupled with the integration of such responsibility comes rumblings of quizzing those in authority, namely parents and teachers as blind innocence begins to falter. Handling this phase is reflected through the natal ♄ condition. One child may eagerly rise

---

<sup>1</sup> p106: Environmental Cosmology

<sup>2</sup> p20: Eagle & the Lark

to the challenge of hard work while another crumbles at 'facing the facts'. The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing Δ (8) helps the child integrate and take advantage of learning gained through the ♃ ♀ and teachings of the ♃ □ coupled with further expansion at the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing □ (9). The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing Δ at 9-10 arouses role models and releases creativity.

***Adolescent years 12-15 are concerned with the acquisition of life skills and learning to relate to others within groups.***

**12:** Puberty sprouts at the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return and liberates a zeal for self-improvement. Experiences now help to adjust previous attitudes and expectations.<sup>3</sup> It marks the shaping of cultural identity and expansion of life interests. As the youth explores new hobbies a reorientation occurs, shifting ideals and vision for the future as spirituality is awakened.

**14:** The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ ♀ raises the bar on the maturity pre-requisite at high school. The seeds sown 7 years ago now bear fruit, the quality of which is dependent on the care given throughout the growth phase. An elevated social status and acceptance among peers is the priority. Typically drastic swings between child and adult behaviour are characteristic of this stage. The emerging teenager pushes against authority and tests boundaries as a means to evaluate the validity of rules made by family, influential figures and society.<sup>4</sup>

**15-18:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ waxing □ at 15 marks the formation of a private identity facilitated by social withdrawal and disassociation from parents.<sup>5</sup> By the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ ♀ at 18, high school education is complete and the young adult launches into new learning experiences through higher education, apprenticeships or new vocations and on-the-job training. By 19-20 at the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing Δ the individual enlists security through finding their niche.

***During the early 20's the young adult learns to compete in society. He/she strives for recognition as a variety of energies impact this growth phase through the culmination of Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus planetary cycles.***

**21-22:** The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing □ marks the formation of the generational identity. The previous establishment's values are rejected in the liberation of new ideals. The movement away from old structures is 'backed up' by the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing □. Parental bonds are disassembled as the emerging adult disassociates from familial dependency to build their own foundations through marriage and births. Society recognises the individual as an adult along with the expectation of self-sufficiency. As separation occurs the young adult encompasses a public responsibility through completion of higher educational studies and establishment of a reputable occupation. Simultaneously the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ waxing □ encourages a professional persona, success priorities and the inspiration for journeys and travel. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ return at age 24 further expansions occur via pregnancies and births, occupational promotions and enrolments in advanced university degrees.

***As the third decade encroaches the individual enters a reappraisal phase in an effort to commit to and master chosen life activities and relationships.***

**28-30:** At the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return the 'fairy tale' ends and beliefs in 'happily ever after' crumble.<sup>6</sup> Realisations dawn, that as adults, we must take control and enact a mature approach to life. Like a life progress report, career choices, marriage, living environments and social contacts are re-examined minus the pressure of meeting societal standards and values. In an effort to find one's niche, the individual re-asserts efforts

<sup>3</sup> p293: Exploring Jupiter

<sup>4</sup> p20: Eagle & the Lark

<sup>5</sup> p109: Environmental Cosmology

<sup>6</sup> p20: Eagle & the Lark

towards achieving unfulfilled ambitions that more directly align with personal values. Synchronistically the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♃ ♁ adds impetus to the pressures of actualising the life vision.

**36:** Like having your wheels tapped, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ waxing □ checks-in to consolidate the individual's choices made at the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return. It creates further separation from society's standard practices and propels us closer to the expression of self-reliance and resourcefulness. Whilst accepting limitations and boundaries the goal is to live harmoniously within the community with a strong sense of self and where one belongs. In support, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♃ return encourages active engagement in following one's calling, trailed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ waxing Δ to make the necessary adjustments to keep on track. For some this phase may coincide with the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing □ emphasising the need for profound transformational changes that bring about the death of the old self and birth of the new. For others this ♃ □ may occur at the 40's mid-life crisis or later still in the mid 50's.

***Between the midlife of 41-44 Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus all oppose their natal positions and Neptune squares itself. Frequently this can be a time of dissatisfaction wherein unrealistic fantasies are indulged and unusual alliances sought.***

**40-42:** At the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ ♁ an inexplicable urge to break free from the status-quo emerges. The greater this urge, the greater suppression of un-lived ambitions. The individual is drawn, once again, to review life thus far (since 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return). When life achievements have not met with expectations there's a replotting of the life course.<sup>7</sup> The desire is to better align with the yearnings and creative aspirations of the higher mind. Past limitations are challenged and old self-limiting beliefs discarded. Liberation is sought and may easily be enlisted through unusual and experimental social alliances. The 4<sup>th</sup> ♃ ♁ augments this process, encouraging the collaboration of grandiose ideas and exchange of knowledge. The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing □ adds further weight. Indulging personal dreams and aspirations become a priority no matter how unrealistic. This contributes to a crisis period where re-adjustments and reality checks alternate with blinding flashes of brilliance and spiritual ideals. Confusion, encounters of deceit, caring for others and self-sacrifice may all be encountered. Taking off the rose-coloured glasses helps facilitate the soul urge expression of integrity, higher consciousness and spirituality.

**43-44:** On the back-end of the mid-life crisis comes the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ ♁ to re-enforce the re-evaluation and assessment of all that has been built since the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return. In difference to the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ ♁, the second requires the evaluation to be based on personal values rather than the family or society's. These values reflect in peer relationships and the areas one seeks social status.

