

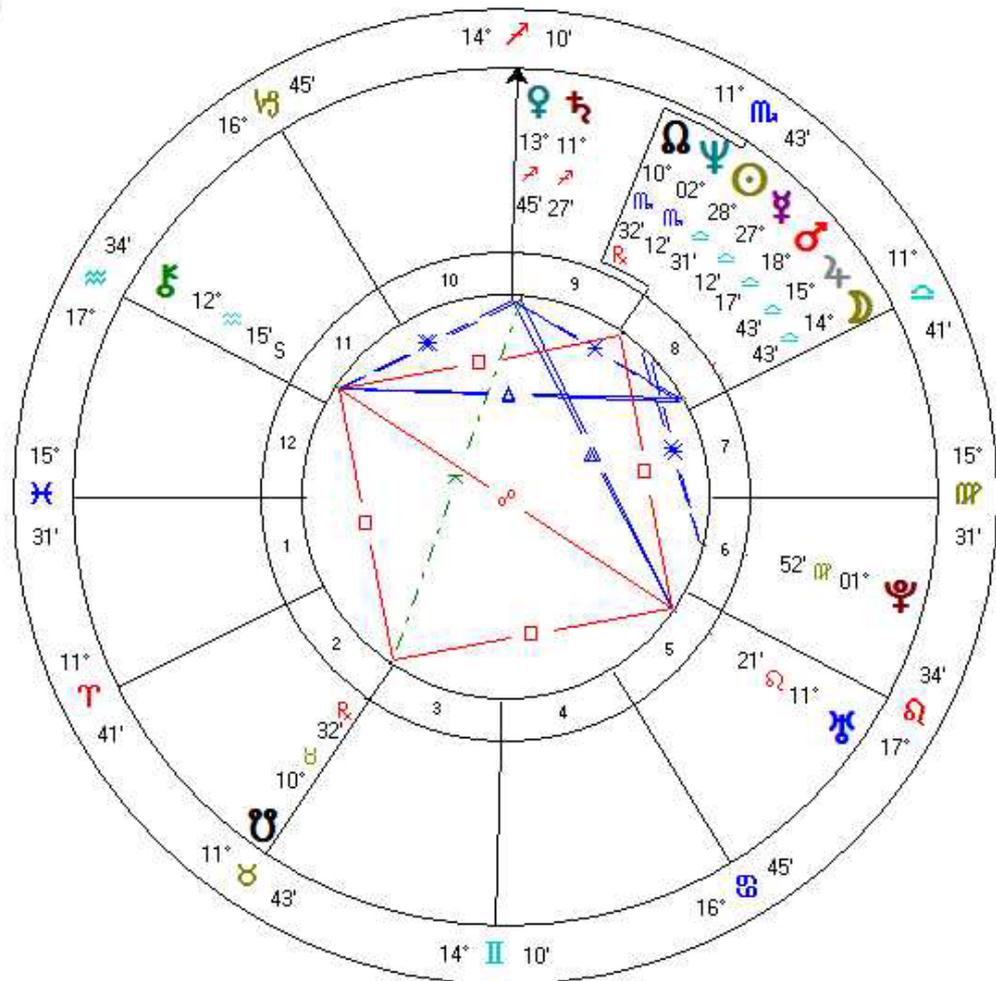
The following example essay was written by Rozlyn Noble of NSW for the 2015 FAA Interpretation Exam. Whilst it must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and astrological analysis, this essay can be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays.

Clementine Adkins, Exam Board Director

## 2015 Interpretation Exam

### Section Two: Question 1

**Louise**  
**Female Chart**  
 22 Oct 1957, Tue  
 2:45 pm AEST - 10:00  
 Sydney, Australia  
 33°S52' 151°E 13'  
*Geocentric*  
*Tropical*  
*Placidus*  
*True Node*



**Louise:** born 22 October 1957, 2.45pm, Sydney, NSW  
 ASC: close to 15 Pisces

*Louise has recently inherited quite a substantial sum of money on the death of her second husband. They had no children together but he has adult children from a previous marriage, and although they were also beneficiaries of their late father's estate they believe they should have received more.*

*Having sought legal advice Louise is under no obligation to renegotiate a better settlement for them should they decide to take it to court. Having always had a good relationship with them Louise wants to do the right thing but is now quite hurt by their attitude and feels like she has also lost a family.*

*Having always found it difficult to stand up for herself, Louise feels she has compromised a lot throughout life, yet she also wants to be able to live with whatever decision she comes to.*

*What insights can you offer Louise in understanding the core themes that are affecting her past and present behaviour? How can you address her concerns and offer supportive guidance?*

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*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."*

<sup>1</sup>

Without insight and awareness of themselves, a person may well repeat the patterns of the past into their future. Astrology provides access to deep patterns that when revealed can allow choice and therefore a different future can emerge.

