

Section 1 Question 5**Female: Born 18 March 1964, 1:43pm at Sydney, NSW Australia**

The Sun is in a dissociate conjunction with Mercury. Discuss how this may affect this woman's ability in expressing the essential core of her being and the key areas that will be affected. Using this aspect only, the house they reside in and the rulership houses only.

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." — Anaïs Nin¹

The dissociate conjunction in this woman's chart between the Sun (in Pisces) and Mercury (in Aries) has a separating orb of 4 degrees and 44 minutes, so is close enough, in a degree sense, to be conjunct. Some astrologers disregard dissociated aspects as they consider them to be contradictory to the relationship of their signs. For example, where a conjunction is of the same sign, the two planets are said to merge and fuse together, and the merging is akin to producing another "different" planet, but with the same motivation and style (sign, element and mode) as the two original planets. It may be harder to analyse such a conjunction when the two planets have different signs, elements and modes, however Ibn Ezra (12th Century text) himself wrote that whilst it was traditional to consider planets to not be in conjunction when in different signs, he himself disagreed with the traditionalists². We will consider how this conjunct aspect (between the Sun in Pisces and Mercury in Aries) might affect this woman's ability in expressing the essential core of her being and the key areas of her life that might be impacted.

The Piscean Sun native is generally known for their subjectivity – the mutability of this deep watery sign sees a person greatly influenced by their own

¹ 'Snapshot' <https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7190.Ana_s_Nin> [accessed 2 March 2019].

² 'The Classical Origin and Traditional Use of Aspects by Deborah Houlding' <<http://www.skyscript.co.uk/aspects.html#ado>> [accessed 3 March 2019].

personal feelings, tastes and opinions, and sometimes things exist in their own minds rather than being an actuality in the external material world. Steven Forrest describes Pisces as having “an instinctive awareness of higher levels of consciousness”³, and of being able to express themselves in countless different ways. This woman has the Sun and Mercury conjunction in the 9th house of higher education (higher mind), religion and faith, long journeys; dreams, visions; and learning⁴. It is also associated with fate, destiny and the will of the gods⁵, which are sacrificial topics that can attract a Pisces imagination. The receptiveness and impressionability of a Piscean Sun can easily find itself overtaken (or “contaminated”⁶) by other planets in aspect to it, and is therefore why we need to consider the Mercury/Sun conjunction for this woman.

The Sun is the ruler of the 2nd house (Leo on the cusp). With the ruler of the 2nd house in the 9th, creating security and attachments (2nd house) for this woman will involve using her mind in the pursuit of higher knowledge (9th house), which is probably for the benefit of mirroring (Pisces) learnings as teachings (9th house) back out into the world. Wherever Pisces is on the cusp of a house suggests an area where the person has had to contend with a certain amount of sacrifice or suffering. Perhaps this woman has had to forgo real-life journeys (9th house) and has instead undertaken a high degree of study or learning (9th house), which may also be suggested through Mercury being ruler of the 3rd house (of communications, siblings, short journeys) and 12th house (of sorrow, service to others, charity and escapism).

³ Steven Forrest, *The Inner Sky: How to Make Wise Choices for a More Fulfilling Life* (Borrego Springs, CA: Seven Paws Press, 2012).

⁴ William Lilley, *Christian Astrology* (Facs. London: Regulus, 1985).

⁵ Deborah Houlding, *The House: Temples of the Sky* (Bournemouth, England: The Wessex Astrology Ltd., 2006).

⁶ Sue Tompkins and Inc OverDrive, *The Contemporary Astrologer's Handbook*, 2010
<<http://link.overdrive.com/?websiteID=243&titleID=515847>> [accessed 3 March 2019].

We leave the mystique of Pisces there to look at Mercury. We know that Mercury is what we think about, what we talk about and how we talk, and it can also be the way other planets' messages are communicated (depending on aspects, planetary positions, etc.) to the outside world. The ruler of the 3rd house (which is Mercury as Virgo is on the cusp of the 3rd house) in the 9th house suggests that this woman would love to discuss all those topics that transcend the average normal day-to-day happenings, like philosophy, distant lands and religious matters. The knowledge that is gleaned from daily experiences with family, school life, neighbours, friends, and education in general (3rd house) is raised to a higher level of consciousness for inspiration to others and "probing of the grander mysteries" (the 9th house)⁷. Add in that Mercury is also ruler of the 12th house (with Gemini on the cusp), and she would also want to discuss mystical secrets and topics of deeper meaning. This 9th house merging of the Piscean Sun with the ruler of both the 3rd and 12th houses might over emphasise this woman's subjective tendencies. Nothing we have discussed so far has indicated a way to bring some objectivity into her world-view, and with the ruler of the 3rd house in the 9th house, there is also a chance that communication could be thwarted by an inclination to react to what she thinks others' intentions are rather than to what they actually said (taking the 3rd house reality into the 9th house of perceptions).

