

## FAA INC. BOARD OF EXAMINERS

# EXAMINATION INFORMATION BOOKLET

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXAMINATION	
	0
INTRODUCTION	3
FAA EXAM BOARD	з
HOW THE BOARD OPERATES	
CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS	
STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SIT THE EXAMINATIONS	
RESOURCES	
Past Exams and Example Essay Answers	-
Essay Writing Guide	
Essay Marking Guide	
Calculation Exam Resource Booklet	
Exam Resource Directory –	
FAA CERTIFICATES & AWARDS	
OVERVIEW Practitioner's Diploma of Astrology	
Practitioner's Diploma of Astrology Advanced Diploma of Astrology	
Advancea Diploma of Astrology Silver Medal for Excellence, Gold Medal for Excellence	
Exam Papers	
Appeal and Review System	
Disclosure of Marks	
Confidentiality	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	9
DIPLOMA OF ASTROLOGY (FAA) - THE FOUR EXAMS	10
The exams are:	
Recommendations for candidates for the Interpretations, Dynamic and Relationship & Specialist	
essay styled exams.	
Criteria common to the essay styled exams	
"Counselling Orientation" (defined)	
Exam Gradings:	
Essay Marking Guide - Interpretation Exam & Relationship section of the R&ST Exam	
Essay Marking Guide - Dynamic Exam	
Essay Marking Guide - Specialist Techniques	
INTERPRETATION EXAM	14
	14 <b>15</b>
Interpretation Exam Syllabus	14 <b>15</b> 17
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM	14 15 17 18
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus	14 15 17 18 18
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM	14 15 17 18 18 19
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus	14 15 17 18 18 19 19
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics	14 15 .17 .18 18 19 19 .21
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus	14 15 17 18 18 19 19 19 19 
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics	14 15 17 18 18 19 21 21
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics Special note:	14 15 17 18 18 19 21 21 21 22
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics Special note: CALCULATION EXAM	14 15 17 18 18 19 21 21 21 22
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics Special note: CALCULATION EXAM The Calculation Exam is divided into four sections:	14 15 17 18 18 19 21 21 21 22 22 22
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics Special note: CALCULATION EXAM The Calculation Exam is divided into four sections: Special Note:	14 15 17 18 18 19 21 21 21 22 22 23
Interpretation Exam Syllabus DYNAMIC EXAM Dynamic Exam Syllabus RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus Specialist Technique Topics Special note: CALCULATION EXAM The Calculation Exam is divided into four sections: Special Note: Return of calculation exam answer sheets:	14 15 17 18 18 19 21 21 21 22 22 22 23 22

What is an acceptable submission for an Advanced Diploma?	
FAA Advanced Diploma Criteria	
ACCREDITED ASTROLOGY TEACHER (AAT)	
INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF FAA AWARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS	28
EXAM BOARD MEMBERSHIP	28
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGERS	29

## INTRODUCTION

This book is designed to provide information about the Federation of Australian Astrologers (FAA) examination structure, syllabi and qualifications.

Its aim is to outline the role of the Examination Board as well as explain examination marking and appeal procedures.

This information may be obtained in booklet form or downloaded in a PDF format from: <u>http://www.faainc.org.au/faa-exam-system</u>

This booklet will be updated on a regular basis, and your feedback is welcome.

#### Please direct all enquiries to the FAA National Exam Board Coordinator

Pauline Hepburn 150 Clagiraba Road CLAGIRABA Q 4211 Email: exams@faainc.org.au Mobile: 0415 560 716

## FAA EXAM BOARD

The Board of Examiners is a subcommittee of the FAA Inc. National Council. Under Council guidelines, the Board consists of up to eight members, depending on the need at any particular time. All Board members must hold an FAA Diploma and the Examiners must hold the AAT (FAA) or be actively working towards this award.

The FAA National Exam Board

- Sets and marks the FAA exams.
- Determine the FAA Practitioner Qualification,
- Decides on examination procedure,
- Provides syllabi for teachers and students,
- Aims to set a standard for the education of astrologers in Australia.

The National Exam Board comprises:

#### Coordinator

- The Coordinator administers all aspects of the day to day running of the exam system and acts as treasurer for the Board. This position does not act as an examiner (i.e. set or mark papers) but rather oversees and supports Exam Board members, coordinates exam setting and marking, and liaises with candidates.
- Board Members

 Board members support the Coordinator, set and mark examinations, collaboratively modify Exam syllabus, and collectively determine the future direction of the FAA Exam system and Exam Board activities.

### **HOW THE BOARD OPERATES**

The Exam Board aims to be financially self-sufficient. Exam Board members, like all other office holders in the FAA, are volunteers whose primary interest is advancing the professionalism of Astrology. Fees are paid to Board members for the setting and marking of exams. Set fees for marking are based on the number of papers marked by an examiner or specialist marker, with a percentage of the candidates' fees paid to the Coordinator. Exam Board members are reimbursed for expenses incurred in their role as Exam Board members.

The Exam Board meets twice a year. A report is prepared by the Coordinator for presentation at the annual National Council meeting in January.

### **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Current Board members are:

#### COORDINATOR

Pauline Hepburn Dip Astro (FAA), PMAPA.

#### **EXAM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Patricia Shepherd: NSW Dip Astro (FAA), AAT (FAA), PMAPA Narelle Duncan: QLD Dip Astro (FAA), PMAPA Christine Rothwell: VIC Dip Astro (FAA), AAT (FAA), PMAPA. Sagari (Janet Menefy) NSW Dip Astro (FAA), AAT (FAA), PMAPA.

#### NATIONAL PRESIDENT or EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE:

Anita Ings Dip Astro (FAA), PMAPA email: jonita11@bigpond.net.au

Each state association has a liaison officer who can help with information and support around the examination system and are listed on the FAA website.

### STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SIT THE EXAMINATIONS

- What to consider before applying to sit an exam
- How to apply
- What happens after the exam period has been completed.
- **1.** Download and print the Exam Syllabus from within this document.
- 2. Go through Syllabus very carefully, identifying what you do and don't know.
- **3.** Begin to study the topic areas of the Syllabus that you have identified in step 2, in which you feel your knowledge is lacking. This can be done by:
  - Buying or borrowing books on these topics (from libraries or friends). Also consider the resources of your State Astrological Association (books, tapes or CD's etc.) A useful Resource Guide is also listed on the FAA Website under the headings Exams: <a href="http://www.faainc.org.au/faa-exam-system/">http://www.faainc.org.au/faa-exam-system/</a>
  - b. Join or form a study group in your area.
  - c. Find a teacher. The State Associations and the APA website (<u>www.apainc.org.au</u>) are good resources for accessing professional Astrology Teachers throughout Australia.
- **4.** Download and review past exam papers and Exceptional Essays from the FAA website to identify examples of standards that Examiners are seeking.
- **5.** Download the essay writing support document and the essay marking guidelines from the FAA website.

