

Edl (1915) Department.

his SERIES.

G.O. No. 731

DATED 5-7-15

Precis writing tests. [Despatch Abstract.] Spl. Tests Examination.

Declining to accept the prayer of the
Trichinopoly Bar Association the
may be held twice a year.

40580 m 7 19.6.13
 815 m 6-9-12
 309 m 31-5-10
 512 m 9-7-08
 191 m 17-3-08
 399 m 22-6-07
 312 m 22-5-07
 242 m 25-4-07
 221 m 15-4-07

to 15

18/4/15

Coler 1267 7

8/4/15
 Trichinopoly
 29th March 1915.

From

The Secretary, Trichinopoly Bar Association

To

The Secretary to Government
 Education Department
 Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit for the consideration of the Government the following resolution passed by the Trichinopoly Bar Association at its meeting held on the 22nd March 1915: viz.

"The Bar Association unanimously resolves that the Government be requested to hold the Precis-writing Examination every half-year instead of only once a year"

I have the honour to be
 Sir,

Your most obedient servant

J. V. Swaminathan
 Amb. Secy.

for Secretary.

(Copy of the proposal by Mr. K. S. Sambasiva Aiyar on the subject is hereto annexed). J. V. S.

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To

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The Secretary Bar Association
Trichinopoly.

Sir

I request you will be so good as to place this letter at an early date before a meeting of the members for consideration.

At present the Precis Writing Test is held only once a year: and the result is that a person who fails in one examination has to wait a full year. The Examination is of a peculiar kind. It does not require the study of text-books. All that is required is to learn how precis-writing has to be done: and the only study required is that of an elementary book on the subject containing a very few pages: the perusal of a Guide showing how the same has been done in regard to the papers of the previous years by some Author is also usually done. One month is more than ample time for preparation. While this is so, it is very hard on Candidates to be made to wait a full year. Tests (e. g. Language Tests presented for Provincial Civil Service &c.) are held twice a year - tests which require more study.

In these circumstances, seeing that the Precis Writing Test is a sine qua non for a municipal appointment - for which many members of Bar are aspiring - it is proper that this Bar Association should consider the subject, pass a resolution ~~xxx~~ & the Government and communicate our resolution to the other Bar Associations in the Presidency.

(True copy)

(Sd). K. S. Sankaralingam

Educational Department

CNO. 1267.

Encl. No. 1267-1 Encl.
22.4.15

Referred to the Commission
for Govt. Examinations for remarks

PP
17.4.15

18
19.4.15

21.4.15

To,
The C.G.C. with CNO. 1267 in
original to be returned
with reply.

PP
22/4/15

PP
22.4.15

22/4

(C)

Noted in CB
22.4.15



EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

C.N. 215880P

Received 1915 . Registered 21.6.1915

Subject.

Stating with reference to Government Endorsement No.1267-1, Educational, dated 22nd April 1915, that it is not expedient or desirable to hold the examination in the Precis-writing Test twice a year.

ENCLOSURES.	
No.	Two
Spare copies	Nil

No. 1821

Station MADRAS, Dated the 18th June 1915.

DESPATCHED.
18 JUN 1915

From (Name) The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Duncan, M. A.,

(Designation) Ag: Commissioner for Government Examinations, Madras

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

Sir,

With reference to Government Endorsement No.1267-1, Educational, dated 22nd April 1915, I have the honour to state that the question of holding Special Test Examinations twice a year has been before Government more than once and has frequently been referred to the Commissioner for Government Examinations for remarks. Mr. Logan when acting Commissioner for Government Examinations, reported in his letter No.174/2 D, dated 16th May 1907 read in G.O., No.399, Educational, dated 22nd June 1907, that he was strongly opposed to any favourable consideration of the question. His arguments as summarised were that almost all the Special Tests were of equal importance.

Page 3 C.F.

PR

to the several Departments and that if the Examination in one test was to be held twice a year, the same procedure should be adopted in the case of other tests also, that there would be an enormous increase in the work of this office, that it would be difficult to get suitable Examiners twice in the year and there would be the danger of the precautions in the elaborate system of safeguards against fraud being ineffective. It may be added that the Board of Revenue was not in favour of the proposal.

When the same question arose subsequently, Sir Alfred Bourne sharing the views of Mr. Logan, pointed out in his letter to Government No. 1709, dated 29th May 1913, that the reduction in the period available for preparation would largely increase the number of second or further failures and that the proposal would dislocate work in all public offices where the candidates were mostly employees.