Missing objectivity could in some way be alleviated through the Mercury in Aries. If we think about the merging energies of a conjunction aspect – an Arian Mercury (without this conjunction) might generally be known to jump to conclusions prematurely, but in key areas of 9th house matters, this woman identifies (Sun) with the knowledge and understanding (Pisces) she has garnered throughout her

⁷ Houlding.

experiences, and whilst it might seem to others that she has made a leap of faith, she could in fact back-up any point of view she makes (9th house), she just may not see the need to (Aries), nor might she have the time (Aries).

Regardless of the difference between Aries and Pisces, this woman's way of thinking and communicating (Mercury) is tied (in conjunct) to her ego and sense of self - the core of her being (Sun). She will tend to communicate (Mercury) forcefully and without beating around the bush (Aries), and yet her communications (Mercury) will have at their core (Sun) a sense of humanity that wishes to do no harm – a Piscean empathy for others' feelings. She will most probably enjoy (Sun) and excel (Mercury in Aries) in intellectual discussions (Mercury in the 9th house) around all things concerned with higher consciousness (Pisces), and may in fact teach or mentor (9th house) in such subjects, which can greatly assist in bringing about greater objectivity for her.

Word Count: 1079

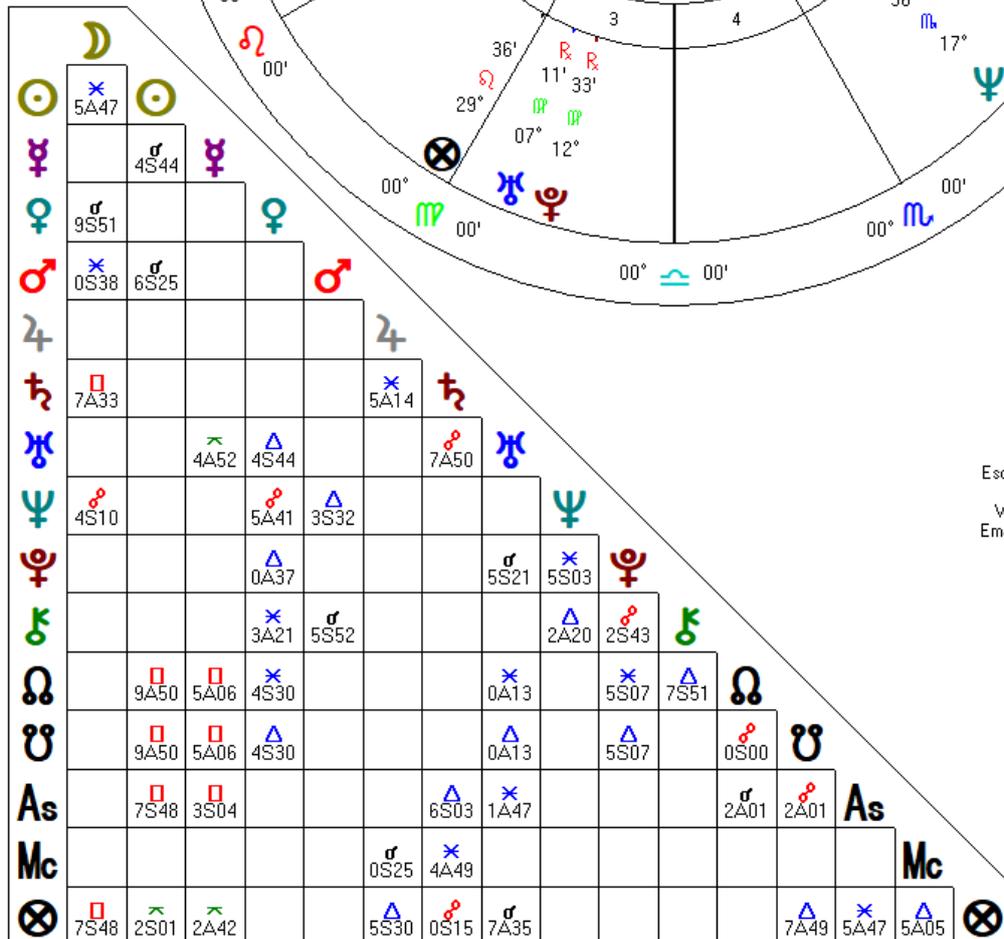
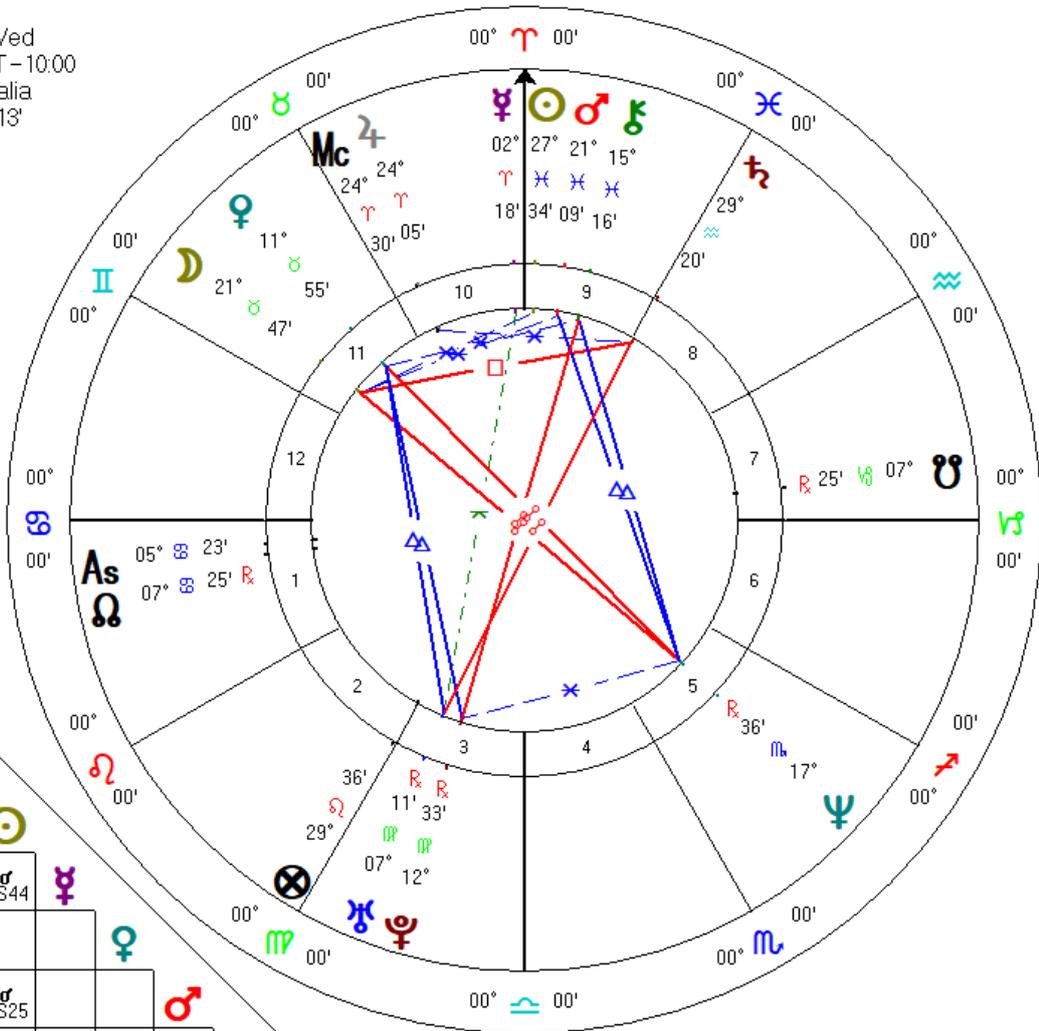
Appendices

A - Chart

2019 Exam Section 1

Natal Chart

18 Mar 1964, Wed
 1:43 pm AEST - 10:00
 Sydney, Australia
 33°S 52° 15'E 13'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Whole Signs
 True Node



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