

## 2020 Relationship & Specialist Techniques Exam

### Section 1

#### QUESTION ONE:

Sara: August 16, 1981, 2:53 am, Kogarah, NSW.

ASC close to 22 Gemini

Antonio: January 21, 1966, 11:53 pm, San Fernando, SPAIN.

ASC close to 7 Libra

Sara and Antonio who live in Kiama, NSW have been married for five years and have a one-year-old daughter. Antonio has two children, now in their twenties, from his first marriage. The step-siblings get on well and are sometimes called upon to babysit. Sara had quite a turbulent childhood, with a dominant mother who often displayed bullying and erratic behaviour. Antonio, whose parents immigrated to Australia when he was quite young, comes from a traditional family with strong customs and beliefs. They love each other deeply and generally get on very well, enjoying each other's company and sharing a passion for dance and music. Problems arise though when they are not on the same page. Small arguments, often over trivial events can suddenly become full-blown battles leaving both shattered. Then there is withdrawal, a lack of or criticising communication, with nothing accomplished or solved. They are both desperate to find better ways of dealing with their conflicts not only for their relationship but also for the benefit of their daughter.

*Using the natal charts, Synastry and the Midpoint or Derived Ascendant Composite chart, what insights can you give this couple, as to their individual strengths and weaknesses, gained from the planetary themes in their charts? How does this knowledge help raise the understanding of the defence mechanisms in play and how may they avoid, adjust or help each other overcome these patterns and achieve a more rewarding future together?*

*Never leave*

*A true relationship*

*For a few faults*

*Nobody is perfect*

*Nobody is correct*

*In the end affection*

*Is always greater*

*Than perfection !*

*Anon...*

Sara and Antonio have come to me for help in understanding their relationship that which is not working for them. The act of seeking out help voluntarily is the primary indication of their sincerity and obvious love and value they have for each other. In order to know the dynamics of their union it is imperative to know their individual horoscopes to understand physiological characteristics and personality traits. "The only way to assess charts for the purpose of comparisons is to thoroughly understand the natal horoscope first"<sup>1</sup> This of course involves inherent attributes but also learnt behaviour patterns and programming. In particular they have asked me to address conflict resolution and we will explore together their communication styles and individual needs identifying areas of tension, compatibility and longevity. These are essential for a long term

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<sup>1</sup> March & McEvers Synastry techniques. pg 86

commitment and very importantly we can also extract the humour element which can often dissolve tensions and conflict. We will look at affinities and similarities which incidentally can be problematic as well as beneficial, such as having the same or similar emotional responses especially if they happen to be in a fixed "I am not budging!" sign!

Power struggles may be occurring and these will also be investigated.

Our objective is to make conscious and direct archetypal energy and responses, in particular their communication styles and emotional reactions and the impact they have on each other and to find strategies for conflict resolution and fortifying their combined strengths, hopefully, with a good dose of humour.

Beginning with a overview of each chart.

### **Sara.**

On the onset I notice she has a majority of her planets below the horizon indicative of a private and introspective life. Her Moon is above the horizon in the 8<sup>th</sup> house which can manifest as intense, hidden or secretive needs and emotions.

Sara's mother as she explains was dominant and often displayed bullying and erratic behaviour, represented by Aries on the MC ruled by the 1<sup>st</sup> house Mars in Cancer which makes an applying square aspect to Pluto in Libra in the 4<sup>th</sup> (Home/early childhood). Pluto rules Scorpio on the cusp on the 5<sup>th</sup>, her expression of self and her joy. Could it be that which was repressed and stifled in her childhood? Sara's Aquarius Moon in the 8<sup>th</sup> opposite her Leo Sun/Mercury and squaring Uranus in Scorpio represents amongst other things, her erratic mother and the constant tension between Sara's need to be seen and

authenticated(Leo) and the apparent threat of her mother. The aspect confirms Sara's unfortunate experience of relationship with her mother and probably made her acutely sensitive to any kind of criticism and domineering behaviour in the family or home.

Sara presents as fun and playful with her Leo Sun/Mercury and as this aspect sextiles her ascendant, it is witnessed by others. Leo Sun/Mercury also trines her Neptune/Descendant in Sagittarius signalling she looks for a soul mate or a spiritual partner (Neptune) who is adventurous, and artistic. Certainly someone who can take her to new territory and of whom she can be proud.

