



## FAA EXAM TIPS

*The Criteria for a 'counselling orientation' in the FAA Exam Modules (Interpretation, Specialist – Relationship and Dynamic) is as follows:*

*The goal is to provide insight into 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"!*

..... this is the counselling perspective

## TIPS FOR DISCUSSING THE NATAL CHART FOR ALL EXAMS

### 1. ENTER THE WORLD OF THE CLIENT

DO NOT JUDGE, always express empathy, compassion

Your major concern is HOW CAN YOU EMPOWER THE CLIENT?

If the client has a very literal question, it is not your job to tell them what to do or make the decision for them. It is your concern to address their concern BUT from a counselling/psychological perspective.

This means HELP THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE PATTERNS THAT MAY HAVE LED TO THE CURRENT SITUATION (natal chart) AND TO HELP THEM TO USE THIS ENERGY MORE CONSTRUCTIVELY.

### 2. IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE CLIENT ...don't answer that question as it will show through

### 3. YOU ARE MEANT TO BE ABLE TO EMPOWER THE CLIENT

So try to address all their concerns through the astrology.

You may see other healing modalities that may be useful but be very careful in how you mention this, so it does not sound directive, e.g., psychotherapy, meditation, etc.

These are helpful for everyone but sometimes people come to an astrologer because they DON'T want to go to a psychologist.

It is OK to ask if they have ever had counselling or if they feel it could be helpful now, however, the exam is not about your referral list, it is about how YOU can address the concerns of the client. In reality, you may need to find the names of good counsellors/therapists/healers to refer to.

### 4. BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONTRADICT YOURSELF

Before you make a statement look to see if it is confirmed elsewhere: if the Moon trines Jupiter but Pluto conjuncts the IC the relationship with mother probably has/had some issues.

### 5. IF THERE ARE CONTRADICTIONARY THEMES MENTION THIS

e.g. Sun trine Uranus and Moon conjunct Saturn, as both will be relevant

Different drives/ motivations and modus operandi in different areas of life are all par for the course. ***This is the essence of synthesis.***

### 6. MAKE SURE THAT WHAT YOU SAY IS AGE-APPROPRIATE

Write the age of the client at the top of the chart and be aware of the age of the age-related/generic cycle transits [AND THE SOUL TASKS THAT THEY CALL FOR] that may be happening or have just happened. ***You don't say the same things to a 21-year-old that you would say to a 50-year-old or a 60-year-old.***

### 7. DON'T GET TOO LOST IN TECHNICAL LANGUAGE AND JARGON

Especially at the expense of good, solid chart delineation and analysis.

It does not matter if you know what some obscure direction means, if you can't get to the basics of a chart, then the examiners will certainly not, either.

## **8. BACK UP WHATEVER YOU SAY**

About the chart with astrological indicators. They can be put in brackets, in words, or shorthand (Moon conj Saturn).

Esoteric technologies have a Solar Font program that you can download for around \$35:  
<https://esotech.com.au/product/category/specialty-products/page-2>

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGE ANY QUOTES**

But don't use too many of them.

The examiners want to hear what you have to say, not what Liz Greene thinks. Examiners DO want to know that you read 'good' astrology books, but don't over reference and include them in your bibliography.

Make sure the bibliography reflects the techniques required in your answer.

## **10. DON'T BE TOO LITERAL OR PREDICTIVE**

Use language that reflects this, such as: this symbolises, this suggests, this may manifest as etc.

We do not want to label or predict as this takes away the element of free will.

## **11. MAKE SURE YOU ADDRESS THE CLIENTS' CONCERNS**

Even if you don't give them a direct answer, refer to no 1.

## **12. LOOK FOR THEMES**

Use the astrological alphabet to identify these themes and talk about them.

## **13. DO NOT GIVE LONG LISTS OF ASTROLOGICAL INDICATORS**

Without explaining what you mean.

## **14. AUDIENCE**

There are two levels of chart analysis in an exam.

1. Is to show the examiner that you understand the dynamics of a chart.
2. What you may say to the client . . . and they are not the same thing.

You may speak to the examiner and mention what you may say or discuss with the client. You may notice a complex around a parental figure, issues with anger, or self-expression. It is important to mention the key complexes and suggest you would discuss them in a way that is open and not labelling or defining for the client.

## **15. REMEMBER THERE ARE THREE LEVELS WE CAN EXPERIENCE THE CHART ON**

1. Literal level of events.
2. Psychological / emotional /feeling level
3. Soul level of meaning.

Level one and two are often what brings our client to us.

Level two and three are your concern as a counselling astrologer. If you address both these levels, you are doing a good job.

