

**Section 2 Question 3****Calvin: born 27 October 2000, 0:44am, Sydney, NSW AEDT -11 Hours**

Calvin has just graduated from school receiving a Higher School Certificate. Since early childhood he has wanted to join the Police Force and work towards becoming a Detective. He has recently applied for, and accepted, a Radio Technician apprenticeship. This 4-year mining apprenticeship will entail underground working conditions. Although he is excited by the prospect, he is experiencing a sense of loss of his long-held dream and hopes he has not made a mistake.

*What do you think Calvin's aptitude is like for the work he will now undertake and what are the potential challenges/pitfalls he may encounter? What insights into his character can you give him that will enable him to achieve a smoother transition from school to workplace?*

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*"The need for young people to imagine and identify their own career aspirations represents a key underpinning of them developing self-esteem. Young people often require additional emotional and psychological supports to clarify and distil these goals because they lack the social, economic and personal experience required to conceptualise realistic goals and identify the steps required to achieve them."<sup>1</sup>*

When we think back to what we wanted to be when growing up we often remember that we put a name to it like "an astronaut" or "a hairdresser", which when we told the grown-up who asked us, would have put a mental picture in their head based on their experience of that "career" or "job", which probably did not match our child-like view of what we thought we wanted to be. For the child astronaut, perhaps

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<sup>1</sup> 'Young-People-Transition-to-Work-Report.Pdf'  
<<https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/~media/files/research/reports/young-people-transition-to-work-report.ashx?la=en>> [accessed 23 March 2019].

he saw the floating around with no gravity fun and was expressing his desire to be able to feel free from gravity and “fly”. Perhaps the little girl had witnessed how her normally quiet and sad mother was so talkative and happy at the hairdressers and she wanted to be able to make her mother be like that more often. These are feelings that we, when young, attributed to something we saw, and in our childlike language encapsulated in a picture that meant something to us. As that little boy astronaut matures, he may discover he does not have the aptitude to undergo the degree of mathematical and engineering education needed to become an astronaut, but he will still have the feeling (conscious or unconscious) of wanting to be free of gravity and be able to “fly”.

As astrologers we find these desires in the client’s chart in various ways, and whilst there seems to be as many methods for insight into vocation as there are astrologers (not really, but there are a lot), all agree that the Midheaven is key to discussions with the client regarding any question about their vocation. The three earth houses, or the “houses of substance”<sup>2</sup>, the 2nd, 6th and 10th houses, represent both psychological and literal facets of our everyday lives and are therefore also important to appreciate when delving into vocational questions.

Calvin is experiencing the coming of age experiences that challenge young people as they transition to work. This includes leaving school, which also means leaving behind friendship groups and the norms that one is used to, and making decisions about life and career, and preparing for the personal, emotional and psychological journey of moving from late adolescence to early adulthood. As a counselling astrologer I would be honoured to be a support for Calvin in this transition and in this essay will provide some insights into his character that might

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<sup>2</sup> Brian Clark, *VOCATION: The Astrology of Career, Creativity and Calling*. (Tasmania, Australia: Astro Synthesis, 2016).

smooth the transition for him. I will also provide some understanding of his deeper needs in a vocational sense, to recall his inner child's feeling for wanting to "join the Police Force to become a detective", and how that feeling can still be fulfilled vocationally.

There is balance in Calvin's chart (refer to Appendix A) that straight away gives us a sense of his ability to see all sides of a situation and "fit in" to society (balanced hemispheres and quadrants, as well as no strong over or under emphasis in modes or elements). Having fixed and cardinal signs on the axes (Taurus MC/Scorpio IC and Cancer Asc/Capricorn Desc) Calvin would be experienced by others as someone who can start (cardinal) and finish (fixed) tasks, especially so with his Sun in fixed Scorpio and Moon in cardinal Libra as well. We would expect this mixture to bring out some stubbornness in Calvin. There is mutability in his chart to temper this, particularly in regards to the rulers of the fixed axis signs (Venus, ruler of Taurus, in Sagittarius, and Mars, ruler of Scorpio, in Virgo), and we probably see him do this most when he feels the need to stand up for what he believes in, when his principles or value system (Taurus) are questioned or threatened.