Venus is placed in her 3<sup>rd</sup> house, echoing the importance she places on communication within a relationship and as Venus in Virgo, she is particular and willing to discussing details that are important especially around relationships and she takes pleasure in being organised, neat, is health conscious and methodical.

Her Venus squares the relationship axis and Neptune and Venus also conjuncts Saturn, suggesting she may seek perfection in a partner and likes a well organised framework around relationships. Her Jupiter is also conjunct Saturn so it may be applicable to say that Sara looks to be in a secure, structured and long-lasting relationship (Saturn/Venus) facilitating her growth (Jupiter).

Furthermore, Sara's communication and how she relates to others can be seen in the square aspect from her Leo Mercury to Uranus in Scorpio. It is probable that when the aspect is activated it could mean Sara's communication patterns, which may be learnt reflexes or responses from childhood, are repeated. Sara's Uranus in Scorpio is involved in a T-square between Sun/Mercury opposite Moon and could be seen as an intense erratic (Uranus in Scorpio) emotional

outburst (Moon in 8<sup>th</sup>) often unexpected and probably triggered by a lack of validation (Sun/Mercury Leo)

On returning to the Moon in Sara's chart, (her emotional needs and reflexes) there is a flowing configuration between her Gemini Ascendant, Pluto in Libra and her 8th house Aquarius Moon. This indicates to me the ease in which Sara can switch off or go into intense emotional defence which she has probably developed as a consequence of her mothers abuse. Also worth noting is Sara's Mars is in Cancer in the 1<sup>st</sup> quincunxing Moon, suggesting Sara does not have confidence asserting herself and is less direct, this could be a consequence of her upbringing. The square to Pluto in the 4<sup>th</sup> reiterates the emotional (4<sup>th</sup>) dominance of her mother. Sara has learnt to be covert in her actions and perhaps has developed some manipulative behaviours to achieve her desired outcomes.

### **Antonio**

There is a heavy emphasis on the element of air in his horoscope. Sun, Moon, Venus, Mars, Ascendant and the North Node and Jupiter, indicating a sociable character.

We know he has come from a traditional family with strong customs and beliefs. This is evident by his Capricorn IC with Ruling Saturn in Pisces (traditional beliefs) in the 6<sup>th</sup> (customs). Having the Saturn trine MC (mother) and trine Neptune in Scorpio in the 2<sup>nd</sup> (her values) and opposing Pluto/Uranus in Virgo in the 12<sup>th</sup>, proposes his mother, with all good intentions, may also have been controlling but in a way that is more, subtle, using the customs and beliefs of the old country.

Antonio is progressive by nature as indicated by Sun/Moon/Venus in Aquarius, however, also as a part of his psychological makeup (4<sup>th</sup>) is a very conservative Mercury in Capricorn. His programming has been one of “consequences” perhaps along with narrations of how things are “expected” to be done. Antonio’s Jupiter in Gemini is heavily aspected including being the focal point of a yod between Neptune and Mercury. It may be that Antonio has learnt to elude the conditioning of his early childhood and adjusted (quincunx) to form his own beliefs (Jupiter in the 9<sup>th</sup>). Jupiter’s implication in a T-square between Pluto/Uranus opposite Saturn indicates a strong rebellion against his parents beliefs. This aspect is supported by the Sun/Moon in a new moon phase forming a grand air trine between ascendant and North node in early degree Gemini, suggesting new ideas and a fresh approach for him. Antonio is attracted to like minded people with Venus in Aquarius and is motivated by Mars in Aquarius in the 5<sup>th</sup> house ( actively seeking playful times) ruling his 7<sup>th</sup> house cusp. In summary of Antonio, he is seeking freedom in self expression and a willingness to experiment with a partner, to learn and progress together (Mars in Aquarius trine Jupiter in Gemini). Aries on the Descendant indicates he desires a partner who is adventurous and an active participant in the relationship.

Their individual natal aspects and configuration highlights where each is sensitive and challenged and probable triggers for the conflict between them. Shown in their synastry are the Moon signs both in Aquarius, indicating their emotional needs and reactions share a likeness. This can be both positive and/or detrimental for the couple, positively manifesting as shared comfort and inner harmony or detrimental with the fixed Aquarian Moon sign prone to inflexibility and emotional detachment. Focusing further on their emotional responses

(Moon) we can refer to the individual charts to help us gain more understanding of the deeper patterns at play. Sara's has significantly more stressful aspects associated with her Moon such as Sun/Mercury opposition and the trine to Pluto aspect, which incidentally can be both beneficial or detrimental for her. Pluto/Moon configuration has the capacity to explore deep emotions or bury them in the hidden recesses of ourselves. However the flowing aspect of her Moon to her ascendant and Sun/Mercury opposition indicates her awareness of her emotional capacity and the tension it can sometimes create.

