

2016 Relationship & Specialist Techniques Examination

Candidate Number 216202

Section Two Question Two



Fixed Stars



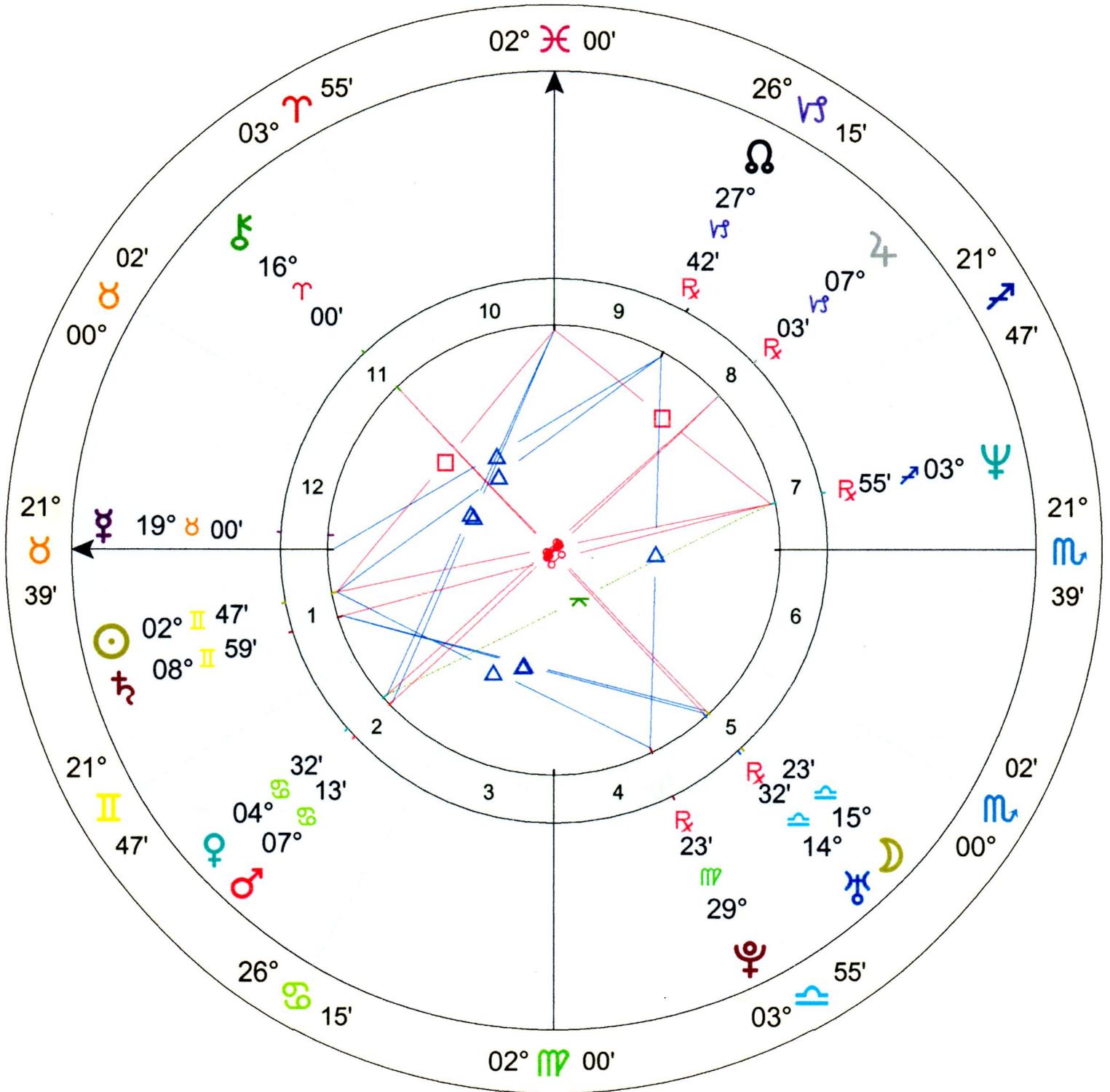
Poppy King

Natal Chart

24 May 1972, Wed
6:30 am AEST -10:00
Melbourne, Australia
37°S49' 144°E58'

Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node

Compliments of:-



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Question Two
Fixed Stars

Poppy King: 24 May 1972, 6.30 am Melbourne, Australia
ASC close to 22 Taurus

Poppy King was 18 when she launched her cosmetics company, Poppy Industries. Her rich, opaque lipsticks in the Seven Deadly Sins range were immensely popular, with Lust and Gluttony making their way into women's handbags Australia wide. In her first 8 months she made AUS \$1 million. By 1995 Poppy Industries was worth AUS \$6.5 million with King receiving the Young Australian of the Year award as well as being named a 'Global Leader for the New Millennium' by Time magazine. King has stated "Nothing is as empowering as lipstick. Not only does it brighten up my face it fires up my confidence."

