

The following **example essay** was written by **Peter Joy** for the 2012 FAA Dynamic Techniques Exam. It must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and Astrological analysis. The style of essay and essay construction are not purported by the Exam Board to be perfect in all respects . (eg. grammar, syntax and astrological synthesis) but is a good example that meets the standard set for the exam. It can be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays.

Tess Cullen, Exam Board Director

2012 Dynamic Techniques Exam

Question 1

Birth data: 3rd July 1971 3.00pm Townsville, Queensland
ASC: Close to 2 degrees Sagittarius

Kitty is currently residing overseas so you are doing a 'Skype' reading for her. She has been an expatriate for many years and travels widely in her career as an investigative journalist. She has been offered a new posting in a highly sensitive region and she tells you there is a degree of danger involved if she takes the assignment. So her primary purpose in requesting a consultation with you is to ask for insight into the potential impact of her 'timings' over the next two years so she can make an informed decision. She is also aware that her lifestyle prohibits forming emotional bonds and is becoming concerned at her degree of isolation, so she would also like guidance regarding her patterns in this area of her life.

Using the combination of transits, secondary progressions plus progressed Moon and eclipses, how would you proceed in fulfilling her requests in a supportive and creative manner?

ESSAY ANSWER

"Transits and progressions reveal what the core Self wants to make happen for us - what the deeper Self intends to bring to our attention to develop and work on. In order to co-operate with our inner growth and unfoldment, we need to listen to what is going on inside us".¹ At midlife this call to go within, listen and give expression to the un-lived aspects of our psyche becomes quite urgent. Kitty's natal chart suggests she may have lived her life thus far giving greater expression to the solar, creative energies, particularly as they are expressed in the area of career. The inner, private realm of the emotions and intimate relationships has probably been given less opportunity to develop and in mid-life her "core Self" is demanding that changes be put in place to support this new phase of development. An examination of the current progressions, transits and eclipses to her natal chart can help Kitty bring into consciousness these less developed aspects of her being and support her in the decisions she faces around her career and personal relationships.

Several key features of Kitty's chart are worth highlighting as they pertain to her concerns regarding her work posting and forming emotional bonds.

Firstly, the strongest elements in Kitty's chart are water (Sun, Moon, Mercury and chart ruler Jupiter in water signs) and Air (Venus, Mars and angular Saturn in air signs). She has an orientation towards the feeling and thinking modes of perception. With only Pluto in Virgo, earth is weak. Practicality, common-sense, caution and responsibility need to be worked at and developed. This would be a disadvantage entering a situation where there is a degree of risk to one's personal safety.

¹ Howard Sasportas, *The Gods of Change*, p 6.

The Ascendant-Descendant axis further develops this theme. With a Sagittarius Ascendant there is a tendency to take risks. Chart ruler Jupiter is conjunct Neptune on the Ascendant. This is an idealistic and compassionate combination and raises questions around such Neptunian themes as martyrdom and self-sacrificing dynamics in Kitty's engagement with the world. Furthermore, the conjunction opposes Saturn on the Descendant, so there may be a tendency to project qualities of caution, delay, self-discipline and protective behaviours on to others. I would explore with Kitty whether these themes have been a strong pattern, particularly within inter-personal relationships (Jupiter/Saturn conjunct Ascendant opposing Saturn conjunct Descendant).

Other chart factors indicate a tendency towards experiences of excitement and risk-taking. Sun square Uranus denotes a need to become involved in these types of experiences in order to fulfil her needs for self-expression. With the Sun ruling the Midheaven and Uranus ruling the IC, this aspect is fundamental to Kitty's psychological foundations and her means of contributing to the collective through her career. Mars as co-ruler of the 12th house is conjunct the IC and is square Jupiter (which it also disposes) and Neptune. Thus martial energies of courage, daring and adventure are fundamental to Kitty's core being but are also prone to exaggeration and delusion.