Antonio appears to have an easier time emotionally with a close conjunction between his Sun/Moon/Venus stellium .He knows how he feels, illuminates (Sun) his emotions and pleasures (Moon,/Venus) and probably illuminates Sara's as well!! Analysis of the Moon indicates emotional responses, or lack of and may result as a breakdown within the relationship. Communicating our desires and needs happens most effectively when we are comfortable, secure and in a trusting relationship which I suggest they have, sharing the same Moon sign, therefore the question is, where does their conflict lay?

Let us begin with Mercury, the communicator. Sara's is in Leo conjunct the Sun, lively, grandiose, playful in her 2<sup>nd</sup> house. Seen as her asset (2<sup>nd</sup>) Lord of her chart (Gemini ascendant) and sextiles ascendant. Gemini, again suggests lively, childlike and curious interactions and communication. Sara's primary challenge is communicating her feelings (Mercury opposite Moon) and her emotional communication may be immature and or overly dramatic (Leo). Antonio's Mercury is not quite so demonstrative, in fact his Capricorn Mercury is serious, slow, deliberate and cautious . They exhibit very different communications



styles, and their Mercury's quincunx producing conflict, tension and constant adjustment .

What they both seek in relationships and gives them pleasure is shown by Venus Sara's Venus is in Virgo, she finds pleasure in organisation, neatness precision and cleanliness (when functioning positively) She likes to be with a partner that displays these qualities. Antonio's Venus is in Aquarius, he finds pleasure in the alternative, funky perhaps, grunge and bohemian type, his freedom to express his pleasure independently and progressively. Once again we find the quincunx aspect, tension and challenges.

Mars on the other hand provides the energy that motivates and moves us. What excites us and stimulates us into action. Sara's Mars in Cancer is watery, emotional and nurturing. She fires up when presented with needs and comforts and possibly only when she feels safe to do so herself. Antonio's Mars is once again in an air sign. He is stimulated by movement and ideas and is experimental and changeable, further indicating the tensions manifest in a quincunx. Last but certainly not least is the All Mighty Sun. Sara's Sun sign is Leo in the 2<sup>nd</sup> house. She values playfulness, appreciates children and has a lively and honourable disposition. She is warm and heartfelt and with her beautiful fire trine to her Neptune descendant which graces her with imagination, sensitivity, artistic attributes and spirituality. She will be seeking out a partner on to whom she can project these qualities. Antonio's Sun Sign is Aquarius, he is typically cooler by nature, aloof or detached, cerebral with an interest in progressive ideas probably beneficial for all humanity.

It's obvious they are quite different by nature requiring a willingness to make the adjustments and understand the dynamics inherent in their relationship.

The reason they seek counselling is to help them find a better way to resolve conflict in the relationship even though their relationship is loving and compatible in most areas, they feel challenged when they find themselves 'on different pages' and unable to manage their conflict. Maggie Kerr reminds us that "you need a happy blend of challenging and flowing aspects between charts otherwise things are either too traumatic (too much growth through challenge) or too passive (not enough 'eros' to keep the spark)<sup>2</sup> with this in mind we continue.

The Moon shows us our basic daily needs and expectations and Mercury will relay them, essentially their needs are very similar and they both enjoy the comfort of being together therefore identifying problematic areas individually and combined and finding ways to for them as a couple to develop skills which they can build upon is paramount. Sara has four major aspect configuration operating in her chart with three of the four involving her Moon. She is already challenged by her Sun/Mercury opposite Moon both squaring Uranus. Possibly producing emotional outbursts when she is not validated (Leo Sun in 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Antonio's Mars is conjunct her Moon and may at times push (Mars) Sara's emotions to the limit, triggering sudden (Uranus) reactions. Antonio's Neptune is conjunct Sara's Uranus and when these eruptions occur he may be left feeling confused and uncertain about what went wrong.