Calvin's inner mission in life (his Scorpio Sun) is to dive into the depths of humanity's soul, and to deal with matters that others find difficult to talk about (taboo subjects). Paired with a Libran Moon (conjunct in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house), he will undertake this practice in a more kindly, supportive and adaptable manner than some other Scorpio Suns might do. Using tact and diplomacy (Libra), and a dash (or a dash more) of persuasion (Scorpio), Calvin will normally be able to get people to do what he wants. The Moon is also ruler of his Cancer Ascendant, thus the mask (Asc) that Calvin projects to the outside world is also his shield that he needs to put up to protect himself sometimes (sensitivity is evident when Cancer is on the Asc, ruled by the Moon, which for Calvin is in Libra, indicating the need for peace and harmony).

Scorpio (natural ruler of the 8<sup>th</sup> house) and Libra (natural ruler of the 7<sup>th</sup> house) both value relationships, and their placement in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house suggests the urge to continually relate and communicate and to consider the thoughts and desires of close friends and family members when making decisions and taking actions.

There are a couple of themes standing out in Calvin's chart that we will discuss regarding his aptitude for the work he will be undertaking, and the potential challenges/pitfalls he may encounter. The first centres around Taurus on the Midheaven, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> houses, which through aspects and rulerships bring in Saturn (responsibility and structure, and in accidental dignity in the 10<sup>th</sup> house of reputation), Venus (as ruler of both the MC and the Moon), and a t-square between the Midheaven, the Sun and Mercury, and Neptune in the 7<sup>th</sup> house. As well as being the focal planet of the t-square, Neptune is dominant in Calvin's chart because it has the most aspects (7 major ones including to 4 personal planets), and yet it does not rule any house as Pisces is intercepted in the 8<sup>th</sup> house, indicating possible blocks (could be denial) to natural psychic (Pisces) abilities. The second theme is connected to the other intercepted sign, Virgo in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house, and centres around Mercury (ruler of Virgo and the 11<sup>th</sup> house) and its Mutual Reception (Mars in Virgo and Mercury in Scorpio) with Mars, co-ruler of Scorpio.

If we return to Calvin's expressed desire to be a detective in the police force and if we were to ask him what draws him to such a job, he might divulge he had a heroic image (10<sup>th</sup> house persona) of detectives who stuck to their purpose (Taurus) and caught the bad guys. The camaraderie with groups (11<sup>th</sup> house) having similar values (Taurus on the cusp of the 11<sup>th</sup> house) that comes across in the crime television shows he probably enjoys (Venus, ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> houses in the 5<sup>th</sup> house) may have also attracted him. Listening to Calvin when he talks about this childhood desire is the only way we will really know what it was that inspired him

though. With the ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup> house in the house of fun (5<sup>th</sup> house), his social position (10<sup>th</sup> house) is not as important to him as pleasurable experiences (5<sup>th</sup> house), and he may encounter conflict when he acts in a way that is contrary to how society expects him to (10<sup>th</sup> house). Although as he ages and matures, he will grow into his responsible roles (Saturn) and be possibly known for his tremendous patience (Saturn in Taurus). Venus in the 5<sup>th</sup> house is also the ruler of the way Calvin thinks and plans, and his need to examine and arrange facts (3<sup>rd</sup> house), which he needs to do to cultivate his self-confidence and feel accomplished (5<sup>th</sup> house) - (Venus, ruler of the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> houses, placed in the 5<sup>th</sup> house).

It is like there is something occurring in the background of Calvin's life with his Saturn being on the Anaretic degree of Taurus (the 29<sup>th</sup> degree) . Being in the last degree of a sign (and for Calvin, also the degree of the change over between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> houses), gives the flavour of that next sign to the planet. Whilst responsibility (Saturn) would be an important concept for Calvin's life (accidentally dignified and in the 10<sup>th</sup> house of image), he may also gradually feel the need to "move on" (feeling the need to express Saturn in Gemini rather than Taurus) and want to gain mastery (Saturn) over words (Gemini), or to become professionally involved (10<sup>th</sup> house) in a field requiring specific technical knowledge (Gemini)<sup>3</sup>. This bodes well for his having accepted the Radio Technician apprenticeship as it can fulfil his Saturn's urge to be more progressive (become a bit more Geminian).

