



Professional Astrologers Alliance (PAA)

Level-II Curriculum

As of January 2023, PAA Level-II Certification Exam has been revised, upgraded, updated, and made available online.

The purpose of these changes is to deepen the knowledge of the student and bring it to the academic standards of PAA. The curriculum listed here reflects these changes. These changes have not yet been included in the print Study Guide, so it is recommended that you use this detailed comprehensive structured list to ensure that all the topics are covered in your course material.

Level-II Exam - Topics

SECTION A-B: GENERAL AND CLASSICAL ASTROLOGY

HOUSES, SIGNS, PLANETS, and ASPECTS

Houses: Topical analysis

Identify the houses that can provide indications for a common topic, like - health, social life, partnership, material assets, work, etc.

Houses and Planetary Rulership

Based on the zodiacal condition (dignity/debility) of the ruler of a house and its aspects, be able to determine how the designation of the house is manifested and how the house functions, as applied in a given chart.

Planets: Dispositor and Final Dispositor

Know: Definition. Identify in a given chart.

Sign Rulership and Mutual Reception

Know: Definition. How mutual reception functions in a given chart – identify the houses that are involved and the effect of the mutual reception.

The Modern Planets

Know: The year of discovery, and the correspondence of this discovery with historical, social, and scientific developments in the world.

Asteroids and Chiron

Ceres, Pallas, Juno, Vesta, and Chiron,

Know: the glyph, years of discovery, orbital location, and basic signification.

Planetary combinations:

Know the Essential nature and general manifestation of specific planetary combinations that are connected by aspect.

Minor aspects

Know: the aspect name and the angular distance (i.e., the number of degrees), and the divisor number in the 360-wheel of the zodiac. (Example: Octile, 45°, divisor 8).

The Lunar Phases

The monthly cycle of the Moon in relation with the Sun.
Know the 8 phases: name, aspect, and phase symbolism.

RULERSHIP & PLANETARY CONDITIONS

The 5 levels of Essential Zodiacal Rulership

Essential Dignity: Rulership, Exaltation, Triplicity, Term, Face.
Applies to the Traditional Planets only.
Know their definitions and hierarchical order of strength.
Why it is called 'essential'.

Zodiacal Dignity-Debility

Rulership & Exaltation (the first 2 levels of rulership) are condition of Dignity, and the corresponding Detriment & Fall are condition of Debility. These apply to the Traditional Planets only.
Know: For each planet, its specific signs of dignity and debility.
The potential effect of a planet when found in its dignity or in its debility, on the house it rules and the house where it is located. Be able to identify this in a given chart.

Triplicity (Element) Rulership

The third level of dignity. Know the differentiation by 'day / night' birth, and the Planetary rulership of each Triplicity. Observe in a given chart.

Terms

The Terms (or Bounds) are the fourth level of dignity. It is planetary rulership over unequal sub-divisions of signs. Know the principle of this division and its rulership.

Faces

The Faces are the fifth level of dignity. Sub-division of the sign into 3 equal sections, also known as Decans, or Decanates. Each Face is ruled by a planet, following the sequence of the Chaldean order. Know the rulership principle and the sequence of the planets.

Accidental Dignity-Debility

Accidental Dignity is based on a planet's house placement in the chart (not on sign). It is called 'Accidental' because house placement is unique to the individual chart.

The Almuten Planet - determination of the powerful planet in the chart.

The Almuten is the planet that scores highest number of points in the chart.
Planet-A scores points when another planet 'resides' in any of Planet-A's 5 places of essential dignity. The points range from 5 to 1 according to the level that is occupied.

A second method of scoring also considers Accidental Dignity.

In a given chart – Identify whether a specific planet can score points from another planet, based on the sign the other planet is in, and also how many points.

Diurnal-Nocturnal charts

Diurnal/Day time: Sun above the horizon. Nocturnal/Night time: Sun below the horizon.

Several classical techniques take this condition into account.

OTHER CLASSICAL POINTS

The Lot of Fortune

Identifies a place in charts that works well, or better than expected, in the life of the person; an area in life where a person tends to be lucky. It is a calculated point (degree) in the zodiac, based on the Sun and the Moon, differentiated by Day-Night. The counterpart of Fortune is the Lot of Spirit. Know the calculation and be able to identify the sign/degree of Fortune in a chart, based on the Sun and the Moon positions.