All the Royal Stars of Persia offer the possibility of glory and success but each as a particular challenge that must be overcome. Poppy King has Aldebaran by ecliptic longitude conjunct her Saturn.

Discuss the significance of Aldebaran in astrology and its possible effect and influence in Poppy's life.

In order to understand Poppy's journey we first need to understand the nature of Fixed Stars.

The constellations in our Milky Way represent the ongoing cycle of life with our Sun moving ever so slowly through the zodiac. When the concept of time was first conceived by our minds, we became aware of the movement in the heavens.

Myths and stories were created, rich in symbolism of gods and goddesses that through the precession of the equinox, explain the passing of time and the change from one epoch to another.

The myths that represent each 'great age' are the keepers of a story in which the history of humanity is recorded. Astrology may be a key to unlocking these stories and therefore the fixed stars are the timekeepers and the holders of ancient knowledge.

"The precessional measure of the Sun marks the birth and death of races, nations and their religions, for the pictorial Zodiac is a symbolic representation of our past, present and future development." ¹

The fixed star of Aldebaran (9° Gemini) is one of the four Royal Stars of Persia from the constellation of Taurus. The 'guardians of the Sky' or 'Archangel Stars' symbolise the two equinoxes and two solstices when it marked the spring equinox.

Aldebaran is the brightest star of Taurus and is the bull's right eye. Ptolemy refers to the star as 'the Torch' both because of its bright red colour and also its prominence as a 'bull's eye' or target.

In mythology, Aldebaran was the god Mithras, who slayed the cosmic bull. Mithras was a great military god who gave victories to his followers but only if they followed the strictest procedure in his worship.

1. Heindel, Max. Page 7, *The Message of the Stars*,

As he was a warrior king who also bore the title 'lord of contracts', he considered all exchanges as sacred and therefore oversaw the business of his followers, insisting on their honesty and purity, failing which the follower was condemned to an ordeal of fire.²

Aldebaran is a powerful star and offers the possibility of wealth, fame, recognition and prestige. However there is enormous responsibility attached to the fame that it brings. The challenge is one of **integrity** and honour. Greatness can be achieved but the individual will be challenged on issues of **integrity** and purity of their thoughts and dealings. Just as the rewards are great, so is the fall if they fail the test. They will lose everything³. **Integrity** is about being honest. It is an adherence to ethical principles and living by a moral compass that doesn't waver.

Let's see how the star Aldebaran has been instrumental in Poppy King's life.

Poppy King was an 18 year old school girl in 1991 when she decided to design, produce and sell her own range of lipsticks. In 1992 Poppy Industries was launched in Melbourne, Australia.

Aldebaran is at 9°24 Gemini conjunct Saturn (8°59 Gemini) in Poppy's natal chart. This link to Poppy will have a lasting effect on her life. It relates to how she builds her life and expresses itself in issues of leadership.⁴

² & ³ Brady, Bernadette, Page 233, *Brady's Book of Fixed Stars*
⁴ Brady, Bernadette, Page 41, *Brady's Book of Fixed Stars*

Saturn rules Poppy's 9th House (Capricorn on cusp) and is also the traditional ruler of Aquarius intercepted in the 9th House. So issues concerning overseas travel, foreigners, places for seeking guidance and wisdom from others, higher learning, publishing and law will all impact Poppy through her life. Saturn is connected to the reality of running a business and having the discipline to know the rules and limits involved. Saturn in the 1st House can make Poppy ambitious and industrious. Saturn was the vehicle through which Poppy was tested to uphold standards of integrity.

Saturn conjunct the Sun can give her the self-discipline and self-confidence to achieve the greatness suggested by Aldebaran.

In 1992 she launched the Seven Virtues range of lipsticks named Ambition, Courage, Inspiration, **Integrity**, Virtue, Liberty and Unity.

It wasn't long before this range was renamed after the Seven Deadly Sins - Pride, Envy, Wrath, Gluttony, Lust, Sloth and Greed. This may have been clever marketing or a subconscious reflection of inner tension with her values.

