



DIPLOMA QUALIFICATIONS
Advanced Interpretation Examination
Example

Advanced Interpretation Examination

All examination papers must be your own, unassisted, work. Submission of your Entry Form and Fee constitutes a declaration that you agree to, and will abide by, this rule. If the Board of Examiners has any reasonable indication that you have failed to comply with this regulation, your paper will be disqualified.

Total: 100 marks

PASS: 70%

DISTINCTION: 85%

The pass mark of 70% applies to every section in this paper. In other words, you must pass all four sections in order to pass your paper.

Successful completion of this Examination will result in the award of 60 credits towards the Faculty's Diploma qualification.

Please note that this paper is just an example, and cannot be used for your examination. When you are ready to take any of the three exams you need to apply for them to the Examinations Secretary.

Important: You must have passed both the Certificate Interpretation and the Intermediate Interpretation Exams before submitting the Advanced Interpretation Exam for marking.

Guidelines and Instructions: Please Read Carefully

Overview

In this examination you are required to demonstrate your skills in astrological consultancy by working with a real client of your choice, doing a thorough analysis of their natal chart and forecasting for the upcoming year, plus focusing on a minimum of one and a maximum of three specific queries from your client. You are required to submit all your preparatory notes, a live recording of the session, and a case study report.

You will be expected to use any astrological technique which you might find appropriate for your work with your client.

Preparing for your Examination

You need to find an adult client who is neither a friend nor a family member. Slight acquaintances may suffice but a complete stranger would be better.

You must explain clearly to your prospective client that you are an astrology student and that this consultation will be used for the purposes of your Diploma Advanced Examination paper. In view of this fact, you may decide either to charge a student rate or to provide the session free of charge. This decision is for you to make.

You must obtain your client's permission to record the session.

You need to check with your client if there are any specific issues they would like you to deal with in the session. The focus of your consultation must be the actual client and their personal queries, and may not concern any third parties with whom the client is involved, for example their partner, child, friend, relative, etc.

Very important: Please take into account that you must pass all the sections of this exam, hence truly serious mistakes in the client session cannot be compensated for by reflecting on them in the Case Study Section. For this reason we would recommend you have some practice doing several sessions with clients before conducting the one which you will use for this paper. The examiners will not expect a "perfect" paper, but we want to see the best that you can do and not just any session. We therefore strongly recommend that if you have had a session which was intended to be used for the exam but which does not show your skills in the best light, you do not submit that reading but attempt another session to submit for your exam.

Part 1. Introductory section (5 marks)

You are required to write an introductory section which includes the following:

- A brief account of the first contact with your client to arrange the session, mentioning any first impressions you formed about them.
- The specific queries your client would like you to deal with in the session (you need to agree with them on exploring a maximum of three issues in depth).
- All the astrological data you have used for this exam, which must include:
 - your client's natal chart
 - midpoint cardinal/fixed/mutable sorts and any relevant midpoint trees
 - any harmonic charts you may have used

- transits, progressed and directed positions - in the form of lists, time maps or graphic ephemeris
- any significant lunations & eclipses
- solar return charts
- your own birth data and natal chart, synastry grid and composite chart between you and your client.

Part 2. Preparatory Notes (45 marks)

2.a Compilation and interpretation of the material (15 marks)

You are expected, in your preparatory notes, to consider all the techniques you have been taught in the Diploma modules, both in your notes for the natal chart interpretation and for the forecasting.

The examiners will be looking for clear indications of the process you followed in your preparation for the session, and will understand that you may not be able to actually use all the information compiled in the session with your client.

2.b Weighting the material compiled and planning for the session (15 marks)

In this sub-section you are expected to weigh all the information gathered and extract the main issues you are planning to communicate to your client during your live session, giving the reasons for your choice. You must do this both with the natal chart and with the forecasting material.

Please, refer to Articles 3.2 and 3.3 of Module 9 to see what is expected in these two sub-sections.

2.c Synastry issues between astrologer and client (15 marks)

Explore any anticipated themes which may emerge from the synastry between you and your client, and explain how you think these may affect your respective attitudes to each other, the dynamic of your relationship, how all this may influence the flow of the session and how you could prepare for the session accordingly. You can use any synastry technique which may support these initial thoughts – e.g. cross-aspects, composite chart, midpoints, etc.

Part 3. Live recorded session (15 marks)

You should demonstrate your ability to extract the information relevant to your client at the moment when the consultation is held, to fully cover his/her queries (a minimum of one and a maximum of three, using either the natal chart or the forecasting material, or both), and to present forecasting for the upcoming year in a coherent and useful way.

You will be expected to demonstrate your skills in conducting the session with a mature, responsible and sensitive approach to the communication of the astrological material using normal everyday language. The examiners will be assessing your ability to monitor yourself within the session. That is, they will be looking for a demonstration of self-awareness, an ability to stay with the client's issues, and an ability to balance your interpretation with a full appreciation of the client's own interpretation of their issues.

Your work will be assessed on the extent of your astrological knowledge, ability to synthesize a wide range of techniques and skill at identifying and focusing on the major themes for the client during a one-year period.