As regards Kitty's concern about her increasing isolation, the strong need to individuate represented by the Sun/Uranus square is important. Sue Tompkins writes that this aspect often manifests as "a very strong urge to be unique, to be different from others" and that co-operation is not a strong point because of the insistence on "doing things *in their own way*".² If Kitty has focussed more on forging a sense of independence and individuality through her work life, that is probably not without cost. Chiron completes a T-square by opposing Uranus and squaring the Sun from the 5th house of creative self-expression. There is most likely a sense of wounded sense of self (Chiron in Aries) underlying Kitty's attempts to fulfil herself creatively which no amount of busyness and excitement in her work life is able to heal.

Kitty's Moon in Scorpio intercepted in the 12th house suggests a deep and hidden emotional nature, further complicating her ability to engage intimately with others. It's possible that Kitty is rather disconnected from her inner, feeling realm and it would be valuable for her to begin exploring this area as a means of developing a greater sense of wholeness and satisfaction in her personal relationships. As this passionate and intense Scorpio Moon rules the 9th house and squares the Sun (ruling the MC) which it also disposes, Kitty may well have directed most of her emotional energy into travelling and broadening her understanding through her work life.

There may in fact be a great deal of fear and distrust associated with intimacy for Kitty. The dispositor of the 12th house Moon is Pluto which squares the natal ruler of the 12th house Venus. This suggests that intimate emotional relationships are experienced by Kitty as intense and transformative, possibly even destructive and threatening.

Kitty may also approach sexual relationships from an overly intellectual basis. Mars and Venus are both in air signs. Venus in Gemini rules the 7th and 8th houses, indicating that she values the intellect and connecting to others primarily at mental levels. Mars in Aquarius may indicate that Kitty's desires are easily sublimated to those of a larger collective rather than finding an outlet at a personal level.

The current progressed lunar cycle Kitty is experiencing offers a framework for understanding how her life has developed thus far. This cycle began in September 1990 with a progressed New Moon occurring in the natal 9th house of learning, travelling and expanding one's horizons. The New Moon powerfully formed a trine to natal Jupiter conjunct the Ascendant, as well as sextiling Pluto in the 11th house of groups and collective enterprises. This would have activated in Kitty a powerful drive to expand and

² Sue Tompkins, *Aspects in Astrology*, pp114-5.

develop herself through learning and travel at the age of 19, just as she was beginning to define a career path for herself.

Kitty has recently entered the Third Quarter phase of the Progressed Lunar Cycle (September 2012 - May 2016). It would be important to draw some links for Kitty between the period when this progressed lunar cycle began and her current situation. In particular, it is important for her to understand that the cycle is waning and from 2016 will commence its final Balsamic phase. Bernadette Brady describes the Third Quarter phase as being "directed towards reorientation: the rearrangement of old skills".³ While Brady identifies this as a very productive phase, she says that the action undertaken is directed toward the restructuring of old skills.⁴ Thus Kitty may need to reassess some of the drives and ideals which initially propelled her along her career path as they may no longer hold meaning for her. This is rather a time of reconfiguring the skills and experience she has acquired and finding a new way of working with these and distributing them to others.

During the last couple of years Kitty's progressed Moon has been in Taurus in the 6th house suggesting the building of skills and techniques related to her working life. However this focus is set to change in 2013 as the Moon progresses into Gemini (20/06/13) and then shortly thereafter into the 7th house (12/08/13). There will be a shift of internal focus away from concerns of work and service towards significant one-to-one relationships. Between April 2012 and August 2013 the progressed Moon will form oppositions to Jupiter, Neptune and the Ascendant as well as a conjunction to Saturn in the natal chart. Thus the axis between the interface of the persona Kitty presents to the world and the experience of one-to-one personal relationships is being brought to the fore. If there has been a tendency for Kitty to embody the idealism and generosity of the Jupiter/Neptune conjunction and project or deny Saturnian qualities of discipline and authority, these qualities are now demanding to be integrated within her. I would be seeking to highlight to Kitty that this is the internal landscape of her inner, emotional development which is seeking expression as she contemplates her current work assignment.