Louise was born just before a solar eclipse in the sign of Libra, this could have brought gifts to Louise's life for her to share and teach others. The implications of this show a tendency towards teaching how to relate and interact, and wanting to honour commitments.

The energy from the approaching solar eclipse shows a bias towards unity and sharing which links with the Libra chart signature of trying to maintain the peace at any price. The double influence of the solar eclipse and the strong Libra chart planets may mean that this pattern could be the catchphrase of her life. This may generate permanent tension between the desire for balance and stability and the desire for regeneration and transformation in relationships. (Strong 8<sup>th</sup> House).

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<sup>1</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet

A stellium (Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Sun, all Direct) in the cardinal sign of Libra plus Neptune and the North Node in the fixed sign of Scorpio all in the 8<sup>th</sup> House, may indicate a life that involves constant change. This might seem incongruent with the fixed Scorpio energy which is usually more stable. There is an internal tension here as well because Louise's sensitive idealistic personality (Neptune conjunct Sun)(Neptune is strong due to being chart ruler (Ruling Pisces on ASC) plus all that 8<sup>th</sup> House energy can mean that the concept of a steady and stable life can occur as routine and boring. As a result, Louise may consciously or unconsciously generate changes or events that stimulate her even if it occurs as a crisis. A by-product of this is that she may feel alive and stimulated even if pain and difficulty occurs to her or others.

That is a fairly forthright statement, and in order for Louise to get a handle on this and see if it resonates with how she has perceived and lived her life so far it would be good to discuss the energies of the 8<sup>th</sup> House and how they have played out for her.

So what is the 8<sup>th</sup> House all about? In traditional astrology the 8<sup>th</sup> House is about death and taxes! That sounds fairly grim and it's easy to get snagged on the death word and find it hard to move past. Modern astrologers today usually consider the 8th house to be concerned with transformation and change and could involve endings of many kinds that could alter in Louise's life.

Since her questions and concerns have come about because of the death of her husband and the subsequent change in relationships with the family, she could be experiencing an emotional change in the connection with the family. She may be moving at a different rate than her late husband's children in grieving over his loss.

"The eighth is not only a house of death, but of resurrection. An old order passes away and a new one begins; there is renewal as well as destruction"<sup>2</sup>. The renewal could be a new relationship with them that forms after the grieving period.

The 8<sup>th</sup> House also concerns inheritance, wills, debts, legacies and in general, 'other people's money and resources'. There seems to be division among astrologers as to whether sexuality is also a 8<sup>th</sup> House or 5<sup>th</sup> House concern. We will focus on the relationship quality question, the passing of her husband and her relationship with change and transformation.

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<sup>2</sup> (Hand, Horoscope Symbols page 290)

So how do all these rather disparate topics relate to Louise? “The Eighth-house energies are strongly emotional”<sup>3</sup>. The power of the 8<sup>th</sup> House could enable her to transform her life. (Stellium in 8<sup>th</sup> House). She may have a strong need for emotional security (Moon in 8th House in Libra) and because she may have a lot of inner energy it could demand that she reach out into the world and therefore grow and change as a result. There may be an intensity to her (Sun in 8<sup>th</sup> House) urging her to experience more, delve deeper and find what lies under the surface in every situation. She may be attracted to taboo or unexplored areas of life and may be interested in spiritual or occult subjects. She may be so sensitive that she misreads the situation (Neptune can confuse) (Sun conjunct Neptune in 8<sup>th</sup> House).

She may also misinterpret emotional undercurrents. (Moon in 8<sup>th</sup> House) This may make her very sensitive to the current dynamics. She may appear dreamy to others (Sun conjunct Neptune) especially with a Pisces ASC. The ruler of Pisces is Neptune so she might see life through rose-coloured glasses. She may like to see the best in any situation and may have a rather naïve perspective. This could result in the risk of being taken advantage of as the family challenge the will.