Contemplating the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> houses will provide us hints as to Calvin's natural approach to vocation. The elements of the signs on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> houses will normally (without interceptions) be incompatible with the Ascendant, so they can be considered as representing "tension that shapes and modifies the

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<sup>3</sup> Carole Taylor and Keith Hagan, *Astrology: Using the Wisdom of the Stars in Your Everyday Life*, 2018.

personality”<sup>4</sup>. With interceptions in his chart, Calvin has a combination of fire (Leo on 2<sup>nd</sup> house cusp and Sagittarius on 6<sup>th</sup> house cusp) and earth (Taurus on 10<sup>th</sup> house cusp) which blends an approach of visionary courage and competitiveness (fire) with pragmatism and seriousness (earth). The 2<sup>nd</sup> house indicates how we can naturally use our talents and resources. Calvin’s self-worth (2<sup>nd</sup> house) depends upon being valued for his creativity, charisma and ability to express himself (Leo). The qualities of confidence and self-expression (Leo) might however be blocked in some way for Calvin with Virgo intercepted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house. Two separate sets of needs (Leo and Virgo) are placed in his house of self-worth (the 2<sup>nd</sup>) – the need to analyse and discriminate so that information and resources have a practical application (Virgo) is a hidden (intercepted) need that needs to be unlocked.

The ruler of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> houses (family, roots and creativity and fun), intercepted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house (Mars, co-ruler of Scorpio, in Virgo) suggests a possible early critical environment (Mars ruler of 4<sup>th</sup> house) where Calvin may have felt that he could never do anything right (critical side of Virgo), or he may have been discouraged to analyse (Virgo) anything and pushed to “just do as you’re told” (Mars). The impact of this might be seen in repressed anger or fear (Mars trine Saturn). Calvin may limit, restrict or try to control (Saturn) the way he asserts himself (Mars), which is the easiest (South Node) way for him to react (Mars trine the South Node) when challenged. The expression of Mars is very quiet in Calvin’s chart (only two major aspects, both trines, one to Saturn and one to the South Node, and intercepted in Virgo in 2<sup>nd</sup> house), and yet it is in a pair with Mercury (mutual reception) as the final dispositor of the chart (using traditional rulerships). Mercury however has a significant role to play in Calvin’s chart.

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<sup>4</sup> Clark.

With six major aspects to it, being the natural ruler of the 3<sup>rd</sup> house in which the Sun and Moon reside, ruler of Gemini in which Jupiter (ruler of the 6<sup>th</sup> house, and ruler of intercepted sign Pisces in the 8<sup>th</sup> house) is in detriment, ruler of intercepted sign (Virgo), and in a t-square with the Midheaven, Mercury definitely leads a theme for Calvin, linking vocation to it throughout. He will display an intense and perceptive (Scorpio) mind (Mercury), communicating (Mercury) in a way that demonstrates intuition and empathy (water). This position has classically been called the “detective mind” and is coupled with inquisitiveness, being shrewd, analytical and having a good memory (Scorpio Mercury). He might often feel different from others (Uranus) due to his unique (Uranus) mental processes (Mercury), he could however have sudden (Uranus) flashes of insight (Mercury) and be good at repair and design of technological or electronic (Uranus) communication equipment (Mercury), showing an aptitude for learning (Mercury) to be a Radio Technician (Uranus) (Mercury square Uranus).

Knowledge will be important to Calvin (Sun conjunct Mercury) and he may have experienced an intellectual home-life (Mercury in the 4<sup>th</sup> house), lots of books in the home for example. With the Sun and Mercury conjunct, Calvin will tend to identify strongly with what is called the “rational” mind - what he thinks and says will merge with his ego’s sense of self (Sun)<sup>5</sup>. What he may find though is that his attitude (Mercury/Sun) may not match with others’ expectations of him (square the MC), which can recall childhood thoughts on insecurities (Mercury in the 4<sup>th</sup> house). Calvin’s sensitivity (Neptune) to what the world thinks of him (square the MC) makes it difficult (the t-square) for him to see people as they really are (7<sup>th</sup> house Neptune). What he may not know about himself is that he yearns (Neptune) for a perfect