Antiscia

Antiscia (plural of Antiscion) means ‘the mirror image, reflection’, and it comes from ‘seeing’. It is a formation of Symmetry -equidistance in zodiacal degrees- around the Solstice Points 0° Cancer or 0° Capricorn. Two planets in antiscia position are said to be of equal power. They are said to be Beholding, Seeing one another.

Know: Definition, and how to find the antiscia degree for a given planet.

MUNDANE ASTROLOGY

Mundane astrology

Know: Definition, the scope of Mundane astrology, and the list of techniques used - inception charts, ingress charts, lunations (New/Full Moon), eclipses, planetary cycles.

SECTION C: ASTRONOMY

THE ZODIAC & THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Zodiac: Basic Definition

Know: definitions of Tropical vs Sidereal zodiac. How the tropical zodiac is determined by the Earth and the Sun (celestial equator and ecliptic). The precession effect. Compare to the Sidereal Zodiac.

Motion: Orbits, Plane of Revolution, and Planets' Rate of motion

Know: Planetary Orbits – shape, location. Planetary average motion (geocentric): Per sign, monthly, and daily. For the Sun – the difference of daily motion between summer vs winter.

NODES & ECLIPSES

The Lunar Nodes

Know: Definition, cycle, direction of zodiacal shift, and the annual rate of change.
Signification in chart.

Eclipses

Know: Definition of Solar & Lunar eclipses. Eclipse zodiacal placement and the connection with the lunar nodes. Solar and Lunar Eclipse cycle and frequency. The Saros cycle.
Compare eclipses to New and Full Moon.

COORDINATE SYSTEMS: DEFINITIONS & MEASUREMENTS

Coordinate systems – Geographic & Celestial.

Geographical and Celestial coordinate systems are circles and their poles.

How they are measured:

Geographical Equator:	Geographical Longitude & Latitude
Celestial Equator:	Right Ascension & Declination
Ecliptic:	Zodiacal Longitude & Latitude

Declination of the Zodiac

Know: Declination definition. Declination of Zodiacal degrees – Solstice & Vernal Points.

Declination of planets

Know: how it is measured. Why is it also called Parallel & Contra-parallel
Maximum Declination of the Sun and of the Moon.
Out-of-Bound planets – what is the Bound?

DIURNAL MOTION

The Diurnal motion – definition & effects

Know the definition: The apparent daily rotation of the celestial sphere – zodiacal Signs & planets - rising in the east and setting in the west. East to west motion created by the rotation of the earth on its polar axis from west to east.

MEASURING TIME: SIDEREAL TIME & RIGHT ASCENSION

Sidereal Time – definition & usage

Sidereal Time (Star Time) is measurement along the celestial equator, equating/expressing equatorial degrees with the time of rotation. It is used in converting local birthtime to equatorial degrees of the Local Meridian to calculate the MC.

Sidereal Time & Right Ascension

Right Ascension (RA) refers to the fact that the Celestial Equator rotates, causing the celestial sphere to ascend in the east at a 90° angle to the polar axis.
RA is normally expressed in sidereal time – hours and minutes (equating equatorial degrees with time) and is used to track the rotation of the Earth.

In astronomy RA is used to specify location of stars/planets in the sky, measuring eastward beginning from the Celestial Vernal Point (0° Aries)
It is the measurement eastward along the celestial equator from 0° Aries.

RA Sidereal Time is used in calculation of Primary Directions.

Primary Direction is the most ancient symbolic predictive technique. As the Celestial Equator rotates in right ascension around the earth, 1 equatorial degree (about 4 minutes of sidereal time) passing over the Local Meridian (MC) is equated with 1 year in life.

HOUSE SYSTEMS

Houses Systems - history: Systems used in different historical periods

Know: House systems names and periods of use, from classical-Hellenistic era up to the modern period - when and where used.

House Systems classification: Time-Based and Space-Based division

Know: Technical definitions of Time-based and Space-based house systems.

What gets divided, and how these divisions create the zodiacal house cusps in the chart.

House systems: Divisions and the Quadrants

Quadrants house systems: The quadrants are marked/created by the Asc and the Midheaven-MC degrees. Quadrants vary in size, due to different rising times of the signs, and they often may contain intercepted signs.

Understand how the sphere is divided: the concept of Quadrant houses.

The term *Diurnal and nocturnal semi-arc*, and how the intermediate houses are divided.

Non-Quadrant systems are typically formed by equal division of the wheel of the zodiac, based on the rising sign only. The MC is not involved and does not define the 10th house.