Louise’s flexibility and restlessness (Mutable Pisces ASC) could mean she bends like a reed swaying from “being high on life to the depths of despair”<sup>4</sup>. Having Pisces on the ASC implies she may be at the end of one cycle of progress and at the beginning of a new one. She may feel like she is standing on the threshold of something higher. (Pisces is the last sign of the horoscope).

It can be hard to live up to the possibilities of Pisces Rising which can ask for self-sacrifice. It might be easier for her to drift upon the sea of life and dream dreams of future greatness. Her sensitivity to both people and her environment in both a physical and emotional way could mean she has psychic abilities or at the very least a sympathetic caring nature able to help people understand their troubles and problems. (Part of Fortune in Pisces 12<sup>th</sup> House)

She may feel as though she was born too early; that she carries the energy of the new cycle but was born into the old one. (Balsamic Lunar Phase). She may be aware of the future but is not at peace with herself and may not be until she commits herself to the future. So the main theme which envelopes her life is connected to change and transformation. Let’s see how well she encompasses change.

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<sup>3</sup> (Hand, Horoscope Symbols page 291)

<sup>4</sup> (Avery, The Rising Sign page 377)

She may have spent a lot of her life, 'trying not to rock the boat' and consequently found it difficult to stand up for herself. (Sun in Libra) Taking the middle road and keeping the peace may be very important to her but particularly in personal relationships. As she mentioned, she has compromised a lot throughout life because her quest for justice and fairness in relationships may have meant she found herself in the role of mediator or peace-maker. Her communication abilities and intelligence (Sun conjunct Mercury) could have served her well as she diplomatically (Libra) acts as a go-between in relationships. Her usual role as peacemaker is tested by the fact she is now a participant in the drama with the family.

Louise may have experienced many lifestyle changes due to her need to reinvent or challenge herself emotionally (Moon in 8<sup>th</sup> House). A stellium of planets in the 8<sup>th</sup> House may be competing to be heard. This means her natural charm (Moon sextile Venus) could make her amiable and popular on the one hand but as other parts of the stellium dominate she can appear blunt and occasionally brusque. (Moon conjunct Mars)

She may feel she has to prove herself on a personal level. She may not like arguments; she could prefer the role of diplomat and peacemaker (Mercury in Libra) so she may think and reflect before she acts (Mars in detriment in Libra). Being decisive may not be her strong suit and she may be a bit vague at times (Mercury conjunct Neptune) but it is part of being the diplomat (Mercury in Libra) and trying to be everything to everyone. (Sun in Libra).

By looking into her upbringing it could help to understand her past and present behaviours and how they are impacting her life now. The element of Air is on the cusps of the 4<sup>th</sup>, (Gemini – an intellectual air) 8<sup>th</sup>, (Libra – balanced wisdom air) and 12<sup>th</sup>, (Aquarius – progressive and original air) houses and is strong in her chart and can mean she looks at life from a more intellectual perspective.

She may prefer to think things through, rather than feel them. She may have emotional mood swings as she tries to rationalise her feelings. (Low Earth chart)

"In the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> houses we experience our sense of belonging on a personal, tribal and collective level. Throughout our life experience these sectors are the storehouses of our familial patterns and ancestral threads."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> (Clark, The Family System page5)

Growing up, Louise may have moved a lot and changed homes often (Mutable Gemini on 4<sup>th</sup> House cusp). Her emotional stability may be based on seeing herself as a knowledgeable, intelligent person (Gemini in Libra). Her perception of her mother (Moon in Libra) and her father (Sun in Libra) could have been parents that were tactful, understanding and cooperative but occasionally somewhat indecisive and insecure. In the 8<sup>th</sup> House her emotional security and any issues with the way she perceived her parents “will be prone to being re-experienced in an adult way through 8<sup>th</sup> House intimate relationships”.<sup>6</sup> Any taboos, or family secrets buried deeply all might influence how she relates in adult relationships.