There are two outer planet transits activating Kitty's chart that reach important points in their respective cycles: Neptune square Neptune and Uranus opposing Uranus. Both are associated with the mid-life crisis. While they are not without their challenges I would be encouraging Kitty to see these transits as ultimately supporting her towards redefining a new sense of self and a new way of engaging the world.

Firstly, Neptune square natal Neptune has been active since approximately May 2011 and will begin to wane from December 2012. Because Neptune conjuncts the Ascendant in the natal chart Kitty has also been experiencing Neptune squaring her Ascendant by transit (March 2012 - Jan 2013). It is likely that she has felt a sense of confusion and slow erosion to her sense of identity during this time. There may also be a questioning or lack of clarity around defining her ideals and values (Ascendant ruler Jupiter ruling the 2nd house) and how these are creatively expressed (Neptune ruling the 5th house).

It would be important to offer Kitty a sense of how the Neptune energy has been expressing itself in her life during the last 2 years. Feelings of confusion and lack of focus are not uncommon. The ability to act and move outwardly in the world is challenged as Neptune draws the focus of the individual inwards to contemplate the internal realm of the psyche. Howard Sasportas writes that Neptune square Neptune "makes us painfully aware of our unsatisfied longings, our unrealized dreams and ideals". Interestingly he also notes that it is often a time when a sacrifice is required and it may be worth exploring with Kitty if she has a sense of an area of her life where letting go is required.⁵ With Neptune squaring the whole Ascendant complex and having natal rulership over the 5th house, it is likely that this sacrifice might be

³ Bernadette Brady, *The Eagle and the Lark*, p 126.

⁴ Brady, p126.

⁵ Sasportas, *Gods of Change*, p140.

associated with releasing aspects of the identity and ideals through which Kitty has filtered experience thus far and their relationship to her modes of creative self-expression.

Through its natural rulership of the 12th house this Neptune transit will also activate Kitty's 12th house Moon. Transiting Neptune squares its natal position from the 4th house suggesting that any hidden or repressed emotional needs are seeking to emerge. While this process can certainly be bewildering, if not frightening, I would be seeking to emphasize the importance of Kitty beginning to give focus and expression to her emotional needs. She will be supported in this process by transiting Saturn forming a conjunction to the natal Moon between December 2012 - September 2013. This will assist her to bring form and definition to her emotional needs. Defining them being a necessary precursor to actually fulfilling those needs.

It is important for Kitty to understand that the Neptunian energies have been supporting her to let go of aspects of her belief structure and sense of self which no longer serve her well. The outcome of working consciously with this Neptune transit would be a more harmonious way of integrating her emotional and creative needs (Moon as dispositor of the Sun trine the Sun in the natal chart).

The Uranus opposition to its natal position represents a major turn around in the life pattern of the individual. This transit which is exact from April 2013 until February 2014 signifies an abrupt change for Kitty after the slow, dissolving energies of the Neptunian transit. She can expect themes of upheaval and sudden change to manifest in her life.

Uranus rules the 4th house in Kitty's natal chart which describes her psychological foundations and that which provides her with a sense of security. With Mars in Aquarius conjunct the IC, it would seem that this sense of security comes from the alignment of the personal will and desire nature with collective and humanitarian causes. Transiting Uranus opposes its natal position in the 11th house from the 5th house of personal creativity. Thus Kitty may find herself questioning the modes of her individual creativity and self-expression, particularly if they have been fulfilled through group dynamics up to now. It may be time to consider some more individualized ways of fulfilling her creative self.

A third outer planet transit having an important bearing on Kitty's growth is Pluto's opposition to natal Sun (Feb 2013 - Dec 2014). In the natal chart Pluto squares Venus and is co-ruler of the 12th house as well as dispositor of her 12th house Moon. It signifies powerful and hidden emotions with the capacity to overwhelm Kitty by their very revelation. Transiting Pluto will oppose Kitty's 8th house Sun from the 2nd house, suggesting she could expect a level of emotional intensity in her interactions with others and that this intensity will be the catalyst towards transforming her identity. With the opposition occurring within the 2nd/8th house axis, issues around Kitty's values, resources and capacity for intimacy with others will come to the fore.