Once you feel you have competency in a particular exam module's technical area, plus a competency in essay writing skills, then apply for the examinations.

- 6. Download and submit an Exam application form (available approx. one month before exam date) from the FAA Website here: <u>http://www.faainc.org.au/faa-exam-system</u>
- 7. Submit your completed application form and your Exam application fee to the Coordinator by the due date. Once your application form is received, and prior to the Examination date, the Exam Board Coordinator will advise you of the exam details and your candidate number.
- 8. The Calculation Exam from 2018 will be a home-based, open book exam. Candidates will have 24 hours to complete the exam and have the choice of returning their exam papers by digital means or via Express Post.
- **9.** The Calculation Exam and Answer Booklet will be emailed to the candidate's nominated email address by 10 am AEST on a Sunday in August. Complete the Answer Booklet in BLACK PEN and <u>all working- out sheets</u> as designated in the Exam must be.

Clearly legible and written in BLACK pen, each page and question numbered e.g., Sec 1 Q1 so it links with the question. Scanned in the correct order and emailed to the Coordinator at <u>exams@faainc.org.au</u> by 4 pm AEST the following day (Monday)

or post by 4pm AEST the following day (Monday) via express post/registered mail to the coordinator's postal address as noted on the Exam Paper. Express Post envelopes must be date stamped to indicate a Monday posting.

- **10.** For essay type exams (Interpretation, Relationship & Specialist Techniques and Dynamic Exams), the Exam paper will be emailed. These exams are a 5 week (at home) Open Book exam.
- 11. Utilise the full (5 weeks) time frame to complete the Essay type exams (Interpretation, Relationships/Specialist Techniques & Dynamic Modules) to properly prepare, research and write the essays. There is a significant commitment required. All statements made in your essays must be supported by Astrological reasoning.

- **12.** Completed Essays are to be returned to the Coordinator by email at <u>exams@faainc.org.au</u>, on or before the last day of the 5-week examination period.
- **13.** Results will be sent by email within 6 weeks of the closing date of the Examination. Contact the Coordinator if results not received within that six-week period.

### RESOURCES

### Past Exams and Example Essay Answers

Past Exam papers and Example Essay Answers are provided on the FAA Website at this address: <u>http://www.faainc.org.au/past-exams-and-essays</u> Documents can be downloaded in PDF Format only.

It must be remembered that there are many different styles of academic writing and astrological analysis. The essays reproduced on the website may represent different styles of essay construction and are not purported by the Exam Board to be perfect in all respects (e.g., word length, grammar, syntax, and astrological synthesis). They can however be used as a guide by potential candidates to gain a basic understanding of what FAA Examiners are looking for in essays. Example essays are also published from time to time in The FAA Journal.

## **Essay Writing Guide**

An Essay Writing Guide is available to download from the FAA website.

## **Essay Marking Guide**

Essay Marking Guides are outlined on page 12, 13, 14, and available to download from the FAA website.

### **Calculation Exam Resource Booklet**

#### \*Definitions in Astrology

#### \* New Calculation Prototype Exam (Example)

These are available to download from the FAA website

## **Exam Resource Directory –**

Available to download from the FAA website

http://www.faainc.org.au/faa-exam-system/

FAA Introduction to Essay Writing, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S5CPyYvVQI

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

To ensure consistency in marking the exams are based on the **Placidus House system (2021).** Candidates must use the personal, collective and transpersonal planets [Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto] when delineating the natal chart. All essays in the Interpretation, Dynamic and Relationship exams must be based on contemporary western style astrology using the outer modern planets of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto.

Candidates must also demonstrate the use of positive framing counselling skills which support and empower the client. All statements made in the essay answers need to be backed up with Astrological reasoning. Assessment is based on utilising accurate astrological knowledge with consideration given for the ability to write a properly structured, succinctly written essay which may (with consent) later be published in the FAA Journal.

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## **FAA CERTIFICATES & AWARDS**

## **OVERVIEW**

## Practitioner's Diploma of Astrology

The FAA Diploma is awarded to candidates who successfully complete the four modules of the Examination process. The Diploma is the FAA's qualification to practice astrology professionally and a high standard is expected of candidates. Those holding the FAA Diploma are entitled to use the postnominals of "Dip Astro (FAA)" after their name.

## **Advanced Diploma of Astrology**

The Advanced Diploma is the highest academic honour awarded by the FAA. Applicants must first hold the FAA Diploma. The Advanced Diploma is awarded on the submission of a research Thesis of your own choosing. Those holding the FAA Advanced Diploma are entitled to use the post-nominals of "Adv Dip Astro (FAA)" after their name

## **Silver Medal for Excellence**

#### Allan Johnson Award

The Alan Johnson award is awarded to candidates achieving the highest aggregate mark (80% and above) in either the **Calculation** or the **Dynamic** exams.

#### **Doris Greaves Award**

The Doris Greaves award is awarded to candidates achieving the highest aggregate mark (80% and above) in either the **Interpretation** or the **Advanced** exams.

#### Gold Medal for Excellence

In January each year, The Board reviews the results of all four exams completed by the recipients of FAA Diploma awarded in the previous 12 months. The person with the highest aggregate mark attained over all four exams, (80% and above) will receive the Board of Examiners Gold Medal for Excellence.

## **Exam Papers**

All exams are presented in draft form to Exam Board members for proof reading and comment prior to being sent to candidates. Every attempt is made to ensure errors or inconsistencies are removed and that the standard of papers is maintained.

- Each exam will be set by members of the Board's examiners.
- The Coordinator will distribute completed papers to examiners for marking.
- Once all exams have been marked, the Coordinator collates the marks and disseminates the results to Board members.
- Final results will only be released to candidates after the Board has collated and reviewed the final results.

## **Disclosure of Marks**

The coordinator will inform candidates before each exam that their results will be emailed with a breakdown of marks given for each question (essay type examinations only). If candidates require further feedback, they should take their marks breakdown with a copy of their essay(s) to their teacher for analysis, comments and/or guidance.