Since you will be working within time boundaries in the session, you will not be expected to include all of the material you covered in your preparatory notes. You should, however, endeavour to include those astrological factors which you judge to be the most relevant, as expressed in section 2.b of your preparatory notes, at the same time as listening and responding fully to your client's own comments and questions during the session.

Your session should last 90 minutes.

Part 4. Case Study Report (35 marks)

4.a Reflecting on the client session (20 marks)

Once the session has been held, you are required to write a Case Study Report, addressed to the examiners, in which you are expected to track the course of the session and pick up any relevant information which came up regarding your client's natal or forecasting material, anything that has taken place in terms of non-verbal communication between you and your client, and any thoughts and feelings which emerged for you personally as you were conducting the session and how this influenced your way of conducting it or the communication skills you used.

Please ensure that all comments you make in the Case Study Report are accompanied by the relevant recording time. This is shown in Module 9, Article 3.4.

You will be assessed on your ability to demonstrate that you can sift and reflect upon the meeting with your client and to extract what seems important to you. Assessment will be based on the way you can demonstrate:

- Your awareness of the reasons behind any decisions you took or perceptions you had of what your client was feeling, and of any significant body language or significant verbal statements from your client
- Your awareness during the session of your personal needs and reactions and of any roles either of you were playing

- Your own assessment of which communication skills you used – e.g. empathy, listening, reflecting, exploration of particular themes, etc., and how the communication flowed.
- Any significant issues that came up during the session and how you handled them.

Please, refer to Article 3.4 of Module 9 to see what is expected.

4.b Synastry issues experienced (15 marks)

Referring to your anticipated themes in section 2c, explore the actual experience of the session in relation to those synastry/composite issues, and to what extent things happened as you had thought they would between you and your client. You can include anything that might have surprised you, any synastry contacts or factors in the composite chart that you did not take into consideration when you analysed your synastry before the session, or any others which you did take into account but have not been acted out during the session.

Submission Guidelines

Presentation

The written parts of this paper must be completed in English and you should state clearly at the beginning of your *Preparatory Notes* if English is not your first language.

Preferably you should conduct the session in English. However, if English is not your first language and you really do not feel confident to do so, you can conduct the session in your own language, but you must submit a written transcription in English in order that the examiners can follow all the communications between you and your client while they listen to the session.

Your *Candidate Number* must be placed in the top right hand corner of all pages of your paper and on the CD/DVD/cassettes with your recorded session. **Do not put your name or any form of personal identification on any part of your examination paper**, because your paper will be marked anonymously and the examiners must not be aware of your identity.

If your name or identity appears anywhere on your examination paper, you will be requested to re-submit it with your name removed before it can be passed on to the examiners for marking. In such cases, if the delay means that the exam submission deadline is missed, your paper will be held over to be marked at the next exam season.

You may use any house system of your choice, but please state clearly at the beginning of the preparatory notes which house system you are using.

Submission Guidelines

Three hard copies of the written parts of your completed paper (parts 1, 2 and 4) and three copies of the recorded session (either in cassette, CD or DVD) must be sent by post to the Examinations Secretary at the main Faculty address.

The written parts of your paper should be typed in 12pt font, free of grammar and spelling mistakes.

You will be sent a confirmation of receipt by email.

Please note that your paper will not be returned to you and it is possible that you may be asked to produce proof that you have passed it. It is therefore essential that you keep your own copies of all papers and recorded session, along with copies of all your Examiner Reports.

Submission Dates

Your completed paper must be submitted to the Exam Secretary to arrive no later than the Spring or Autumn Equinox, which mark the start of the two Exam marking seasons each year.

Entries received after the Spring or Autumn Equinox cut-off dates will be held over until the next Exam marking season.

Your marking fee is valid for a maximum of two Exam seasons after payment. For example, if you apply for an Examination Paper in October 2010 but for any reason are unable to submit your completed Paper by the Spring Equinox 2011, you may still submit it by the Autumn Equinox 2011 without having to pay a further marking fee for that Examination Paper.

The results of Exam Papers submitted by the Spring Equinox will be available by the Summer Solstice. The results of Exam Papers submitted by the Autumn Equinox will be available by the Winter Solstice.

Marking Procedure

Your paper will be marked anonymously by two examiners under the supervision of the Chair of the Examining Board, and given one of three grades: Distinction, Pass or Fail. No exact marks are issued, but you will receive an Exam Report on your paper.

In the case of a Fail, you will receive a Failure Statement from the Board of Examiners explaining why you have failed and providing suggestions to enable you to pass the next time. You will be sent a new paper the next time you apply, and each application must be accompanied by the relevant Examination Fee. Your paper will not be marked until the following Exam period.

If you are dissatisfied with the mark you have received for any of your exams you may make a formal written appeal to the Exam Chair within six weeks of receiving the Examiner Report. This allows for the re-marking of your paper by different examiners on receipt of an additional marking fee (which will be refunded if the paper is subsequently passed). When your paper has been re-marked, the decision of the Chair of the Board of Examiners is final.