Kitty has a number of eclipses aspecting important points in her chart. (See Appendix 1) I am taking here Alan Oken's definition of eclipses as representing "the end of one set of circumstances and the beginning of another" according to the natal configuration being activated.⁶ During 2011 and 2012 these eclipses have occurred along the Ascendant/Descendant axis, forming a series of close conjunctions and oppositions to Jupiter, Neptune and Saturn. I would expect that by the time Kitty has reached the point of requesting a reading she would have already experienced some sense of disturbance in the area of self-definition and inter-personal relationships - a feeling that things have begun to radically shift in this area.

What is interesting is that from November 2012 the eclipses begin to occur across the 6th and 12th house axis. So this ending of situations and circumstances as they have been lived is shifting into the

⁶ www.alanoken.com Newsletter: Celestial Happenings October 22 - November 23, 2012.

houses of service. With Kitty's 12th house Moon, we would also expect some radical changes around her awareness of her emotional needs. The total solar eclipse occurring on November 13 2012 is of particular importance. It occurs in Kitty's 12th house at 21 degrees Scorpio and will form a tight square to her natal Mars (0 degrees 23 minutes). With natal Mars in the 4th house of endings activated by 12th house solar eclipse in Scorpio, this period would seem to be one in which Kitty's personal safety is likely to be more greatly at risk from unseen dangers. The eclipse is preceded in October by transiting Mars forming conjunctions to Neptune and the Ascendant and an opposition to Saturn (October 7-10th 2012). In January 2012 Kitty will experience her Mars return and then Mars will go on to form a series of squares to Neptune, Saturn and the Ascendant from February 3-5th, 2012. With Mars and the Ascendant signifying danger or threat to the physical body, this period between October 2012 - February 2013 seems to be one of great intensity and a higher degree of risk to Kitty's personal safety.

Of course, ultimately it is not the role of the astrologer to persuade a client towards any particular course of action but rather convey a sense of the planetary energies at play and how these may be worked with in the process of growth and evolution. By discussing the nature of the astrological patterns as they relate particularly to Kitty's Ascendant/Descendant axis, she can be supported to bring greater consciousness in her choices around being intimate and open with others, as well as choosing when to be self-protective and draw boundaries. With the challenge to reconfigure her professional life and explore new terrains in her feeling life, there are great opportunities opening up for Kitty.

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Tompkins, Sue. **Aspects in Astrology**, Destiny Books, 2002

Website

<http://www.alanoken.com> Newsletter: Celestial Happenings October 22 - November 23, 2012.

Software

Solar Fire Gold Version 8, Esoteric Technologies Pty Ltd.

Appendix 2: Eclipses aspecting Kitty's chart

25 Nov 2011

Solar Partial Eclipse (NM)

Position 02 degrees Sg 36 min

Aspects:

Cnj The Ascendant Orb 0 degrees 36 min

Opp Saturn Orb 0 degrees 55 min

Cnj Neptune Orb 1 degree 53 min

20 May 2012

Solar Annular Eclipse (NM)

Position: 00 degrees Gemini 20 min

Aspects:

Opp Neptune Orb 0 degrees 22 min

Cnj Saturn Orb 1 degree 20 min

Opp The Ascendant Orb 1 degree 39 min

13 November 2012

Solar Total Eclipse (NM)

Position: 21 Sc 56 min

Aspects:

Sqr Mars Orb 0 degrees 23 min

25 April 2013

Partial Lunar Eclipse (FM)

Position: 5 degrees Sc 45 min

Aspects:

Cj The Moon Orb 1 degree 56 min

10 May 2013

Solar Annular Eclipse (NM)

Position: 19 degrees Ta 31 min

Aspects:

Sqr The Midheaven Orb 0 degrees 26 min

Sqr Mars Orb 2 degrees 01 min

29 April 2014

Solar Annular Eclipse (NM)

Position: 08 degrees Ta 51 min

Aspects:

Opp The Moon Orb 1 degree 09 min

8 Oct 2014

Position: 15 degrees Aries 05 min

Aspects:

Cj Chiron Orb 1 degree 18 min