## **Appeal and Review System**

#### **Moderation process**

- An essay receiving a mark of 56 59, on the first marking, will be automatically remarked by another Examiner and the two marks averaged to give a decisive mark.
- If an exam candidate has one essay with an NYC mark and two other essays with credits within the same exam the NYC essay will receive an automatic remark by another Examiner.
- These reviews will be at no cost to the candidate.

#### **Marking Review Request**

- Candidates have 10 days from the date their results are sent, to request a review of their exam papers. Such requests should be emailed to the Exam Board Coordinator.
- The fee for the review will be \$80 /\$55 concession of one essay question/ calculation exam and for two questions \$150/\$100 Concession. Remark fees are required to be paid before a remark can occur.
- The essays to be remarked will be marked by an examiner who has not previously marked the candidate's relevant essay.
- If the review is of a Calculation Exam an Examiner who did not mark the original paper will remark the paper
- The original mark awarded will be averaged with the reviewing Examiners mark for a final mark.

## Confidentiality

Candidates are issued with a candidate number when their application for an exam is processed by the Exam Board Coordinator. All completed exam papers are forwarded to Examiners for marking, using candidate numbers only so that full anonymity is maintained between candidate and examiner. At no time, prior to results being sent to candidates, will the person marking the exam know the identity of the candidate whose paper is being marked.

Exam results are published in the FAA Journal only if signed consent is given by the candidate on their Exam Application form. The information published will only be general in nature and relate to the candidate's name, their state of FAA membership, and the fact that they were successful. No marks or grades will be publicly released, nor will any information be released if the candidate was unsuccessful.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The FAA Diploma is a qualification given for a broad knowledge of all aspects of astrology. Astrologers who are recognised as experts in a particular technique or field will be accredited by the FAA to teach 'post-graduate' courses in their field. Having gained your FAA Diploma, it is expected that you will continue your professional development by availing yourself of these courses. It is especially essential, if you intend to specialise in one of them.

Professional development is provided for the practicing FAA qualified astrologer through membership of the affiliated profession branch of the FAA – the Association of Professional Astrologers (APA). Information for applying for APA membership can be obtained from the FAA web site <a href="http://www.apainc.org.au/">http://www.apainc.org.au/</a>.

## **DIPLOMA OF ASTROLOGY (FAA) - THE FOUR EXAMS**

- The FAA exam system is based on contemporary western astrology that uses a counselling perspective. Candidates wishing to sit this exam system must display sound counselling skills/ positive framing and use the outer modern planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto which are often called the collective or transpersonal planets.
- The Diploma of Astrology is the FAA's qualification to practice astrology professionally a high standard is expected of candidates.
- To gain the Diploma FAA a candidate must pass four exams.

#### The exams are:

Interpretation – offered February/March Relationship & Specialist Techniques – offered biennially in April/May Calculation – offered August Dynamic – offered September/October

- Each exam is held at approximately the same time each year.
- The exams may be attempted in any order
- There is no time limit to complete all four exams
- It is not necessary to successfully complete one exam in order to do another.
- Any person may apply to sit an exam the only requirement to sit an exam is that the candidate must be a financial member of an affiliated FAA association.
- Application forms, closing dates and exam dates are published on the exam page of the FAA website <u>www.faainc.org.au</u> and advertised in the FAA National Journal.
- From January 1st, 2022, the fees will increase for each of the four exams to \$245. Concession will increase to \$165
- Recommendations for candidates for the Interpretations, Dynamic and Relationship & Specialist Techniques essay styled exams.
- 3 4 years of study with an astrological teacher who is teaching the FAA syllabus
- At least 20 practice chart interpretations/consultations [preferably more].
- Attendance at astrological seminars, conferences and workshops, including local FAA meetings.
- Extensive reading in all areas of the relevant syllabus [refer to Resource Guide].
- Practice essay writing and complete at least one essay from a previous exam [available on the website] which is then marked by an Astrology Teacher of your choice who teaches the FAA syllabus.
- Practice the ability to write an essay with a "counselling orientation" [defined below].
- Have access to astrological software, preferably not from an on-line service. Charts must have clearly marked house cusps and signs with the degrees and minutes clearly legible.

## Criteria common to the essay styled exams

Interpretation, Dynamic and the Relationship & Specialist Techniques Exams

- A candidate's name and other identifying statements must not appear on any of the charts submitted to maintain candidate anonymity.
- Computers may be used, yet the software programs used must be stated.
- Each written answer must comply with the maximum word limit with a 10% variation. The word limit applies to the essay's Introduction, body and conclusion; this includes any footnotes, references or appendices. Any title pages, charts, tables, and the bibliography are not included in the word limit. If the candidate goes over the word limit the extra words will not be read and thus cannot be awarded marks.
- The candidate is assessed on their astrological knowledge, and consideration is given to their ability to write a properly structured, succinct and academic work, which later may (with consent) be published in the FAA Journal.
- Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failure and the candidate will be no longer able to sit for the FAA Diploma.
- All questions are to be kept separate, and emailed to the Coordinator, no later than the return date given. A personal copy must be kept for reference.
- Extension of time. An extension of a maximum of one week can be granted in the first instance at the discretion of the Coordinator. This will only be granted on the grounds of personal hardship of an 'unforeseen' nature on condition that a request from the candidate is received prior to the published mail back date.

## "Counselling Orientation" (defined)

Where Exam questions refer to a counselling setting this is to be defined as:

The goal is to provide insight into the potentials, 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. The goal is to empower the client to understand their experiences so as to encourage the client toward their optimal growth and development. The natal chart is a map of the psyche and as such should be approached with respect, compassion, care and patience. Remember "Do No Harm".

Under FAA examination conditions, it is not appropriate to discuss past-life chart interpretations as these interpretations are not falsifiable/verifiable and open to speculation. In responding to exam questions, answers need to focus on a counselling perspective that supports and empowers the client in a positive manner.

## **Exam Grading:**

This applies to all individual essays and the overall mark for the exam

- High Distinction 90% & above –
- Distinction, 80% 89% -
- Credit 70% 79% -
- Pass 60% 69% -
- Not Yet Competent Below 60% -.

## Essay Marking Guide -Interpretation Exam & Relationship and Specialist Techniques Exam Section 1 Relationships

The following marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking.

The marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

FAA Essay Marking Guide	Total Marks 100
Presentation - 10 marks	
<ul> <li>Question included at beginning of the essay</li> <li>12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organisation and flow</li> <li>Within word limit (Intro, Body, References, Footnotes and Conclusion only)</li> <li>Source material and Bibliography</li> <li>Charts must have planetary, and house cusps, signs, degrees and minutes clearly legible – preferably not an on-line service</li> </ul>	10
Answering the Question - 80 marks	
Accuracy of Data, Content and Depth of Understanding	
<ul> <li>Required Astrological Methodology Relevant to the question</li> <li>Able to identify key technical components and use correct terminology</li> </ul>	10
<ul> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Demonstrate the ability to breakdown question into relevant parts</li> <li>Definition and interpretation of astrological and other core components involved in the question</li> <li>Development of Argument</li> <li>Stick to the point – is the information relevant to the question</li> <li>The theme is initialised and consistently developed</li> <li>Accurate reasoning skills</li> <li>Essay is structured in a logical and coherent manner</li> <li>Essential points are organised to reveal a command of the arguments</li> </ul>	20
<ul> <li>Synthesis</li> <li>Relevance to the question</li> <li>The essential points made are related to reveal an overall grasp of topic</li> <li>Ability to incorporate and integrate your analysis into a cohesive whole</li> <li>Drawing the appropriate conclusions from the evidence presented</li> <li>Providing a succinct final summation related to the question</li> </ul>	30
<ul> <li>Positive Framing <ul> <li>Ability to offer positive guidance to the client</li> <li>Use of "Counselling orientation" as defined in Exam Book</li> </ul> </li> <li>Originality - 10 marks</li> </ul>	20
Unique and individual approach, with own views and insights that are relevant and	10
<ul> <li>Onique and individual approach, with own views and insights that are relevant and enhance the essay</li> <li>The examiners want to hear 'your voice' as you develop your ideas</li> </ul>	10

## Essay Marking Guide Dynamic Exam

The following marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking. The marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

FAA Es	say Marking Guide	Total Marks 100
Presen	tation - 10 marks	
• (	Question included at beginning of the essay	10
• 1	2pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organisation and flow	
• V	Vithin word limit (Intro, Body, References, Footnotes and Conclusion only)	
• S	ource material and Bibliography	
• (	harts must have planetary, and house cusps, signs, degrees and minutes	
С	learly legible – preferably not an on-line service	
Answe	ring the Question - 80 marks	
A	Accuracy of Data, Content and Depth of Understanding	
Require	d Astrological Methodology Relevant to the question	10
• 4	ble to identify key technical components and use correct terminology	
	ble to prioritize the importance of the transits and other relevant Dynamic rechniques.	
Analysis		20
• li	ntroduction sets out the hypothesis/arguments	
	ody of the paper demonstrates a coherent development of the ppothesis/arguments	
• -	The theme is initialised and consistently developed	
• [	Demonstrates an understanding of the key natal themes and complexes.	
	ble to identify the key transits and other Dynamic Techniques that are relevant to he question	
• [	Demonstrates the ability to breakdown question into relevant parts	
	Definition and interpretation of astrological and other core components involved in he question	
● E	ssential points are organised to reveal a command of the arguments/hypothesis	
• [	Demonstrates accurate reasoning skills	
• S	ticks to the point – information relevant to the question	
Synthes	is	30
C	Demonstrates the ability to link the relevant transits, progressions and other Dynamic Techniques to the natal horoscope and the identified natal themes and omplexes	
● li	ncorporates the above and integrates the analysis into a cohesive narrative	
. Evaluat	tion of Evidence and Conclusion	
S	Ability to: draw the appropriate conclusions from the evidence presented, summarize the main arguments and link them back to the original hypothesis AND THE QUESTION	
Positive	Framing	20
	bility to offer positive guidance	
<ul> <li>ι</li> </ul>	Jse of "Counselling orientation" as defined in Exam Book	
	lity - 10 marks	
• l	Jnique and individual approach, with own views and insights that are relevant and inhance the essay	10
	he examiners want to hear 'your voice' as you develop your ideas	

## Essay Marking Guide Relationship and Specialist Techniques Exam Theoretical Specialist Techniques (Section 2)

The following marking guide is used to ensure consistency in marking.

The marks are apportioned for each question giving a maximum 100 marks (100%) per essay:

FAA Essay Marking Guide	Total Marks 100
Presentation - 10 marks	
<ul> <li>Question included at beginning of the essay</li> <li>12pt font, double line spacing, spelling, grammar, organisation and flow</li> <li>Within word limit (Intro, Body, References, Footnotes and Conclusion only)</li> <li>Source material and Bibliography</li> <li>Charts must have planetary, and house cusps, signs, degrees and minutes clearly legible – preferably not an on-line service</li> </ul>	10
Answering the Question - 80 marks	
Accuracy of Data, Content and Depth of Understanding	
<ul> <li>Required Astrological Methodology Relevant to the question</li> <li>Able to identify key technical components and use correct terminology</li> </ul>	10
Analysis	30
<ul> <li>Demonstrate the ability to breakdown question into relevant parts</li> <li>Definition and interpretation of astrological and other core components involve the question</li> <li>Development of Argument</li> <li>Stick to the point – is the information relevant to the question</li> <li>The theme is initialised and consistently developed</li> <li>Accurate reasoning skills</li> <li>Essay is structured in a logical and coherent manner</li> <li>Essential points are organised to reveal a command of the arguments</li> </ul>	ved in
<ul> <li>Synthesis</li> <li>Relevance to the question</li> <li>The essential points made are related to reveal an overall grasp of topic</li> <li>Ability to incorporate and integrate your analysis into a cohesive whole</li> </ul>	30
Evaluation of Evidence and Conclusion	10
<ul> <li>Drawing the appropriate conclusions from the evidence presented</li> <li>Providing a succinct final summation related to the question</li> </ul>	
Originality - 10 marks	
<ul> <li>Unique and individual approach, with own views and insights that are relevant enhance the essay</li> <li>The examiners want to hear 'your voice' as you develop your ideas</li> </ul>	t and 10

## **INTERPRETATION EXAM**

To ensure consistency in marking the exams are based on the Placidus House system (2021)

For the purpose of the FAA Interpretation exam, Interpretation is considered to be the ability to delineate and synthesize the components of a chart and communicate the information in a clear and constructive manner.

The candidate must be able to interpret both adults' and children's charts, within a variety of questions and issues in a manner appropriate to the age.