Know: identify house systems as quadrant or non-quadrant.

Houses Systems: Compare the MC and ASC in Quadrant House Systems to the 10th house/place in Whole-sign & Equal house charts.

Compare the MC and ASC in Quadrant Houses to the 10th house/place in Whole-sign & Equal house charts. Observe -In which system the MC is not the cusp of the 10th house

House Systems: Compare Quadrant Houses vs. Equal Houses.

Observe in a given chart: How planets may change house position when houses are shifted from quadrant to equal houses.

House Systems: Compare Quadrant Houses vs. Whole-Sign Houses.

Observe in a given chart how house cusps change when the chart is changed from quadrant to whole-sign.

Which system will not have intercepted signs, and which ones may have intercetions.

CHART RELOCATION

Relocation – Calculation

A relocated chart is calculated for a different location, as if one was born at that other location. Know why the birth GMT and the Sideral Time do not change in relocation calculation, while the rest of the calculation changes using the geographical coordinates (Long & Lat) of the new location.

Relocation – Houses and Planets

Compare: What is the same and what is different between the natal and the relocated charts? What changes and what is the effect?

Relocation – applied

By equating zodiacal degrees with geographical longitude degrees - Be able to assess, without a computer, relocation chart changes, and whether the move is to the east or the west of the birth chart location.

Using the geographical longitude of given cities, be able to determine which city to move to, in order to place a desired planet on the relocated MC.

CYCLES

Synodic Cycles - Definition.

Synodic cycle - a recurring occurrence of a phase between two planets.

Examples of synodic cycles: the monthly New Moon, the 20yr cycle of Jupiter-Saturn, the 8yr phase cycle of Venus and the Sun. Distinction with sidereal cycle (measurement that refers to a star or a point).

Synodic Cycles Phases - a planet aspecting its own place.

Cycles phases – aspects of planets, made to their own natal position during a Return period. These phase aspects tend to have special importance on their own, as the planet activates its own effect in the natal chart.

SECTION D: NATAL CHART DELINEATION

Natal Chart Delineation

A natal chart is provided. Write a short analysis essay - free style, guided by topics.

SECTION E: PREDICTIVE - PRE-CALCULATION

PRE-CALCULATION - ACD, SECONDARY PROGRESSION, SOLAR ARC

S. Progression: Definition

Definition: A symbolic system of prediction. Every day after birth is equated with one year in life. The change in the planetary positions from day to day is called 'Progressed position'. When progressed planets and angles make an aspect to natal position – it indicates events and changes in life. Understand the phrase “a day for a year” - how a day is converted to a year - how birth GMT is converted to Progression calendar.

S. Progression Planets: Rate of motion

Know: For each planet, the rate of progressed motion from year to year. Note how the heavier planets hardly move by progression. The noticeable movements are of the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars.

S. Progression: MC & ASC - rate of change & calculation

Know the principle of the calculations of the P. MC and P. ASC:

The P. MC changes from year to year at the same rate as the P. Sun.

The Progressed ASC is derived/calculated from the progressed MC.

S. progression: change of planetary aspects over time

P. Planets move at different rates, so aspects among them may change – two planets that are not in aspect in the natal chart may form an aspect through the progression.

Be able to observe such cases, when natal planets that are not in aspect, but later in life form an aspect between them. Take into account Retrograde motion and Applying-Separation aspects.

The ACD: definition, calculation, and usage

ACD (Adjusted Calculate Date) is a numeric calendar device that facilitates calculation of precise Secondary Progressed Positions in the ephemeris. It is an exact date in the progressed year that matches the progressed planetary position at 0:00hrs GMT in the ephemeris. It is calculated for the beginning of life and then repeated in intervals of 1 year (one ephemeris line). ACD Calculation is based on the ratio between the birth-GMT and the 24 hrs of the GMT date ($GMT/24$).

ACD Usage: By marking the first ACD and counting years forward, it is easy to observe the year/date when a prog planet makes an aspect with a natal position, or changing direction (Direct-Retrograde). Per event analysis – use an orb of equal or less than 1 degree, especially when the prog planet is applying.

Solar Arc Direction: Definition. Rate of advancement. Comparison with S. Prog. Usage

Solar Arc (SA) Direction is another symbolic system of prediction.

In the Solar Arc method of direction all the chart points (planets, nodes & angles) are advanced at the same rate as the Prog. Sun.