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<sup>5</sup> Sue Tompkins, *Aspects in Astrology: A Comprehensive Guide to Interpretation* (London: Rider, 2001).

connection (Neptune, in Aquarius, in the 7<sup>th</sup> house, and ruling Pisces intercepted in the 8<sup>th</sup> house), and he is pursuing this intellectually (Mercury) as well as at a soul level (Sun). What the t-square (Neptune in square to MC and Sun/Mercury) is producing (and will produce) in Calvin is a nagging feeling that there is something more that he is missing out on, and/or that he is on the wrong path. The Sabian Symbol for the empty place opposite Neptune is 3 degrees Leo which Mark Edmund Jones labels “a woman having her hair bobbed....when positive, the degree is exceptionally effective self-mobilisation for the sake of personal ambition, and when negative, wholly inadequate appreciation for the self and its destiny.”<sup>6</sup>

In counselling Calvin, I would point out to him the normality, both for him (Neptune in the t-square), as well as for all young people going through this time in their life, of feeling at a bit of a loss. We have discussed that there are indications in his chart of being a great detective (Sun and Mercury in Scorpio and their aspects), and that there is also positive placements and aspects that we have discussed for his undertaking the apprenticeship (Mercury/Uranus). I'd hope that my session with Calvin demonstrates that vocation in life is a journey on which he is just beginning, and I would also point out that the police force rarely employs straight out of high-school graduates - that some of the key attributes they look for when recruiting are life and work experiences as well as established skills<sup>7</sup>, which his apprenticeship in the mines will provide to him.

Finally, how he can apply himself to everyday tasks (6<sup>th</sup> house) is to have faith that the journey he is about to undertake (his vocational pathway) will, and is supposed to, broaden his mind (Sagittarius on the 6<sup>th</sup> house cusp). He has the

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<sup>6</sup> Marc Edmund Jones, *The Sabian Symbols in Astrology: Illustrated by 1000 Horoscopes of Well Known People* (Santa Fe, N.M: Aurora Press, 1993).(p. 272)

<sup>7</sup> corporateName: Queensland Police Service and jurisdiction: Queensland, 'Queensland Police Service' <<http://www.policerecruit.qld.gov.au/recruitEntry/>> [accessed 24 March 2019].

mental faculty (Mercury in Scorpio) and staying power (Saturn in Taurus) to become a qualified Radio Technician, and even though it might be tough he will cope (Scorpio Sun's life purpose is to develop resilience<sup>8</sup>, and Pluto wants to experience the underworld journey into human life), and he should enjoy (Venus in the 5<sup>th</sup> house) the travel and experience (Sagittarius) of this next stage of his life.