- This is a five week 'open book' (home based) exam emailed to candidates in February each year.
- Exam date and exam application forms are available from the FAA Web site at http://www.faainc.org.au/faa-exam-timetable/
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will usually be 10 days prior to the exam date.

The exam is in two sections: (updated May 2015)

**Section 1** is designed to examine delineation techniques and your knowledge of interpretation components. However, this section is designed to examine more than your ability to identify key technical components and the use of correct terminology.

The examiners are looking for your ability to "synthesize". Synthesizing means integrating the planets, zodiacal signs, houses, rulerships, dispositors, aspects, and planetary motions as related to the question. Direct references and quotes are not required in this section, as the examiners prefer to hear your voice and insights. Your answers need to be relevant to the age of the person and answers should be objective and not include your own personal bias or provide advice. Please base your essay on your own understanding and reasoning. Referencing and a bibliography are not required in Section1. (2021)

These questions require a counselling perspective. The goal is to provide insight into the potentials, 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. The goal is to empower the client to understand their experiences so as to encourage the client toward their optimal growth and development. The natal chart is a map of the psyche and as such should be approached with respect, compassion, care and patience. Remember "Do No Harm".

Under FAA examination conditions, it is not appropriate to discuss past-life chart interpretations as these interpretations are not falsifiable/verifiable and open to speculation. In responding to exam questions, answers need to focus on a counselling perspective that supports and empowers the client in a positive manner.

- Must pass two of the three answers
- 40% of overall mark

**Section 2** is designed to examine more in-depth delineation techniques and your knowledge of interpretation of a chart as a whole.

The examiners are looking for your ability to "synthesize". Synthesizing means integrating the planets, zodiacal signs, houses, rulerships, dispositors, aspects, and planetary motions as related to the question. Your answers need to be relevant to the age of the person and answers should be objective and not include your own personal bias or provide advice.

Relevant references and quotes may be used in this section; however, the examiners prefer to hear your voice and insights rather than multiple quotes.

These questions require a counselling perspective. The goal is to provide insight into the potentials, 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. The goal is to empower the client to understand their experiences so as to encourage the client toward their optimal growth and development. The natal chart is a map of the psyche and as such should be approached with respect, compassion, care and patience. Remember "Do No Harm". (May 2015)

- 60% of overall mark
- To gain the Certificate both Sections must be passed. However, should a candidate receive a NYC assessment in one of the three essays in Section One and gain 60 marks or above for that section OR should a candidate receive a NYC assessment for one of the two essays in Section Two and gain 60 marks or above for that section then that candidate will be deemed as having passed. (Please note: there can be only one essay assessed as NYC in the entire exam for this option to be considered). (May 2015)
- All successful candidates will receive a certificate of success in this exam. However, the candidate is reminded that this certificate is not a qualification by itself to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level. Is this certificate still applicable.
- Should a candidate receive a NYC assessment in one of the three essays in Section One and fail to gain 60 marks or above for that section OR should a candidate receive a NYC assessment for one of the two essays in Section Two and fail to gain 60 marks or above for that section then an offer to re-submit the NYC section can be made to the candidate with the following provisions:
  - that the NYC section be re-submitted the next time the same exam is offered
  - that the fee be adjusted to half the advertised total fee for that exam
  - that the section being re-submitted be done so in the first three weeks of the exam time allocated.

(Please note there can be only one essay assessed as NYC in the entire exam for this option to be considered) (May 2015)

## **Interpretation Exam Syllabus**

- The meanings of planets, luminaries, as used in astrology.
- The use of Elements and Modes.
- The astrological significance of Direct, Retrograde, and Stationary Planets.
- The meaning of Chart Angles, Dispositors & Rulership, Essential Dignities & Mutual Reception.
- The astrological significance of house cusps, ruler of a house, intercepted signs,
- The astrological significance and interpretation of the Nodal axis.
- The astrological significance of aspect patterns and chart shapes.

## **DYNAMIC EXAM**

To ensure consistency in marking the exams are based on the Placidus House system (2021)

The exam will assess the candidate's ability to use the techniques as defined within the syllabus, either separately or in combination, to build a picture of an individual's future trends. The candidate must be able to interpret and synthesise these techniques and relate the resulting information to the client in a meaningful, non-fatalistic way.

Interpretation is considered to be the ability to synthesise the components of a chart (or other technique) and communicate the information in a clear and constructive manner. The candidate will be expected to show counselling ability in the written interpretation of a chart. A candidate, at this point in their studies, is expected to have received some supervised counselling training. Examination Markers are looking for the candidate's ability to relay information to the client in a constructive and supportive way, whilst maintaining an emphasis on astrological knowledge and understanding.

Under FAA examination conditions, it is not appropriate to discuss past-life chart interpretations as these interpretations are not falsifiable/verifiable and open to speculation. In responding to exam questions, answers need to focus on a counselling perspective that supports and empowers the client in a positive manner.

- This is a five week 'open book' (home based) exam
- The exam is emailed to candidates in September/October each year.
- Exam date and exam application forms are available from the FAA web site
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will usually be 10 days prior to the exam date.

The candidate will be assessed on the ability to interpret all forms of Dynamic charts, including Return charts and Generic Cycles. It will be an essay type of exam with a choice of three out of five questions to answer.

- The exam will consist of a choice of three (3) out of five (5) questions
- A minimum of two essays must receive a grade of Pass or more to gain an overall result of a Pass or more in the Exam.
- All the questions reflect the practice of astrology and include transits plus one or two other specified techniques.
- The questions will consist of a brief background and natal data of a 'client', and a specific query concerning their current life. The examiners will be looking for synthesis of the relevant Dynamic chart(s) with the Natal chart, clarity of expression and the ability to advise the client based on the astrological information constructively and accurately.
- All successful candidates will receive a certificate for this exam. Candidates are reminded that this certificate is not a qualification to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level.

## **Dynamic Exam Syllabus:** Use a 1-degree orb, both applying and separating, for transits, progressions and solar arcs, unless otherwise specified.

#### Transits

• The use and interpretation of transits.

#### Progressions

• The use and interpretation of progressions. This may include but is not limited to the secondary progressed lunation cycle, regressions etc.

#### Directions

• The use and interpretation of directions as defined within the exam.

#### Returns

• The use and interpretation of returns.

#### Cycles

• The use, significance and interpretation of generic and personal planetary cycles.