## **16. ANYONE CAN DELINEATE SIGNS/HOUSE/ASPECT FROM A TEXTBOOK**

This is not what examiners are looking for. Certainly, look things up in a textbook or your class notes then think about how this transit/progression etc may impact on this specific point (sign, house, aspect), in this specific chart.

## **17. THE HEART OF THE CHART**

You can, and should mention the elements, modes, chart shapes, etcetera, but the heart of a chart is the challenging aspects and aspect patterns.

However, don't overlook other key factors such as stelliums, intercepted signs and houses, unaspected planets and retrograde personal planets.

## **18. DON'T SPEND TOO LONG ON BACKGROUND**

Get to the point.

## 19. ESSENTIAL ASPECTS AND CHART POINTS FOR THE NATAL CHART

Use all major aspects plus the quincunx for the natal chart. Use the major planets, Chiron, and nodal axis.

## 20. NATAL ORBS

The minimum orbs required for natal analysis in both Section 1 & 2 (both applying and separating) throughout this exam are:

- Conjunction, Opposition, Square, Trine - 8 degrees
- Sextile - 6 degrees
- Quincunx - 5 degrees
- Note: It is acceptable [but not essential] to allow a wider orb of 10 degrees for a conjunction, opposition and square to the Sun and Moon

The above orbs also apply to R & ST exam unless otherwise specified.

### The Dynamic Exam:

- Use a 1-degree orb for applying & separating transits, progressions and directions.
- Use a 5-degree orb for Eclipses

## DYNAMIC EXAM SPECIFIC TIPS

### General information

- Important – make sure you know how to prioritise transits, progressions.
- 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.
- Give a brief overview of the key themes in the natal chart, especially those relevant to the question.
- Note the age of the person and then note any generic transit or progression that they may have had or are having.
- Remember that transits, progressions and solar arcs are activating points and complexes in the natal chart: address this.

## TRANSITS

- Remember that transits are not isolated events. They occur in cycles. When did this transit or a similar one occur?
- **Note any aspect and aspect patterns** that the planet makes as a transit to a planet, will activate these, triggering the natal complex that this symbolises. Make sure you address this.
- Transiting aspects: use the major aspects of conjunction, opposition, square and quincunx along with trines and sextiles to the personal planets and points along with key transits in the Generic Cycles.
- Remember that the year will be dominated by the influence of the major hard aspects from the outer planets: Saturn, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

## SECONDARY PROGRESSIONS

- Focus on the inner planets, especially by hard aspect. Use a 1-degree orb both separating and applying.

## SOLAR ARCS

- Use all the planets, but mainly the inner planets and focus on the hard aspects. Use a 1-degree orb.

## SOLAR RETURNS

- Use the same orbs as Natal chart orbs.

### **21. RESOURCES from the website Exams tab: Federation of Australian Astrologers Inc**

There are many excellent Distinction Answers from the FAA website from past years to download and study. Find these papers on this page: <https://www.faa-inc.org.au/past-faa-exams-and-essays/> all under the heading of **Dynamic Exam**.

**Below is a sample of these papers for the Dynamic Exam but there are** Distinction papers from all of the exams.

#### **Answers on Transits plus Solar Returns**

- 2015: Jacqui Godfrey: Question 5
- 2016: Sarah Worthy: Q5
- 2019: Patricia Garcia: Q3

#### **ANSWER ON TRANSITS PLUS SOLAR ARCS**

- 2016: Amanda Dane: Q3

#### **ANSWERS ON TRANSITS PLUS SECONDARY PROGRESSIONS**

- 2020: Megan White: Q5

**\*\*EXAM BOOKLET (PDF)**

**FAA Examination Information Booklet for Teachers and Students**, is available from this link. <https://www.faingc.org.au/faa-exam-system>

This booklet is a must-have for students and teachers alike as it gives a comprehensive guide and overview of the FAA Exam System. It includes:

- A step-by-step guide to sitting the examinations.
- Information including the syllabus on the four FAA Exams – Calculation, Interpretation, Dynamic and Specialist and Relationship Exams.
- Essay marking guides.

**Other resources to download:** [Past FAA Exams \(faaingc.org.au\)](https://www.faingc.org.au) on the right-hand side of the page scroll down.

- Essay writing guides
- Video “FAA Introduction to Essay Writing” [FAA Introduction to Essay Writing - YouTube](#)
- Guidelines on Essay Writing for the FAA Exams
- Dynamic Exam Essay Marking Guide
- Interpretation & Relationship Exam Essay Marking
- Calculation Exam Preparation Booklet
- Practice Calculation Exam
- Reference Texts and Websites
- Astrology Definitions