And finally in the 12<sup>th</sup> House (Aquarius on cusp ruled by Uranus) “we locate the spiritual and creative longing of the individual which may be at odds with the family.”<sup>7</sup>

She could be good at compromise and there may be a fear (Saturn conjunct Venus) associated with love which could cause her to struggle with a lack of confidence. With Venus in a strong position on the Midheaven right on the cusp of the 10<sup>th</sup> House, her charm (Venus) and easy smile (Venus sextiles Jupiter) might be held back and restrained (Venus conjunct Saturn) resulting in a simultaneous fear of success and fear of failure that keeps her from going after what she truly wants.

If Louise did experience emotional difficulties in her past and they correlate with the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> houses as described, then they could surface during the current tensions and manifest as uncharacteristically strong reactions. She may need to watch for this.

William Bridges<sup>8</sup> has written extensively on personal and organisational transition and change.

His model of transition says that before any change can happen you need an ending to create space for a new beginning. The period between the ending and the new beginning is called the neutral zone and is characterised by uncertainty and sometimes discomfort. So the energy of the 8<sup>th</sup> House permeating her life can be a blessing because its energy assists the endings required for a new beginning to occur. It is important to distinguish what is ending and what is not ending to avoid getting overwhelmed.

Traditionally the 8<sup>th</sup> House is symbolised by death and this does not need to be viewed through a fatalistic “end of life” lens but can be viewed as an ending of a stage of life sometimes called a symbolic death that allows for a next stage of life. E.g. a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday can be symbolic of the ending of childhood and the start of adulthood. Menopause can be the end of child bearing and child rearing years and the beginning of a new stage in women’s lives.

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<sup>6</sup> (Clark, The Family System, page 9)

<sup>7</sup> (Clark, The Family System, page 11)

<sup>8</sup> Bridges, Managing Transitions)

Many people grieve during these transitions. Planets in the 8<sup>th</sup> House could show the way Louise meets such changes in her life. Endings and beginnings may be thrust upon her or she can take an active part in taking down the old way of being to make room for the new.

Transformation can occur when Louise recognises her past can impact decisions in the future. The impact of the past can be invisible and when she attempts change it may be superficial because the change isn't addressing the deeper issues. Astrology helps make these things visible which gives power of choice. If she frees herself of these things and chooses to design her life based in future aspirations, real transformation can occur with apparently little effort.

It requires significant will (Sun) and strength (Mars) for Louise to let go of everything she has become attached to, even if it is holding her back.

Louise's chart has a favourable pattern for endings and letting go (or symbolic events of death), this allows for real transformation. The counterpoint is the Libra desire for balance and keeping everything in harmony that could cause her to remain in the status quo instead of precipitating the new beginning.

The family members' behaviour around the inheritance presents an opportunity to recast those relationships. Instead of the inheritance being harmful to the relationships, it may create the opportunity to reshape them on an adult to adult basis instead of adult to child basis.<sup>9</sup>

If Louise has always thought that she was responsible (Saturn) for harmony and keeping the peace, (Libra) then her history could dictate her future (Lunar Nodes) by giving the inheritance away to maintain peace and harmony. She may want to think about being accountable for her growth and development by choosing constructive change (North Node in Scorpio) and releasing whatever causes stagnation and low energy and accepting support from others including ideas, money and opportunities (including her late husband's inheritance, which was his choice and gift to her to allow her to create the next phase of life). (North Node 8<sup>th</sup> House). She may experience pain through contemplating her hopes and wishes for the future (Chiron in 11<sup>th</sup> House). She will need to be aware of the psychology of other family members but she is not responsible for it. They are accountable for their responses.

A possible view the children could hold is an unfortunate interpretation that they think the size of the gratuity in a will equals the amount of love held by their late father. She may have to separate the love he had for all the family from the inheritance. This could contaminate the relationship and is based on their perception, and not her action.

It may be best if she tries to be open to partnering for merging power with others and not abdicate her rights. She may need to try to leave behind an attachment to comfort and a tendency to stubbornness and only doing things one way, when another way could be easier. (South Node in Taurus in 2<sup>nd</sup> House).

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<sup>9</sup> (Bridges, Transitions)

What we've discovered is that the patterns revealed in her chart may influence how she behaves during this time of change. With the insights gained she now has more power (Sun sextiles Pluto) and choice to navigate the current situation without compromising her rights or values.

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