## **RELATIONSHIP & SPECIALIST TECHNIQUES EXAM**

To ensure consistency in marking the exams are based on the **Placidus House system** unless otherwise specified (2021)

Under FAA examination conditions, it is not appropriate to discuss past-life chart interpretations as these interpretations are not falsifiable/verifiable and open to speculation. In responding to exam questions, answers need to focus on a counselling perspective that supports and empowers the client in a positive manner.

- This is a five week 'open book' at home exam
- Exam Dates and exam application forms are available from the FAA web site
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will usually be 10 days prior to the exam date.

The exam is in two sections:

**SECTION 1:** One essay of 3,000 words (+/- 10%) on Relationship techniques from a choice of two questions. This exam requires an understanding of the delineation of the individual charts as well as the relationship of the charts to each other using synastry techniques and the use of composite charts.

- Compulsory Pass essay
- Marking includes the Counselling Orientation Page 11
- Value: 40% of the overall mark

**SECTION 2**: Three essays of 1,500 words (+/- 10%) each answered from an array of questions covering the diversity of specialist areas of astrological study.

- The exam will consist of a choice of three (3) out of eight (8) questions
- Two essays must receive a minimum grade of Pass or more to gain an overall result of a Pass or more in this Section
- Value: 60% of the overall mark

The questions will comprise of a brief situation or scenario which will require the application of a specific technique, principle or rules. The examiners will be looking for an understanding of the technique/rules being used and their correct application, clarity of expression based on constructive and accurate astrological information.

## **Relationship & Specialist Technique Exam Syllabus**

**SECTION 1** of this exam requires an understanding of relationship astrology and synthesis of the interpretation. This may include any or all of the following but does not exclude any other tool the candidate may consider valid:

- To be able to compare one astrological chart with another.
- Relationship charts of all kinds, E.g., Composite, Synastry.

**SECTION 2** involves topics in the Specialist Techniques syllabus. Candidates who sit this exam are not expected to be an 'expert' in any of these techniques, and the exam reflects that expectation.

The examiners will expect the candidate to display:

- Competency in a technique
- Core knowledge of a technique and why it may be valid for specific situations
- An ability to research a subject in the context of the question asked
- An ability to critically appraise published material on the technique
- An ability to produce an original essay within the constraints of the question asked in the exam.
- An ability to argue one's own original interpretation of the technique in a critical and logical way, within the context of the question asked.

### **Specialist Technique Topics**

#### 1. Astro-History

• The study of long-term astrological cycles of planets and planetary combinations and their significance in history.

#### 2. Astrology of space

- Principles of relocation of a chart, the calculations involved and interpretation.
- The concepts and interpretation of astrological world maps (including the use of Parans).
- The concepts and interpretation of Local Space wheels and maps.

#### 3. Asteroids

• The mythology and psychology of the four major Asteroids and Lilith

#### 4. Electional and Horary Astrology

• Understand the rules and principles of both Electional and Horary Astrology and demonstrate the ability to interpret and apply these principles to an Electional or Horary chart, including derived houses.

#### 5. Evolutionary

• The study on the Evolutionary path of the Soul.

#### 6. Mundane astrology

- An understanding of the interpretation of Ingress and national charts in relation to the country's politics, people etc.
- Options available for Australia's chart.
- Weather forecasting
- Precession and the Great Ages.

#### 7. Rectification

Astrological methods of finding a rectified time where the time is known within one or two hours
or where the time is totally unknown. Guessing, using pendulums etc. or any other method not
complying with the FAA Code of Ethics will not be accepted. For this purpose, the FAA Code of
Ethics is considered to mean that rectification is the calculation of angles using events in a
person's or entity's life as a timing mechanism.

#### 8. Financial Astrology

- Astro Economics Astrological theory of planetary cycles as applied to business.
- **Stock Market Astrology** Astrological theory of planetary cycles as applied to the stock market.

#### 9. Eclipses

• An understanding of the concepts and geometry of eclipses including Saros Cycles.

#### **10 Fixed Stars**

• Understanding of the use and interpretation of fixed stars in the natal chart.

#### 11. Harmonics

• The theory of harmonics and calculation of a harmonic chart. The ability to find an aspect family of any harmonic. The use of planetary arc harmonic charts.

#### 12. Health

• The correspondence of astrological symbols to human anatomy and physiology. The maintenance of health via life style choices using the natal chart.

#### **13.** House division systems

- The theory and history of space and time derived zodiacal systems.
- The concept and uses of Solar charts.

#### 14. The Media

- Using astrology in the media.
- Sun sign columns.
- Telephone counselling.

#### **15. Comparative astrology**

- An understanding of the sidereal zodiac and its relationship to the tropical zodiac.
- An understanding of other cultural systems

#### 16. Ancient Astrology

- An understanding of the theory and application of ancient, medieval, and Hellenistic systems
- The history of astrology

#### **17. Esoteric Astrology**

• The Astrology of the Seven Rays

#### 18. Mythology

- An understanding of the myths and legends associated with the Astrological language.
- Greek and Roman Mythology
- The use and understanding of Archetypes

### **Special note:**

If a candidate should be assessed as NYC in either section (Relationship section or Techniques section) but gain a pass or above in the other section than that candidate will be offered a chance to re-sit the NYC section the next time the exam is offered.

## **CALCULATION EXAM**

The candidate will be assessed on an understanding and ability to correctly apply the stated techniques and applications of astrology as outlined in the syllabus.

- This is a 24-hour home-based exam
- The closing date for applications for this assessment will be 10 days prior to the exam date.
- Candidates are notified in the week before the exam of their candidate number.

## The Calculation Exam is divided into four sections:

**SECTION 1** assesses the ability to *manually* calculate a natal chart without the aid of a computer. The candidate is required to calculate the house cusps (to the nearest degree) and the planetary positions of two charts, each with a different date, place of birth and GMT. Unless otherwise stated, any house system and any system of calculation.

**SECTION 2** assesses the ability to find aspects, recognise declinations, chart rulerships and the calculation of such points as the Vertex and Part of Fortune.

**SECTION 3** assesses the skills of basic dynamic calculation. This section specifically covers transits, secondary progressions and solar arc directions. These three areas are nominated because they are currently amongst the most popular methods of dynamic work.

**SECTION 4** consists of multiple-choice questions. This section is the general knowledge section. The candidate is asked to answer 20 from 25 multiple choice questions on general astrological principles and knowledge. This can include anything from nomenclature to mythology to simple calculations.