Comparison of SA with Progressed chart

- 1) SA. Sun and SA. MC, by definition of their calculation, are identical with the P. Sun and P. MC.
- 2) All SA chart points move at the same rate of the P. Sun – an average of 1 degree per 1 year, while the Secondary Progressed points move at their own various rate.
- 3) In the SA method, no change of aspect occurs between planets. As they all move uniformly, the natal aspects are maintained.
- 4) Note: the combined zodiacal SA positions never occurred that way in nature; it is a pure symbolic combination.

Solar Arc Usage

In a given natal chart and its SA positions for the date of an event, observe SA planets and SA angles that make aspects to natal planets and angles.

Progression and Solar Arc: sensitivity to birth time change

The angles in the Solar Arc and Progressions are sensitive to precision of birth time.

A difference of 4 minutes of birth time changes the angles by about 1 degree, which equals about 1 year in life.

Assessing Solar Arc Planet/point Making Aspect to Natal

Be able, using the P. Sun to equate SA with age, to determine approximately when a solar arc'ed planet/point will make an aspect to a natal planet/point.

Be able to specify when a planet completes an aspect by solar arc, computed from the orb of the aspect between them, within precision of months (based on the rate of the progressed Sun: 5' = one month).

Calculating degree numbers in the zodiac: Adding & Subtracting

Be able to add/subtract numbers in the zodiac.

Examples: 27° Leo + 54° ; 17° Taurus - 23° Aquarius

SECTION F: PREDICTIVE - CALCULATIONS & EPHEMERIS WORK

CALCULATIONS - ACD, PROGRESSIONS, SOLAR ARC, TRANSITS

Calculate the ACD

Calculate the ACD for a given natal chart. All necessary birth data is provided, including Time Zone and Geographic coordinates. Calculation precision: +/- 4 days.

Calculate P. Planets – per a given ACD.

List the progressed planets for the ACD date in a specific year. (Ephemeris work)

Calculate P. Houses: MC & ASC – per a given ACD.

Calculated progressed MC & ASC for a specific ACD date (Table-of Houses work)

Calculate Prog & S. Arc . Planets: for a NON-ACD date.

Calculate progression and solar arc for a Non-ACD date (that is a date in-between two consecutive ACD years). (Ephemeris work)

Applied practice - Assess timing using the ACD

Use the ACD to approximate when certain aspects are made between progressed and natal chart: Locate the nearest ACD-Year when a p. planet makes a specific aspect in the natal chart. (Ephemeris work)

Solar Arc calculations.

Calculate the amount of Solar Arc per a given ACD-Year.

Calculate the SA planets and Angles for that date. (Ephemeris work)

PREDICTIVE CALCULATION - APPLIED INTEGRATION

Integrated observations for a specific ACD-Year:

Identify which Progressed, Solar Arc and Transiting Planets are concurrently active, making aspects to Natal positions at that time. (Transits-ephemeris work and calculation)

PREDICTIVE CALCULATION APPLIED - S. PROGRESSION DYNAMIC OVER TIME

Progressed aspects dynamic: Observe whether a Prog. Planet will complete an aspect to a Natal Planet/point – applying/Separating

For a given chart, observe whether a p. Planet will make an aspect to a Natal Planet, taking into account the effect of Applying-Separating, Direct-Retrograde.

SECTION G: APPLIED PREDICTIVE TECHNIQUE INTEGRATION – CASE STUDY

EVENT CASE STUDY – FOR A REAL PERSON, WITH ACTUAL EVENTS. FREE STYLE ESSAY.

Identify the astrological factors that were active at a given event.

Given data: Natal and predictive charts, and events description.

Identify and explain the relevant indicators that effected the event (S. Progression, Solar Arc, Transits). Free style essay.

Identify and describe the possible life event(s) that match given astrological factors.

Given data: Natal & predictive charts. Identify and describe possible events/manifestation for this person, for that time in life. Integrate Solar Arc, S. Progression, , Transits. Free style essay.

SECTION H: ETHICS

READING THE CHART - Clients and Others

Reading a “third party” chart

The ethics principles that must be adhered to in reading the chart of a person who is not present at the meeting and not aware that this is taking place.

Providing non-astrological professional advice.

Avoid providing advice in a field in which the astrologer has no training, such finance, medical, legal, etc.

Handling difficult information in a reading

How to convey to the client information about serious challenges - in the natal chart, as well as those that are lying ahead.