



## Common Reasons Papers May Be Marked Down or Receive a NYC [Not Yet Competent] Assessment

1. The chart has been delineated but the question has not been addressed. Some students get busy delineating the chart and transits (i.e., Dynamic Exam) and forget about the question.

**Tip:** When you have finished, re-read the exam question and then read your paper and consider: have I addressed the question clearly?

2. The answer has not taken a counselling perspective and is too literal, predictive, and /or judgemental.

**Tip:** Review the "Counselling Orientation" from the FAA Exam Book (see below).

*"The goal is to provide insight in the potential, challenges and nature of the client's chart whilst also providing hope and direction for future change. This may involve addressing psychological complexes, shadow issues, wounds and defences that could be operating outside a client's current level of awareness. Your goal as the counselling astrologer or consultant is to empower the client to understand their experiences so as to encourage the client toward their optimal growth and development. The Natal Birth Chart is a map of the psyche, and such should be approached with respect, compassion, care and patience. Remember "Do No Harm"! "*

3. The answer lacks synthesis and tends to read like an astrology 'cookbook' where different aspects of the natal or dynamic chart are interpreted singularly without reference to each other.

**Tip:** Chart consistencies and contradictions are all par for the course and need to be synthesised in a way that acknowledges the similarities and differences as a whole.

4. Candidates are not able to prioritize key transits, progressions, and other dynamic techniques (Dynamic exam only).

**Tip:** Review the exam question and make a list of all relevant dynamic data you intend to interpret to answer the exam question. Then order them in priority of relevance to help organise the structure and flow of your main points in the exam paper.

5. Candidates fail to identify key themes and aspect patterns.

**Tip:** Review the exam question and make a list of all relevant themes and aspect patterns and then prioritise them in order of importance to answering the exam question. From this list organise the structure of your exam paper so that your main points flow clearly and succinctly in a logical and synthesised manner.

## Common Reasons Why Candidates Pass Exams The Candidates have

- studied 3 - 4 years with an astrology teacher who is teaching the FAA syllabus
- conducted extensive reading in all areas of the relevant FAA syllabus (refer to FAA exam resources)
- attended FAA meetings, astrological seminars, conferences, and workshops
- interpreted a minimum of 20 practice natal and dynamic charts under the supervision of an astrology teacher
- practised essay writing and completed at least one essay from a previous FAA exam (available on the [FAA website](#)) which is then marked by your astrology teacher or if you are working independently, have it marked by a teacher of your choice who teaches the FAA syllabus
- practiced the ability to write an essay with a "counselling orientation" (refer to the FAA exam book)
- have access to astrological software, preferably not from an online service, which casts charts with clearly legible house cusps, planets, and signs with the degrees and minutes