Ptolemy states that Aldebaran has the nature of Mars⁵. In Poppy's chart Mars is in its Fall located in her 2nd House of finances and values. This could have given Poppy the emotional energy (Mars in Cancer) for embarking on a business career (Mars trine Midheaven). The Aldebaran nature of Mars conjunct Venus would give Poppy the strength to be both charming and assertive. In the 2nd House it would test her values and therefore her integrity.

5. Brady, Bernadette, Page 231, *Brady's Book of Fixed Stars*

Mars is a fiery planet. Poppy lacks the element of Fire in her chart with only the planet Neptune in the fire sign of Sagittarius. However it is retrograde and opposite Saturn, the planet through which she expresses Aldebaran. She may need to give discipline to her artistic side in order for both her rational and creative sides to be balanced.

By 1995 Poppy was at the height of success. Poppy Industries was worth 6.5 million AUD and Poppy was named Young Australian of the Year. She became the poster girl for entrepreneurial success.

“Amid this amazing national acclaim, I worked to maintain my **integrity**. I really tried to treat all this praise with deference and dignity.”⁶

She became involved in the movement for Australia to become a republic and alienated many customers who did not share her support for the cause. Her restless and versatile Gemini Sun was coming to the fore as she spent time campaigning and travelling on speaking tours. “Without thinking of the consequences I started weighing in on weighty matters well outside the fashion and cosmetics arena.”⁷

6. Lessons of a Lipstick Queen, page 256 (Kindle)

7. Lessons of a Lipstick Queen, page 196 (Kindle)

This is interesting because William Lilly also describes Aldebaran as having the influence of Mars when he states: “....to be fierce, full of courage, to delight in military affairs, unquiet, seditious”⁸ (*seditious means to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch*).

By 1997 financiers had invested \$3.5 million in the business to expand the range into the US market (9th House). By 1998 she was in the headlines for the wrong reasons as legal (9th House) disputes with her business partners turned ugly. As mentioned earlier, Aldebaran would express itself in Poppy’s life through issues with leadership. “I wish I’d known at the start of the partner search – that what I really needed was expertise rather than finance.”⁹ The partnership collapsed and the business verged on the brink of collapse too. Later that year the business was sold. Poppy was retained as the CEO, however by 2002 the company had gone into receivership and Poppy Industries was dissolved. Then ASIC investigated claims that the company had traded while insolvent, however a formal investigation was dropped. Poppy had turned 30 years old and had experienced her first Saturn return. It was a sobering reality check.

Aldebaran shows the moral dilemmas that Poppy needed to face that challenged her integrity. This star brings success which Poppy certainly achieved. It shows courage that Poppy certainly had. However temptations to compromise her position and go against her integrity in her commercial dealings showed that achievements gained were also rapidly lost. She commented, “Doing things just for money can have a funny way of backfiring.”¹⁰

8 Lilly, William, *Christian Astrology Book 3*, Page 536

9. King, Poppy, *Lessons of a Lipstick Queen*, page 170 (Kindle)

10. King Poppy, *Lessons of a Lipstick Queen*, page 146 (Kindle)

In Gemini, Aldebaran measured Poppy's integrity through her thinking and communication. In the 1st House it acted out through her personal actions. The ruler, Mercury, in the 12th House on the ASC cusp is also the lead planet in the locomotive shape chart indicating a personality that is motivated to the point of being overbearing. Her personal communication style (Mercury in Taurus conjunct ASC) may have been practical and determined however she may have been too self-absorbed (12th House) to really think through the reality (Saturn) of the situation and the responsibilities she held to her investors and her staff.

The media attention that had assisted her rise to fame making her a national hero had turned on their target. While the company was faltering she was vilified in the newspapers and had become the 'bull's eye' in a national controversy. She experienced a modern day version of 'ordeal by fire'. This is expressed in the myth of Mithras, the warrior king, by having the suspected person run through a tunnel of fire, where their survival meant their innocence. She describes in her book daily trips to the newsagent with all onlookers staring at her.

Poppy King the person and Poppy Industries were hot news. The intense heat from public criticism of the how the company was run and gossip of her romantic relationships with two investors made living in Australia untenable for her.

In 2002 Poppy left Australia and started working as an employee for a beauty company in New York (9th House). She has remained overseas living and working in the US.

By 2008 she had launched a new company, 'Lipstick Queen' as well as having her book 'Lessons of a Lipstick Queen' published (9th House). It is part autobiography and part advice on turning dreams of starting your own company into reality.

The company, Lipstick Queen now produces a new range of Seven Deadly Sins lipsticks named Anger, Avarice, Decadence, Envy, Indolence, Lust and Vanity.

Interesting marketing again or a message from the subconscious?

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