

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 1st ♃ cycle); fulfilment of responsibility and dharma to family/society (29-58 2nd ♃ cycle) and gaining authority and wisdom (58-84 3rd ♃ 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 89.¹ Following is an astro-psychological human soul development time-line from 0-84 years:-

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

7-9: The 1st ♃ 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.² 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

¹ p106: Environmental Cosmology

² p20: Eagle & the Lark

to the challenge of hard work while another crumbles at 'facing the facts'. The 1st ♃ waning Δ (8) helps the child integrate and take advantage of learning gained through the ♃ ♀ and teachings of the ♃ □ coupled with further expansion at the 1st ♃ waning □ (9). The 1st ♃ waning 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 1st ♃ return and liberates a zeal for self-improvement. Experiences now help to adjust previous attitudes and expectations.³ 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 1st ♃ ♀ raises the bar on the maturity pre-requisite at high school. The seeds sewn 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.⁴

15-18: The 2nd ♃ waxing □ at 15 marks the formation of a private identity facilitated by social withdrawal and disassociation from parents.⁵ By the 2nd ♃ ♀ 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 1st ♃ waning 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 1st ♃ 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 1st ♃ waning □. 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 2nd ♃ waning □ encourages a professional persona, success priorities and the inspiration for journeys and travel. By the 2nd ♃ 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 1st ♃ return the 'fairy tale' ends and beliefs in 'happily ever after' crumble.⁶ 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

³ p293: Exploring Jupiter

⁴ p20: Eagle & the Lark

⁵ p109: Environmental Cosmology

⁶ p20: Eagle & the Lark

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

36: Like having your wheels tapped, the 2nd ♃ waxing □ checks-in to consolidate the individual's choices made at the 1st ♃ 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 3rd ♃ return encourages active engagement in following one's calling, trailed by the 2nd ♃ waxing Δ to make the necessary adjustments to keep on track. For some this phase may coincide with the 1st ♃ 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 1st ♃ 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 1st ♃ return). When life achievements have not met with expectations there's a replanning of the life course.⁷ 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 4th ♃ augments this process, encouraging the collaboration of grandiose ideas and exchange of knowledge. The 1st ♃ 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 2nd ♃ to re-enforce the re-evaluation and assessment of all that has been built since the 1st ♃ return. In difference to the 1st ♃, 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 4th ♃ return and 2nd ♃ waning Δ the energies support profiteering from the application of hard work and wisdom.

50: The 1st ♃ return marks the movement and release from emotional and mental issues into proclivity for soul enlightenment.⁸ 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 1st ♃ waxing □ (5-23.5), ♃ (20-37) and waning □ (30-42). Simultaneously, the 2nd ♃ waning □ supports severance from outdated established patterns of behaviour with the chance to establish spiritual maturity.

58-60: The 2nd ♃ 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

⁷ p20: Eagle & the Lark

⁸ p199 Chiron Rainbow Bridge between the Inner and Outer Planets

with release from responsibilities or distress from a perceived wasted life.⁹ The 5th ♃ 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 1st ♃ 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 6th ♃ ♁ encourages the formation of retirement alliances and fellowship among peers based on exchanging experiences and beliefs. By 66 the 3rd ♃ 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 3rd ♃ waxing △ at 69 a trust in fate can be embodied.

72 & 79: The 3rd ♃ ♁ at 72, waning △ at 78 and waning □ at 79 continue the storyline of disengaging old attitudes and responsibilities.¹⁰ 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 6th ♃ 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 1st ♃ ♁ 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 7th ♃ return coupled with the 1st ♃ return increases focus on self-improvement and the revival of philosophical, religious and cultural interests.

Word count: 1681

⁹ p21 Eagle and the Lark

¹⁰ p88 Saturn in Transit

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