Sara can do two things in this case, firstly, with insight (Uranus) she might consciously (Sun) explain (Mercury) why and how he has effected her

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<sup>2</sup> Kerr, M. workbook 5 pg. 101

emotionally and in doing so aiding his confused Neptune, or secondly, she could go into the easy way out and use her grand air trine involving Moon/Pluto and Ascendant which possibly manifests as solitary brooding. If Sara does go into the emotional brooding. I would suggest Antonio uses humour to cheer her up as his jolly Jupiter sits nicely conjunct Sara's ascendant.

Additionally Sara has a Yod pattern involving once again her Moon sextiling Neptune both quincunxing her Cancer Mars in the 1<sup>st</sup>, opposing Antonio's Capricorn Mercury. Antonio knows about and is aware of (opposition) the harshness Sara suffered from her mother and the resulting anger. As difficult as it may be, he could approach the potentially explosive scenario and communicate with Sara in a slow controlled and wise (Capricorn Mercury) manner thus helping Sara move through her projected anger. Antonio's Mercury and Sara's Mars opposition both square Sara's 4<sup>th</sup> Pluto forming a T-square enabling investigation and persistent conversations to bring about psychological understanding creating opportunities for change.

Sara's T-square involving her Virgo Venus conjunct with Antonio's Pluto/Uranus, squaring both her Ascendant and Neptune is heavy, however used wisely and with awareness could certainly assist her in radically transforming her idea of perfection. I can hear Antonio encouraging her perhaps a bit harshly, to leave behind her work and come dance!! (Antonio's Aquarian Mars in the 5<sup>th</sup>) It is also worth noting Antonio's Sun/Moon is conjunct Sara's Aquarius north node, her instinctual behaviour pattern, indicating Sara can reason with Antonio's core personality and as such can find comfort and innate knowingness. Nevertheless it is also imperative that she feels his loyalty, warmth and gentleness and feels free to play and enjoy herself. (Leo NN).

Antonio has significant aspect patterns that requires careful analysis especially his T-square implicating Pluto/Uranus in the 12<sup>th</sup> opposite Saturn in Pisces in 6<sup>th</sup>, both squaring Jupiter in the 9<sup>th</sup> . It is possible Antonio has some hidden psychological conditioning, experienced in childhood, surrounding routine customs, beliefs and traditions (Jupiter 9<sup>th</sup>) that trigger an inherent rebellious trait. Sara's Virgo Venus conjuncts his 12<sup>th</sup> Pluto/Uranus suggesting he might struggle with Sara's organised routine and as a result power struggles transpire between them as he brings swift and unexpected change into their relationship. Antonio is clearly challenged by old structures and routines. Sara's Neptune in Sagittarius opposes the implicated 9<sup>th</sup> Jupiter of Antonio's and I suggest she is also confused by his apparent intense aversion to any thing that resembles structure and repetition. Sara's challenge in this case ,which may relieve the resulting tension , may be in letting go or sacrificing her high ideals (Neptune in Sagittarius) and her expected perfection. Antonio is not going to conform anyway and using his Jupiter conjunct Sara's ascendant in Gemini they may be able to discuss the ongoing challenge and possibly use philosophy and humours (Jupiter) when they recognise a repeated pattern playing out.

Antonio's T-square becomes a grand cross when Sara's Neptune opposes his Jupiter. March & McEvers say about another's planet filling the opposition in ones T-square "it seems as though a dark space has suddenly been lit up; new awareness floods an area that wasn't really understood, yet now becomes clear

and understood.”<sup>3</sup> They go on to say that it is a long lasting binding element in relationships.

Sara’s Neptune is strong in both their charts, found on her own 7<sup>th</sup> cusp, associated with the previous configuration but also activating Antonio’s yod, acting as the mid point between his Neptune/Mercury sextile both quincunxing Jupiter in his chart. This suggest, that if he talks to Sara about the exposure with which he has grown up, regarding old customs and beliefs of his ancestry, whilst still valuing them, he also needs to seek out various other ideological concepts and believe systems (Jupiter in Gemini) and the freedom to explore new ideas. Sara’s compassionate Neptune in his 3<sup>rd</sup> in opposition to his Jupiter will be open to his quest even though she may not fully understand him. At times Antonio may feel restricted by Sara’s Saturn/Jupiter conjunct his ascendant however overall this will be a beneficial aspect between them shown by the trine aspect to his 4<sup>th</sup> house stellium. Sara provides the much needed stability and security in their home life together and best of all, he sees (Sun) her as friend and confidante, by way of her Sun illuminating his 11<sup>th</sup> house.

