

Advanced Exam 2012:

Question 8 - Astro History

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QUESTION 8 – ASTRO HISTORY

For several decades the year 2012 has been capturing the popular imagination because of the 2012 Mayan Calendar. In the western astrological system we will experience the first square of the two outer planets Uranus and Pluto in June 2012, with several more to come over the next few years.

Using the historical background of the Uranus/Pluto cycle discuss the implications of this momentous time in modern history in your own words!

ANSWER:

2012 is finally here. Even mainstream papers have heralded its arrival. Hollywood did its best to profit with a movie depicting the end of the world caused by magnetic reversal of the earth's poles. We've been warned of possible comets and massive underground volcanoes. On the brighter side, we are being promised enlightening collective shifts in consciousness as the earth locks into exact alignment with the Galactic Centre. Who could deny that 2012 is a very very significant year? So we have until the December solstice to radically shift into a kinder, more peace-loving society. Well, good luck with that!! (Some of us may say in a resigned manner!) Galactic Centre aside, as astrologers we have the inside scoop that this is indeed a momentous time for another reason. Pluto and Uranus have arrived at their first major testing ground (a Waxing Square) since their conjunction in 1965-66. Over the next 4 years Uranus and Pluto will come into exact Square a massive 7 times and remain in close orb throughout. (see table pg 4). The 3 hits of a transit can be likened to the structure of a traditional narrative. The first pass-over defines the plot and sets up the story. The second is the climax where everything goes pear shaped. The third is the resolution for better or worse. With 7 such crossings we have more than one chance to get it right. Changes implemented in the 60's will be tested. If it's worthwhile it should stand. If it isn't, the cracks are appearing now. Just plaster over it though and it will all fall apart in 2046 when Uranus opposes Pluto.

The Uranus/Pluto Cycle is an epic historical drama of eruption and change. Shortly after Uranus was discovered (1781) the French Revolution (1789-1799 Uranus/Pluto Opposition) swept away the old order radically transforming society on every level.. Ideas that had been considered lunatic fringe (government by the people for the people, universal education systems) became stock in trade. The French Revolution was also very brutal. Ideological change without a heart for human suffering is the dark side of Uranus. Pluto's dark heart of course we never forget. The discovery of the power inherent in the splitting of the atom (1932) has become a metaphor for the intense, transformational qualities of Pluto

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(discovered -1930). We need to remember that Pluto's essential purpose is to put the heat on our deeper, instinctual defence mechanisms to transform them into conscious light and love. Pluto dredges up our dark side; Uranus shines the light upon it.

Those of us paying attention know what a massive cultural, philosophical and technological revolution the 1960's really was. The Virgo/Pisces axis saw us take a new look at health, food consumption and the plight of the less fortunate in our communities. The deep inequalities of race and gender that existed within our society erupted to the surface. Feminism transformed our understanding of group dynamics. The emergence of consensus processes and softer approaches to doing business evolved. Published in 1962 the book, Silent Spring (by Rachel Carson) heralded the birth of the modern day environmental movement. Uranus/Pluto also brings technological breakthroughs that enable us greater freedom to transform society. In 1969 we landed on the Moon and the internet first went on line. The pill was invented and sexual liberation was on the agenda. Pluto donned his Dionysian party animal aspect. A Utopian anarchic mindset held sway. Young revolutionaries honestly believed they were creating a more inclusive, loving society. And in many ways they did. A more culturally tolerant society, accessible higher education for everyone and wheelchair ramps in public buildings are a few examples

Right now though the world is not looking so rosy. The cracks have appeared in the 'brand new day' we've been living in. Our new freedoms have bred a class of highly competitive, self-interested individuals who have lived off the fat of our complacency. Or is that us benefitting from the misery of the 3rd world? Perhaps this Square can push us back to core values of community and compassion? Wherever it leads revolution is in the air. Actually it's on the world wide web. Face book and Twitter are the new tools of sedition. Suddenly people are waking up; seeing that they really do have collective power. Tahrir Square happened via text messaging. Organisations like Get Up and Avaaz effectively mobilize their membership via emailing. In this way funding was gathered for two gay couples to make the winning bid for dinner with Gillard; ensuing publicity for marriage rights.

Alright you 90,000 redeemers, rebels and radicals out there, On September 17, we want to see 20,000 people flood into lower Manhattan, set up tents, peaceful barricades and occupy Wall Street. Once there, we shall incessantly repeat one simple demand in a plurality of voices¹

Uranus in Aries is an inflammatory combination, busting to shoot up some new raison d'être from the hardened earth of established outlooks and practices. Pluto in Capricorn is more than happy to oblige; providing the heat that cracks the dormant seeds and blow wide open the encased mud of the deceptions that maintain the status quo. The catchcry "We are the 99%" brought home the increasing divide in even the wealthy nations. Forms of "Indie Capitalism" (locally based products, quality before quantity, sharing not exploiting) are again gaining favour. In Buenos Aires a group of artists drop vegetable 'seed bombs' into vacant blocks. But Uranus is not a moral compass. That is our job. Sometimes the drive for freedom translates to mindless violence. On August 6–10 2011 Uranus and Pluto were only one degree from being exactly square when England suffered widespread rioting, looting, and arson. Throughout Europe extreme Right wing groups have been gaining political

¹ Ad busters.com.