**48-49:** At the 4<sup>th</sup> ♃ return and 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ waning Δ the energies support profiteering from the application of hard work and wisdom.

**50:** The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return marks the movement and release from emotional and mental issues into proclivity for soul enlightenment.<sup>8</sup> Dependant on the self-development level, the individual may experience extreme physical crises, illness and re-visiting painful issues or higher awareness states and self-mastery. The re-opening of old wounds relate to themes revealed through healing crises that occurred at the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ waxing □ (5-23.5), ♁ (20-37) and waning □ (30-42). Simultaneously, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ waning □ supports severance from outdated established patterns of behaviour with the chance to establish spiritual maturity.

**58-60:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> ♃ return marks the culmination of life experiences thus far and the wisdom gained. A new phase begins where interaction between the individual and society is renewed, reaffirmed and reflects the acumen gained throughout life. A personal testimony is established, acknowledging both successes and failures, which serve as a model to guide and motivate others. This stage delineates either a rewarding time

<sup>7</sup> p20: Eagle & the Lark

<sup>8</sup> p199 Chiron Rainbow Bridge between the Inner and Outer Planets

with release from responsibilities or distress from a perceived wasted life.<sup>9</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> ♃ return at 60 assists this process with dissemination and application of knowledge gained from the wealth of life experiences and the endorsement of valuable collective beliefs.

**63-66:** As the 1<sup>st</sup> ♄ waning ☐ shifts into gear the senior citizen enters retirement phase. He/she recognises the need to separate from career and release personal and social expectations. At 65 the 6<sup>th</sup> ♃ ♁ encourages the formation of retirement alliances and fellowship among peers based on exchanging experiences and beliefs. By 66 the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♃ waxing ☐ directs the need to scale down and simplify home life and assist family members. Release of old responsibilities is replaced with different types of commitments under the retirement umbrella. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> ♃ waxing Δ at 69 a trust in fate can be embodied.

**72 & 79:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> ♃ ♁ at 72, waning Δ at 78 and waning ☐ at 79 continue the storyline of disengaging old attitudes and responsibilities.<sup>10</sup> The transition to 'real work' on beloved hobbies and studies continues without the stress of high performance. Some of the individual's best work is achieved in these years of maturity, sharing their wisdom to the benefit of others with the arrival of the 6<sup>th</sup> ♃ return at 72.

**82-84:** The elder phase rekindles the individual's spirit and reorients attitudes towards higher ideals as ♃/♃ return to their natal positions and ♃ ♁ itself. The 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ ♁ signifies a re-living of the past through reflection and acceptance of the life story. The desire for peace and harmony dissolves burdensome relationships that previously held pragmatic purpose to be replaced with ideal or spiritual partnerships. The 7<sup>th</sup> ♃ return coupled with the 1<sup>st</sup> ♃ return increases focus on self-improvement and the revival of philosophical, religious and cultural interests.

*Word count: 1681*

---

<sup>9</sup> p21 Eagle and the Lark

<sup>10</sup> p88 Saturn in Transit

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

2004	McRitchie, Kenneth D.	Environmental Cosmology: Principles and theory of natal astrology	Cognizance Books
2003	Green, Jeff	Pluto: The evolutionary journey of the soul	Llewellyn Publications
2002	Michelsen, Neil F.	The American Ephemeris for the 21st Century: 2000 to 2050 at Midnight; Expanded 2nd Edition	ACS Publications
2001	Hand Clow, Barbara	Chiron: Rainbow bridge between the inner and outer planets	Llewellyn Publications
2001	Tierney, Bil	Twelve Faces of Saturn: Your guardian angel planet	Llewellyn Publications
2000	Teal, Celeste	Identifying Planetary Triggers: Astrological techniques for prediction	Llewellyn Publications
2000	Sullivan, Erin	Saturn in Transit: Boundaries of mind, body and soul	Weiser Books
1999	Brady, Bernadette	Predictive Astrology: The eagle and the lark	Weiser Books
1999	Kerr, Maggie	Universal Astrology: An in depth course in astrology aligning the four aspects of wholeness: Workbooks 1-5	Universal Astrology
1999	Tieryn, Bil	Alive and Well with Neptune: Transits of heart and soul	Llewellyn Publications
1999	Tieryn, Bil	Alive and Well with Uranus: Transits of self awakening	Llewellyn Publications
1998	Forrest, Stephen	The Changing Sky: A practical guide to predictive astrology	ACS Publications
1996	Arroyo, Stephen	Exploring Jupiter: The astrological key to progress, prosperity and potential	CRCS Publications
1995	Michelsen, Neil F.	The American Ephemeris for the 20th Century: 1900 to 2000 at Midnight; Revised 5th Edition	ACS Publications
1993	Arroyo, Stephen	Relationships and Life Cycles: Astrological patterns of personal experience	CRCS Publications
1992	Arroyo, Stephen	Astrology Karma & Transformation: The Inner Dimensions of the Birth Chart	CRCS Publications
1989	Sasportas, Howard	The Gods of Change: Pain, crisis and the transits of uranus, neptune and pluto	Penguin Books
1984	Lundsted, Betty	Planetary Cycles: Astrological indicators of crises & change	S. Weiser
1974	Rudhyar, Dane	An Astrological Mandala: The cycle of transformations and its 360 symbolic phases	Vintage Books
	Software	SolarFire Gold	Esoteric Technologies