Finally we can turn our attention to their composite – midpoint chart. Heavily fixed on the angles, Sun, Moon, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter as well. Immediately Jupiter on the Ascendant in Leo indicates they will enjoy themselves. Jupiter is strong in a fire sign showing exuberance and a pride in their partnership. Jupiter opposite Moon forms the rim of a bucket shape with all planets below horizon indicative of a private couple, except Mars in Taurus as the singleton handle, indicative of the point of release. Being active together is emphasised by being

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<sup>3</sup> March & McEvers Synastry techniques pg.121

the focal point of the yod formed by Pluto sextiles Venus. Pluto is strongly implicated in the synastry and is intense, but transformative for them both. This I suggest adds persistence and perseverance and shows the challenge they face as a couple. Mars squares Moon which if used wisely could provide stimulation and excitement, however they will have to be mindful of emotional outbursts especially as they may be in the public eye (Moon 7<sup>th</sup> cusp). At home, on the other hand, they share an intimate soul union filled with love and forgiveness for each other shown by Venus/Neptune conjunction in the 4<sup>th</sup> house . The Sun/Mercury as the opposition to Mars could be seen as motivational in understanding their individual psychology and communicating deeply (Sun/Mercury in Scorpio in the 3<sup>rd</sup>) will work for them and as an added benefit, they have the Part of Fortune exactly conjunct the above aspect.

Prominent in the synastry is Jupiter, as it conjuncts each others Ascendants and it is also conjunct their composite Ascendant. Therefore it is through the challenges they face together that they support each other in growth by means of humour, being philosophical and adventurous. Antonia's Pisces Saturn can cool with compassion Sara's Mars and Sara's exulted Saturn falling on Antonio's ascendant can provide the foundation for a serious long term relationship.

“ In a healthy relationship there needs to be room for anger, and not having to feel guilt or suffer recriminations’ <sup>4</sup> says Maggie Kerr. Healthy anger produces stimulation, motivation and is a part of individualisation.

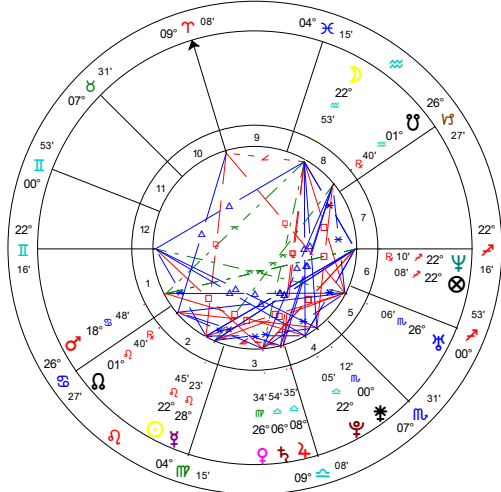
Saturn and Jupiter are important players in their relationship as Saturn indicates with time, maturity and understanding they may replace aggressiveness with assertiveness and with individual self control channel energies into creative

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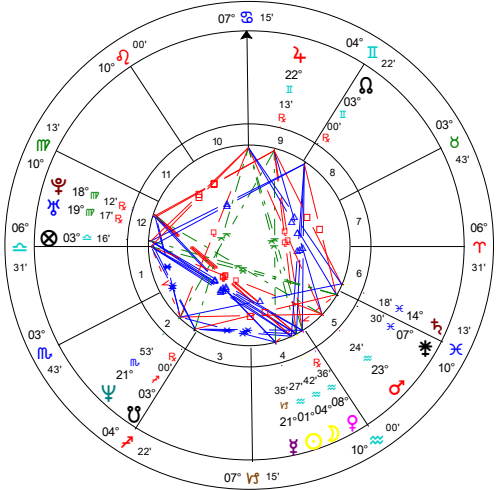
<sup>4</sup> Kerr, M. workbook 5. Pg 14.

outlets. I suggest they find the humour in they way they relate, be adventurous together, explore ideas and the world, philosophy and psychology all thing Jupiterian as it is so prominent in all three charts.