## **Special Note:**

The overall pass mark for this exam is 70%. Candidates must also achieve a mark of at least 60% in all four sections of the Exam in order to gain an overall pass (explanation of sections above).

## **Certificates and Awards**

The candidate with the highest aggregate mark for this exam will receive the Alan Johnson Silver Medal for Calculation. All successful candidates will receive a certificate of success for this exam. This certificate however, is not a qualification to practice or to teach astrology at a professional level as defined by the FAA.

## **Additional Information**

Candidates are encouraged to take advantage of any coaching classes for basic calculations being held in their area. The local FAA affiliated association may be able to provide information on revision or coaching classes.

On the day of the exam, candidates will need:

- Exam Candidate number (as provided by the Coordinator prior to the exam).
- An American Midnight Michelsen Ephemeris from 1950 2050.
- Tables of Houses.
- Calculator.
- Personal blank calculation sheets may be used but final answers must be transposed to the supplied FAA answer book in BLACK PEN.

All answers must be clearly legible and noted in the supplied exam answer booklet in BLACK PEN. Failure to do so may result in the exam not being submitted for marking.

- The candidates' Exam ID Number must appear on top of every piece of paper. Candidates' names **should not** appear anywhere on the paper.
- All Exam Answer Booklet and all your WORKING OUT SHEETS must be clearly legible written in BLACK PEN. All WORKING OUT SHEETS must be numbered and in order then emailed/posted to the Coordinator, FAA Board of Examiners (email or postal address above) no later than 4 pm as per the due date on the exam paper). If posted please make sure they are date stamped to indicate by 4pm (as per the due date on the exam paper).
- Please send two PDF files high-resolution format (300dpi), scan your answer booklet as a separate PDF from your working out sheets.
- Examiners may award some marks for an incorrect answer if the methodology is correct.
- The marks allocated to each question are a guide to the amount of information or level of detail expected.
- Candidates are advised to read questions carefully. The examiners will be marking according to the questions as they appear on the paper.
- In the Examination paper, students will be given the Standard Time Zone for the place of birth e.g. AEST (am/pm) or GMT +/-. Whether Daylight Savings are in effect or not will be indicated in brackets. The candidate will be expected to know how to action the adjustment appropriately.

## **Calculation Exam Syllabus**

#### 1. Longitudes and Latitudes

• Understand the Meridians of Longitude and Latitude and be able to find the Longitude and Latitude of any place on the planet. The concept of the International Date Line and the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer will also need to be understood.

#### 2. Time

You will need an understanding of:

• G.M.T. (E.T.) L.M.T. (Local Mean Time) Sidereal Time, Standard Time, Time Zones, L.S.T. (Local Sidereal Time), Daylight Saving or War Time; and display an ability to find the Time Zone and ascertain whether Daylight Saving or War Time was or was not operative for any place on the planet.

#### 3. Calculation of L.S.T.

• Be able to calculate Local Sidereal Time (LST) and to include the acceleration of the interval.

#### 4. Basic Astronomy

- The Ecliptic, Prime Meridian, Celestial Latitude, Celestial Equator, Horizon, Prime Vertical, Zodiacal Longitude, Planetary Periods, Synodic Periods, Declination and phases of the Moon.
- Understand the astronomy of the planets (including Chiron) and luminaries.

#### 5. House Systems and Table of Houses

An understanding of:

- What house system is being used.
- The use of a table of houses to find the Ascendant, M.C., Vertex and the house cusps to within one degree.
- The principles upon which the chosen house system is based.
- Derived Houses

#### 6. Planets and Points

- Calculations of all planets (including Chiron) and luminaries to within 10 minutes.
- Retrograde and Stationary Planets.
- Calculation of the Moon's Nodes to the within 10 minutes.
- The difference between the Moon's mean and true Node.
- Definition of the Moon's nodes in astronomical terms.
- To determine the phase of the Moon for any chart.
- Calculation of the Part of Fortune diurnal and nocturnal formula.

#### 7. Rulership

- When a planet or luminary is in its rulership.
- Determining the planetary ruler of a house in the natal chart.
- Determining the Ruler of the Chart by any method.
- The concept of the Lord of the Chart (ruler of the ascendant).
- The concept of Mutual Reception.

#### 8. Zodiac Signs

• The difference between the Tropical Zodiac and the Sidereal Zodiac.

#### 9. Elements and Modes

- The four elements and what signs belong to them.
- The three modes (qualities) and what signs belong to them.
- Finding the chart signature emphasised zodiac sign by Element and Mode.

#### 10. Eclipses

• The geometry of Solar and Lunar eclipses.

#### 11. Harmonics, Aspects

- Aspecting a chart, using a prescribed orb, for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th &12th harmonic aspects.
- The definition of the 5th, 7th and 9th harmonic aspects.
- Be able to recognise the following aspect patterns:
  - The T-Square, the Grand Cross, the Grand Trine, the Grand Sextile, Stelliums, Singletons, Mystic Rectangles, Kites and Yods.
- Using a prescribed orb, find parallels and contra-parallels for a chart.

#### 12. Chart Shapes

• Be able to recognise the following chart shapes: The Splash, the Bundle, the Locomotive, the Bowl, the Bucket, the See-Saw, the Splay, Fan Handles.

#### 13. Ancient Systems

- The concept of Accidental Dignity (when a planet is in its natural house).
- Final Dispositor.
- The Modern Decans.
- The concepts of Rulership, Exaltation, Detriment and Fall.

#### 14. Midpoints

• The calculation of a midpoint.

#### 15. Cycles in Astrology

- The candidate should be able to recognise and calculate the timing of:
- Generic planetary cycles.
- Personal planetary cycles.
- Nodal cycles.

#### 16. Dynamic Astrology Calculations

- Able to find a secondary progressed planet or luminary for any date, to the nearest minute of arc.
- Relating the secondary progressed planet or luminary back to the natal chart and, using a defined orb, list the aspects the progressed planet or luminary are making to a natal chart for a given period of time.
- Calculation of an Adjusted Calculation Date (A.C.D.), and its significance.
- Calculation of the Solar Arc directed positions of the planets and luminaries for any given date.
- Relating the Solar Arc directed planets to the natal chart, and using a defined orb, list the aspects the Solar Arc directed planets are making to the natal chart over a given period of time.
- The ability to establish the transits to a natal chart for any given period of time.

#### **17.** Use of the Ephemeris

• The candidate should be able to show an understanding of an ephemeris and how it may be used to understand the movements of the planets. In general, know how to read an ephemeris thoroughly, and know how to find information from it.

## THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA

The Advanced Diploma is the highest academic honour given by the FAA. In order to apply for an Advanced Diploma, the applicant must hold the FAA Diploma. Candidates may apply at any time.

An Advanced Diploma is awarded:

On the submission of a research Thesis of your own choosing. Candidates are asked to submit a 1500

 2000 words synopsis of their Thesis with their application, which is then judged by the Board as to its suitability. This is to avoid those subjects which are obviously invalid or inappropriate to the standard of the Diploma.

The Thesis is marked by two Examiners who have some expertise in the field of the work submitted. If there is no member of the Board with such expertise, the work will be sent to recognised experts in that field for evaluation.

It is intended that submissions for the Advanced Diploma may be marked by an individual subject expert on the Examination Board, a full panel of the Examination Board or a subject expert/s from wherever in the world they may exist. The most appropriate method will depend on the type of submission and the expertise available at any particular time.

An initial submission of the proposed Advanced Diploma must be made on the appropriate application form (available from the Exam Board Coordinator) together with a non-refundable fee of \$100.

On successful submission of a proposal application the \$100 fee would then be deducted from the total Thesis fee. A sliding scale of fees applies with a minimum of \$500. The total fee would be then be advised as the total final fee will depend upon whether an external marking is required. A 12-month timeline period to commence from acceptance of thesis proposal with no extension of time. Upon acceptance of thesis proposal, 30% of the total fee would need to be paid up front with the 70 % balance due with the final submission.

## What is an acceptable submission for an Advanced Diploma?

Under the rules for granting of an Advanced Diploma the candidate may submit for consideration:

- An original research Thesis with a minimum of 8,000-10,000 words. The proposed subject matter must be submitted for prior approval by the Examination Board
- Any other astrological undertaking that adds significantly to the advancement of astrology. Entries under this category will bear an onus of proof by the applicant that they do add significantly to the advancement of astrology.

A number of copies of the submission must be submitted on completion. This number will be advised at the time the entry form is lodged. All submissions remain the property of the applicant. However, a copy will be maintained in the FAA National Archives for future reference.

Candidates are required to agree on the publication of their name and Thesis in the FAA Journal. Copyright will be retained by the Candidate.

This examination is considered to be of the highest level on an international basis and the Examination Board would like to see as many as possible aspire to gaining it as a qualification.

## FAA Advanced Diploma Criteria

A person may gain an FAA Advanced Diploma in the following ways:

1) The writing of an original research Thesis which must be presented to the FAA Examinations Board for marking. The following rules shall apply to the Thesis:

- The subject of the Thesis together with a précis of the scope of the Thesis must be approved by the Examination Board prior to presentation (on an approved " Advanced Diploma Entry Form").
- The minimum length of the Thesis shall be 8,000 10,000 words. The Thesis must be typed with an introduction, hypothesis, methodology and results.
- Should there be no member of the Examination Board who is capable in the field on which the Thesis is written then an external expert shall be used by the Examination Board.
- All 'theses' shall be marked by 2 suitably qualified markers.
- In the event of a dispute over marking of a Thesis, the Examination Board shall forward the Thesis to a third marker who may be internal or external to the Board (may be from an overseas astrological organisation) who shall act as an adjudicator of the dispute.

## ACCREDITED ASTROLOGY TEACHER (AAT)

Although this is not an examined qualification, it is required that if a member of an FAA affiliated association wishes to become a member of the Exam Board they have attained or are working towards their AAT. Affiliated associations are also more likely to recommend AAT's as teachers.

Those applying for the title of Accredited Astrology Teacher (AAT) must firstly hold an FAA Diploma of Astrology or equivalent (as deemed by the FAA) and be an FAA member and only use this designation for as long as they hold FAA membership. (FAA Rules of Association).

The other criteria is that the title of Accredited Astrology Teacher (AAT) is awarded to teachers who have EIGHT (8) successful candidates within the FAA Exam System, with at least ONE (1) candidate successful in each of the four examinations. (Note: It does not need to be the same candidate). This will give evidence of their ability to teach the full FAA syllabus.

On exam application forms candidates are requested to list their primary teacher. After each exam the Exam Board Coordinator will update the teacher data base noting successful candidates for teachers so that AAT accreditation can be confirmed when teachers apply. (FAA National Council Minutes 2019).

Applications for AAT status should be sent to the Secretary of the FAA National Council. A copy of the application should also be sent to the Exam Board Coordinator, so that a record of the students taught by the applicant can be checked. Teachers are credited with having provided tuition to candidates who have nominated a teacher on their individual examination application forms.

The application should state academic and professional experience - particularly astrological teaching experience and qualifications. The names of the exam candidates who under the teacher's tuition have passed the required Exams must be nominated on the application.

# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF FAA AWARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

The FAA Diploma of Astrology and Advanced Diploma of Astrology are recognized internationally.

## **EXAM BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

To apply to be considered for membership of the FAA Board of Examiners, the applicant must hold both a FAA Diploma or equivalent (as deemed by the FAA) and be an AAT or be working towards gaining their AAT.

Applications should be sent to the Coordinator of the Board of Examiners, and the Secretary of FAA National Council by 1 December each year. Applications will be reviewed by the Exam Board prior to the January FAA National Council meeting. If supported by the Exam Board, the application will progress for review at the National Council meeting.

The applicant for Exam Board membership will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application within fourteen days of the National Council Meeting.

Membership of the exam board on a trainee basis will also be considered from time to time. For trainee membership, the applicant must hold a FAA Diploma or equivalent (as deemed by the FAA) and be actively teaching to and promoting the FAA Exam System. Applications should be made to the Coordinator of the Exam Board. If accepted onto the Board in a training capacity, the trainee examiner would work under the supervision of the Board to ensure standards of examinations and marking are sustained.

## **ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGERS**

Once a candidate has attained the FAA Diploma, they are eligible<sup>#</sup> to apply for membership to the Association of Professional Astrologers APA. Applications will be accepted from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February to 30<sup>th</sup> November each year (2024). The APA is the affiliated professional arm of the FAA. More information on the APA is available on their website: <u>http://www.apainc.org.au/</u>

<sup>#</sup> Other membership criteria may apply.

The Association of Professional Astrologers Inc. is committed to the development and maintenance of best practice in the astrological field through the promotion of strong educational standards, professional competency, ethical understanding and integrity.