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ground as well as the Left. In spite of the violent underbelly Uranus/Pluto alignments are hopeful times. Terrible things are happening right now in Syria; yet we expect to see justice prevail even if we have to send troops in to effect it. We expect to see democracy and woman's rights finally reach that part of the world.

The spread of revolutionary fervour is a typical pattern of a Uranus/Pluto cycle. The Waxing Square can be a time when there is a further push or spread of an ideology birthed during a Conjunction. The French Revolution emblazoned the world with noble truths and possibilities but its light didn't instantly shine everywhere. The following Square of 1820 -21 saw revolution in Portugal and the Greek war of Independence. Likewise we can see the Arab Spring as the further spreading of ideals from the 1960's, which in turn can be seen as a continuation of the flame lit in the French Revolution. The really big shifts in consciousness take more than one alignment to take shape, take effect and embed as part of our evolutionary story. Some of these major ideas come bursting onto the scene and then go underground only to crop up again at the next stress point. Others continue to develop steadily with breakthroughs being triggered by other transits and ingresses. That Feminist consciousness has been steadily growing in the West since the 60's is evident in the status women enjoy and in the differences in gender relationships between the younger generation and the baby boomers. Global democratisation however seems to occur at the stress points via uprisings. Voila! The Arab Spring.

Environmental issues also seem to have taken a back seat since the 70's. In spite of ongoing improvements, such as the listing of endangered species, it has not inspired the general population to make real life-style changes. Actually, the level of denial is so astounding it begs the universe to send us some Plutonian hellfire and heavenly Uranian illumination to blast open all our defence mechanisms and fears that have translated into our self-interested business practices and rigid frameworks. It is becoming increasingly obvious that environmental issues are at the heart of every change that this present Square exhorts us to make. It is the point of intersection between commerce and responsibility (Capricorn) and the need to rebirth (Uranus in Aries). It requires us to take our Feminist revolution deeper into the psycho/spiritual essence of 'being' rather 'observing' and 'loving' rather than 'using'. The Uranus/Pluto cycle is steeped in both the feminist movement and the re-discovering of that part of us that connects with nature and whose over-civilisation has created a disconnect with our environment. During the 1754 Waxing Square, Rousseau published his book: ***Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men*** in which he argues that compassion and self-love, acting together, contribute to preserving the human species through time. During the French Revolution, Equal Rights was firstly about emancipation through law (the *Amis de la Verite* argued for women's education, civil rights and freedom to divorce). By the 70's we had literature on how it *feels* to be a woman and on the reclaiming of the Goddess, earth connected aspect of ourselves.

On December 21st the Sun conjuncts the intersection of the Milky Way and the plane of the ecliptic. This cosmic cross is considered to be an embodiment of the Tree of Life, remembered in all the world's spiritual traditions. The Mayans speak of this time as Rebirth: that if we work together we will have the opportunity to live a more harmonious balance of the Light and Dark. It fits the story of our time. Imbalance and denial has caused wanton destruction of our Earth/Home. We don't have the luxury of waiting till the next

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Uranus/Pluto Opposition in 2046 to deal with environmental issues. So although it is part of the ongoing narrative of the Uranus/Pluto Cycle it is also different. We need technological inventiveness, hearts full of hope, an active engagement and commitment to be willing to change to our very core. And that is just to survive!

Tables

Uranus Pluto Square Dates From Astrology in the 21st Century

Exact: 7 times - 2012 to 2015

Date	Uranus	Pluto
<u>24th June 2012</u>	8 Aries 24	8 Cap 24
<u>19th Sept 2012</u>	6 Aries 57	6 Cap 57
<u>20th May 2013</u>	11 Aries 14	11 Cap 14
<u>1st Nov 2013</u>	9 Aries 26	9 Cap 26
<u>21st April 2014</u>	13 Aries 34	13 Cap 34
<u>15th Dec 2014</u>	12 Aries 36	12 Cap 36
<u>17th Mar 2015</u>	15 Aries 18	15 ap 18

- Within 8 degrees orb June 2008 (first time), on and off, until March 2019 (last time)
Continually within 8 degrees: early 2011 through to mid-2016
- Within 6 degrees orb June 2009 (first time), on and off, until March 2018 (last time)
Continually within 6 degrees: early 2012 through to mid-2015
- Within 3 degrees orb July 2010 (first time), on and off, until April 2016 (last time)
Continually within 3 degrees: early 2013 through to mid-2014
- Within 1 degree orb June 2012 (first time), on and off, until April 2015 (last time)

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