**3,283 word count.**

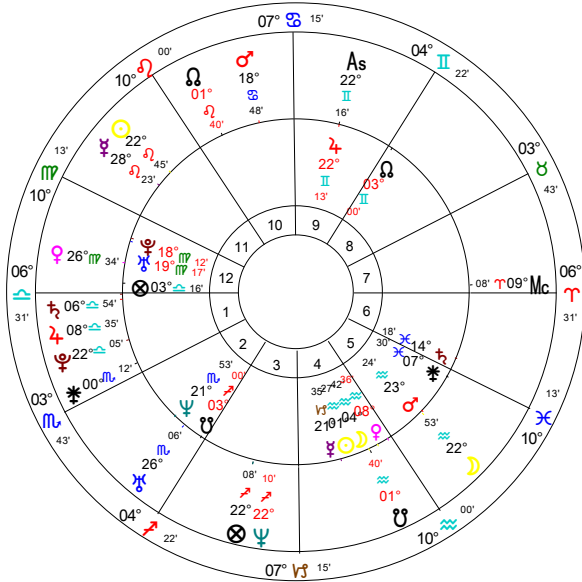
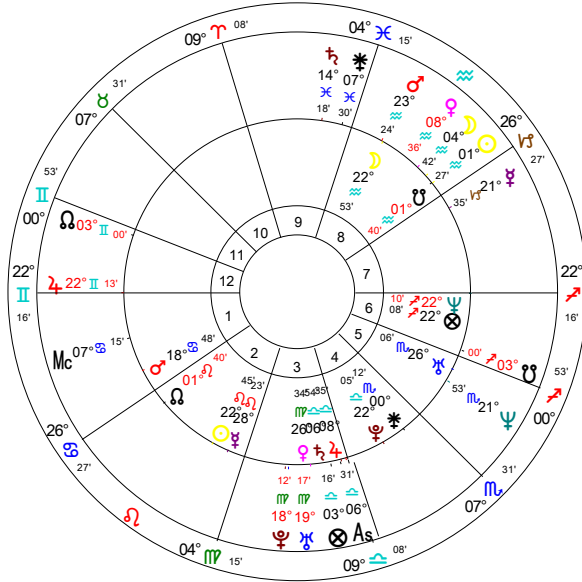