**Word Count: 2695**

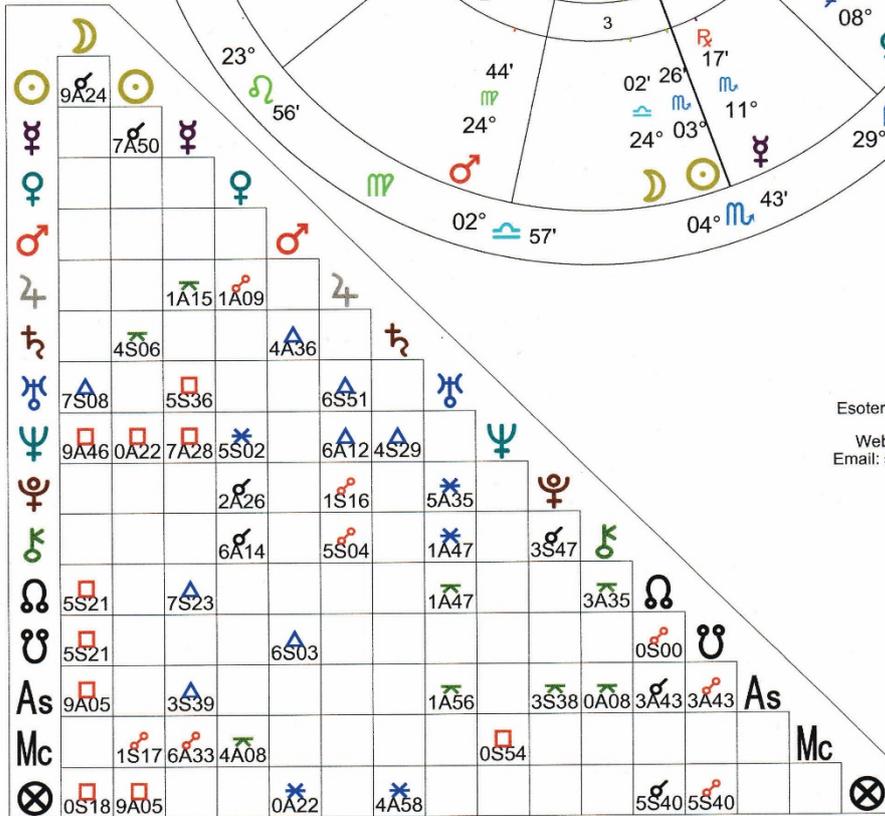
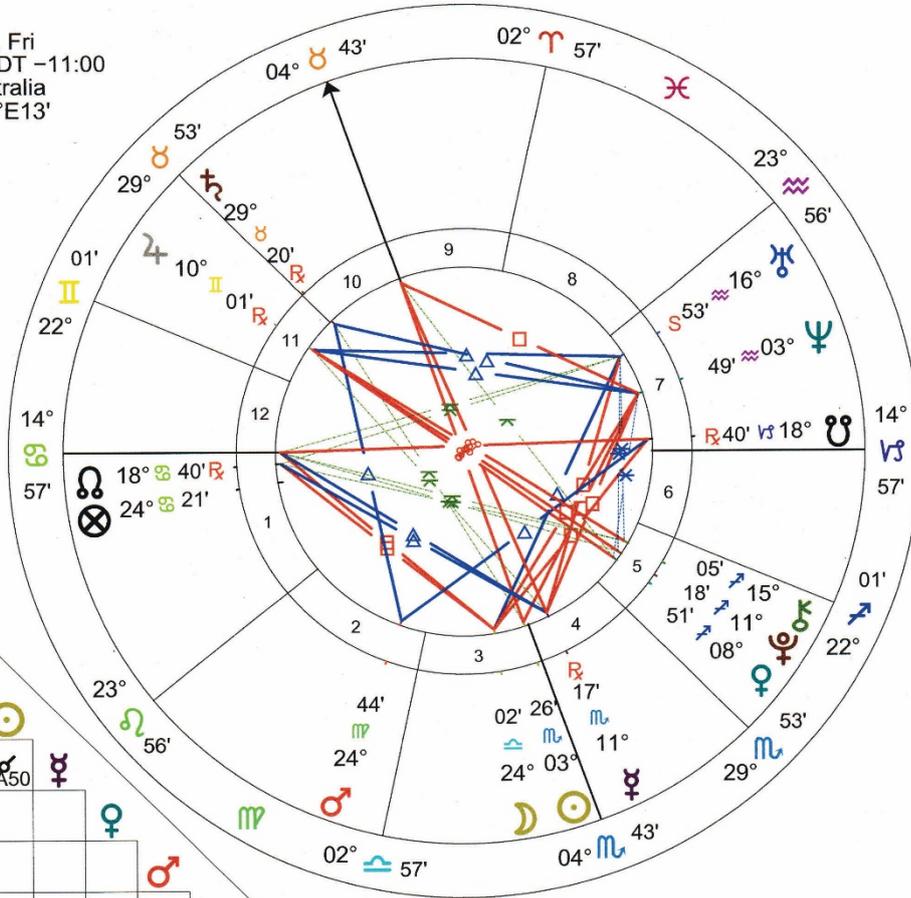
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<sup>8</sup> Taylor and Hagan.

Appendices

A - Chart

Calvin  
 Male Chart  
 27 Oct 2000, Fri  
 0:44 am AEDT -11:00  
 Sydney, Australia  
 33°S52' 151°E13'  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 True Node



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