M.R.Ry. K. S. Sambasiva Ayyar in his letter to the Secretary to the Trichinopoly Bar Association, now under reference, states that for the Precis-writing Test very little study of books is required and that one month is more than ample time for preparation. This is the usual optimistic attitude adopted by candidates in this country who present themselves for Examinations of all kinds, and may be discounted forthwith. The results in the test are generally poor notwithstanding the high academical qualifications of the candidates and go to prove that M. R. Ry. K. S. Sambasiva Ayyar's estimate of the time required for preparation is rather low. Even now when the Examination is held annually, candidates do not find sufficient time or opportunities to make the necessary preparation for this test, and if the Examination were made half-yearly, candidates would be at a further disadvantage in as much as they would have fewer opportunities for exercises and practice in abstracting a

vide 1.12.12
80-30
22-6-07

(E)

1.12.12
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19.6.13

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page 2 of CF

precis than they now have between consecutive tests with the probable result that they would only add to the failures.

In this connection I beg to enclose the Report of - -
 Mr. Reilly, I.C.S. who was Examiner in Precis-writing last year.

In these circumstances, I am strongly of opinion that it is not expedient or desirable to hold the Examination in the Precis-writing Test twice a year instead of once as at present. The interval of one year between two Examinations is a decided advantage to the candidates as well as to the several offices to which the candidates belong.

2. The current is herewith returned.

I have the honour to be,

S i r,

Your most obedient servant,

Chomman

79.

for Ag. Comissioner.

1914.

The subject matter of the papers set for this test was of very general interest and one which might be expected to appeal especially to those appearing for the Special Test Examinations.

The papers themselves were not voluminous and might have been read and assimilated by any candidate with a reasonable command of English within two hours.

The time allowed was 4 hours which would therefore have been ample for drafting and finally framing the precis.

The results nevertheless were of the most disappointing character. If the candidates read the instructions not one in ten can have understood them and of those not a dozen can be said to have ~~xxx~~ really produced a precis of the whole correspondence.

Of the ^{very} few who did make a precis of any kind the majority confined their precis to the proposals and made a summary of the arguments saying "the Collector of - said this," or "the Collector of - was in favour", and "the Collector of - was against the proposals."

The logical faculties of almost all the candidates were apparently in complete abeyance, for barely a dozen out of 347 grasped the fact that the medical opinion as to the degree of septicaemia developed in a human plague patient was the key to the whole new procedure.

This was apparently the result of my having placed the Surgeon-General's letter containing his opinion at the end of the correspondence. (which was of course done intentionally).

The command of English shown by the candidates was unexpectedly poor. I say "unexpectedly" for I have examined the Special Tests for several years and should have expected

^{much} a higher standard. The explanation presumably is that it is much more difficult to make a composition in English than to answer the questions in an ordinary examination paper.

Many of the candidates were very weak in spelling and grammar and the handwriting was, I think, even worse than usual.

Instead of giving "all that is of importance and nothing that is unimportant" most candidates were only able to achieve a more or less complete summary of the correspondence. Some picked out what they considered the plums in each letter and strung them together with particular notice of the dates on which they were written, while others gave a series of verbatim extracts in the order of the correspondence in the book of papers and with no reference to logical sequence. Nearly 300 of the candidates either thought it necessary to state that the President of the Madras Corporation had no remarks to offer or mistook his statement to be a way of signifying his approval of the proposed changes.

On the whole I should say that ^{unless} the candidates have some previous instruction in *Precis-writing*, the test is one that might as well be abolished.

(Sd) H. T. Reilly.

17-12-14.

True Copy
 ✓ Enclosed
 for H. Commissioner

” ” ” ” ” ” 191

C. No. 1267, From the Secretary, Irish Society No. 15, dated the 29-3-1915.
Bar Association

2158 C. G. E. 1821 18. 6. 1915.

" " " " "..... " "..... 191

No. 70100, dated 5.7. 1918.

Miss

The Secretary, Irish People's Bar Association, will be informed that the Govt. have considered his request that the Press-writing test may be held twice a year, ~~but~~ ^{and} see no sufficient reason to comply with it.

$\frac{PR}{25.6.15} \cdot \frac{128}{29.6.15}$

J. The Secretary, Trichinopoly Branch Association

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21. 99

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

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READ AGAIN G.O. No. 191 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL

N.B.-

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
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- Q = Copy heading only.