Sara



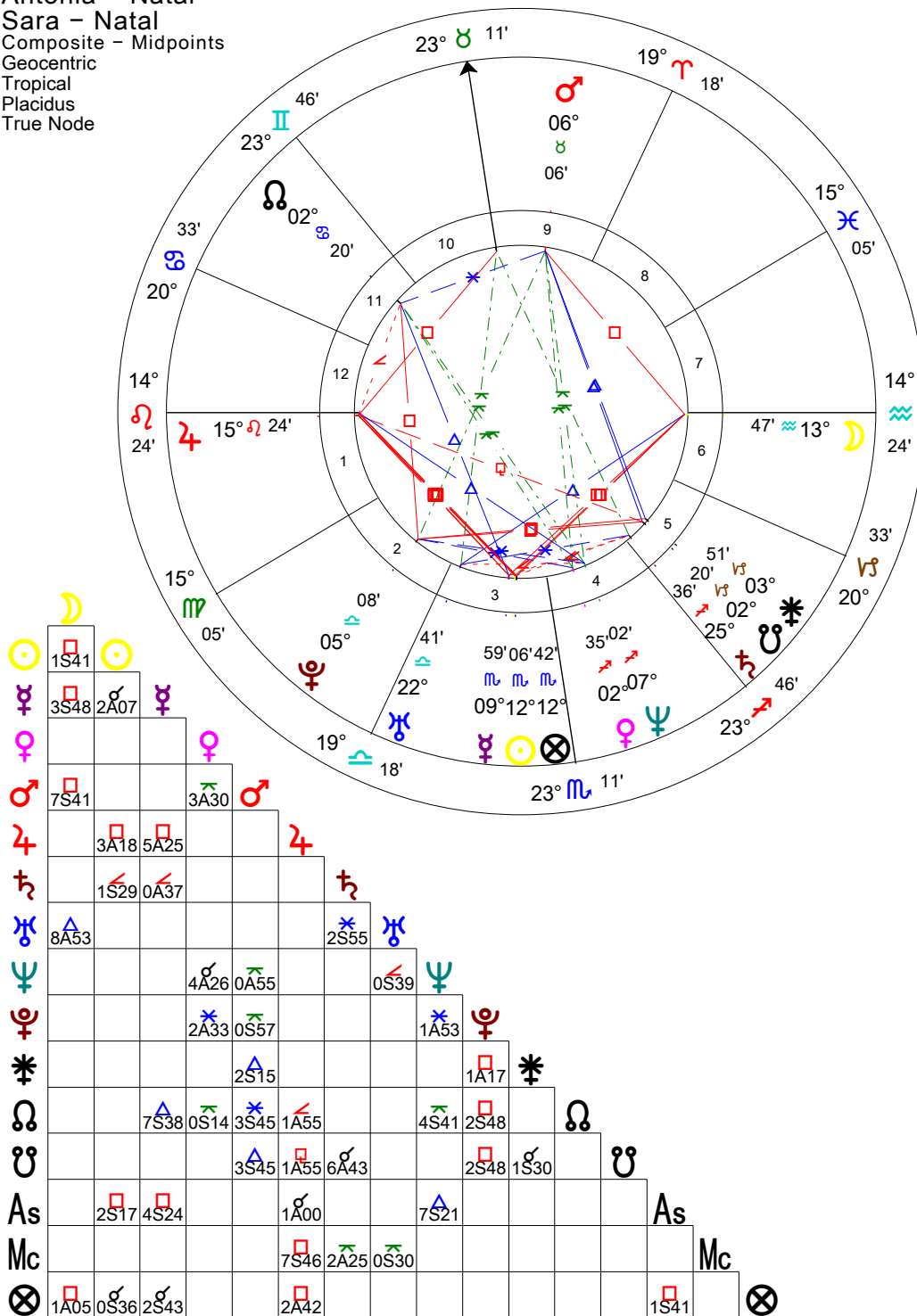
Antonia

	☾	☉	♀	♂	♃	♅	♁	♁	♅	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
☾				♂ 0A31 0S39		♃ 3S38	♁ 0S59	♁ 4S41					♁ 1S22	♁ 0S38
☉			♂ 1S10		♃ 0S31		♁ 0S51						♁ 1S13	♁ 0S29
♀		♂ 3A03					♁ 6S29		♁ 4A36	♁ 4A36				
♂	♁ 8A07	♁ 4A53	♁ 4S59	♁ 3S09	♁ 4S20	♁ 7S17	♁ 4S40		♁ 6A26					♁ 6A42
♃				♁ 4A36		♁ 4S29	♁ 0A28	♁ 3A05	♁ 0S36		♁ 0S47	♁ 0S47		
♅	♁ 3S53	♁ 7S07		♁ 0A00	♁ 0S31					♁ 1S05	♁ 5S35	♁ 5S35	♁ 2S04	♁ 1S20
♁	♁ 2S12	♁ 5S26		♁ 1A41	♁ 1A29			♁ 0S00	♁ 0A35	♁ 3S54	♁ 3S54	♁ 0S23	♁ 0A20	♁ 3S37
♁		♁ 5A21	♁ 4S31		♁ 2S41	♁ 3S52		♁ 4S12					♁ 6A54	
♁	♁ 2A28				♁ 1S25	♁ 1S13		♁ 7A52	♁ 2A53			♁ 3A58		
♁		♁ 9A22	♁ 0S30		♁ 1A19	♁ 0A08						♁ 0A24		
♁	♁ 4A29	♁ 1A15			♁ 6S47	♁ 7S58	♁ 0S53		♁ 7A18	♁ 2A48			♁ 7A03	
♁	♁ 3S01	♁ 0A12		♁ 6S56			♁ 2A21			♁ 1S20	♁ 1S20	♁ 4S50		♁ 1S38
♁							♁ 2A21			♁ 1S20	♁ 1S20	♁ 4S50		♁ 1S38
♁				♁ 0S41	♁ 1A19	♁ 1A07	♁ 0S03	♁ 7S58	♁ 2S59	♁ 0S22	♁ 4S04			
♁	♁ 4S25			♁ 0S31	♁ 0S43								♁ 6S07	♁ 1S52
♁				♁ 1A28	♁ 1A16		♁ 7S49	♁ 2S51		♁ 3S56				





Antonia - Natal  
 Sara - Natal  
 Composite - Midpoints  
 Geocentric  
 Tropical  
 Placidus  
 True Node



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## Software

Astro Gold for Windows      Version: 9.0.25      cosmic Apps Pty Ltd.