

Home(1918) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 648

DATED 21-5-18

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Code of Regulations for European schools.

Directing with reference to article 98 of the ----- that a candidate who fails in one of the two divisions of the subject English should obtain in the other divisions such ~~as~~ marks, as, when added to the marks obtained in the other division shall amount to 50 per cent (instead of 60 per cent) of the aggregate marks in both divisions of that subject and requesting the Director of Public Instruction to submit a draft of the alterations required in the Code.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Correspondence.

[All correspondence for the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, "Anglo-Indian" Journal, 159, Mount Road Madras. All business correspondence regarding the Journal and the Association should be addressed to the General Secretary, Anglo-Indian Association, White Memorial Hall, Egmore.]

"A NEEDED REFORM."

To The Editor of the "Anglo-Indian".
SIR,

Your article on "A Needed Reform" is very interesting, and presents very clearly some of the facts of the case under consideration. No one knows better than the student himself that he is very seldom at his best in the examination room: for, besides the reasons stated in your article explaining this condition of things, there is the very great factor of the pressure of time. Many a student who can write a good essay in the class room, where his time and thought are devoted to the one subject in hand, very often fails to do credit to himself in the examination hall, because of the haunting fear lest by devoting too much time to one question he should leave little for the others. Particularly is the effect of this felt in answering a paper in English Composition; for the student requires time for calm and collected thought if he is to express himself in clear and suitable language.

So much for the value of examinations as a test of a student's abilities. But the question, which naturally presents itself to the mind of one who has read your article, is whether the system of examination is entirely to blame for the high percentage of failures in English.

It is perfectly true that to expect a student, who fails in one part of his English test, to obtain 60% on the whole is more than ridiculous—it is absurd. The maximum number of marks allotted for English is 300, of which 150 marks are given to the text paper and 150 to composition. 60% of the maximum is 180 marks. This is the minimum number of marks a student needs to obtain in order to secure a pass, if he fails to get 40% (i.e., 60 marks) in either of the two parts. Suppose the student fails to get 60 marks in his text paper; then he has to get over 120 marks out of a maximum of 150 (i.e., over 80%) in the composition paper—a possibility only in the case of a student of rare ability. Even to get 80% in the text paper, supposing the student fails of getting the minimum in composition, is a feat well nigh impossible to the average student, since the text paper is largely a series of essays on set subjects. Such being the case, the only fair and logical conclusion is that the 60% minimum should be done away with and the two parts of the English text be treated as one with a minimum of 40%.

On the other hand, it must be confessed that the standard of English among our students is not what it should be. It is a matter for much regret that so many of our lads are almost incapable of expressing the simplest ideas in correct language. In the case of the poorer class of children, the reason for this is largely

the influence of Indian associates and environment, as a result of which vernacular idiom is translated literally into English speech. Perhaps in some indirect way the same influence is at work in the case of the higher classes also. Nevertheless, whatever the reason may be, the fact still remains that many phrases and forms of expression current among a large part of our community are of purely vernacular origin.

Further, there is a deplorable lack of good reading among our boys, and those who do read generally do so rather for the sake of the interest of the story than for any love of the author's style of expression. Very few boys are able to appreciate the difference between standard literature and mediocrity. They have not developed, or had developed in them, the taste for elegant prose and the delightful charm of the music of poetry. Until our lads are taught to appreciate really good literature, until they have cultivated in themselves a taste for the best, any improvement in the direction of composition must not be expected.

It should be the aim of the community in general, and of our schools in particular, not to lower our standards, but to raise ourselves to their level. We should therefore strongly oppose a lowering either of the standard of the examination or of the present minimum of 40% in English.

ANGLO-INDIAN.

Home (Ed.)
C. No. 956 B
4.5.18.

Home (Education) Department.

3

With reference to the accompanying letter which appeared in "The Anglo-Indian", dated the 29th of April, I should be glad if the question raised therein could be examined in the Educational Department. The point raised as I understand is this: Under article 98 of the Code for European Schools, a student in order to pass the High School Examination, must obtain 40% in each Division of English or failing this 60% of the aggregate marks in that subject. The effect of this rule is that a candidate who succeeds in obtaining exactly the minimum marks in each branch, that is to say, 60 ^{each} in Branch A and B, can pass by obtaining a total number of 120 marks. Any candidate, ~~however~~ who fails by however small percentage to obtain the minimum number of 60 marks (40%) in either Branch A or Branch B, has to obtain 180 marks in order to be passed. The discrepancy between the 120 marks which passes the candidate who qualifies in both branches and the 180 marks which is required from any candidate who fails in any one branch, appears to be somewhat large and while it may be desirable to impose some penalty on those who fail in one branch, it is a question whether the penalty need extend to 50% as

English	Full marks
(a) Grammar & Composition	150. 60
(b) Text-books	150. 60
	120

$$\frac{60}{120} \times 100 = 50$$

(The 150 or 150 in all)

NOTES.

under the present rule. It might be thought that a penalty amounting to 25% would suffice, that is, that a candidate who failed in one branch might be required to obtain 150 marks or 50% of the total instead of 60%

3.5.18



Home (En) Department

The Code of Regulations for European schools is an all India Code framed by the Govt. of India. Arts 97 and 98 thereof referred to in the H.M.'s note are substantially the same as those originally made by the Govt. of India and are apparently in force in other Presidencies also. But under art. 14 of the Code, the local Govts have power to cancel or modify any article or schedules or to introduce new articles. The S.P.D may, it is submitted, be first consulted w.o. whether any modifications in the rules under reference are necessary in the manner suggested by H.M. A separate w.o. note is submitted (below) for approval.

7.5.18

7.5.18

page 15716 of No 59928 (B)
" 27+28 " " " 5.9.05 (C)
page 16 of No 361-6228 (D)
" 10.6.11

Home (En) No. 756 B-1
7.5.18

UrgentHome (En) Dep 4.

Please see the letter which appeared in "The Anglo-Indian," of the 29th April 1918. The question raised therein appears to be this; Under art. 98 of the Code of Regulations for European Schools, a student, in order to pass the high school examination, must obtain 40 p.c. in each division of English or failing that 60 p.c. of the aggregate marks in that subject. The effect of this rule is that a candidate who succeeds in obtaining exactly the minimum marks in each branch, that is to say, 60 each in Branch A + B, can pass by obtaining a total number of 120 marks. Any candidate, who fails by however small percentage to obtain the minimum number of 60 marks (40 p.c.) in either branch A or branch B, has to obtain 180 marks in order to be passed. The discrepancy between the 120 marks which passes the candidates who qualify in both branches and the 180 marks which is required from any candidate who fails in any one branch, appears to be somewhat large and while it may be desirable to impose some penalty on those who fail in one branch, it is a question whether the penalty need extend to 50 p.c. as under the present rule. Perhaps a penalty amounting to 25 p.c. would suffice, that is, a candidate who failed in one branch might be required to obtain

obtain 150 marks or 50 p. c. of the total instead of 60 p. c.

2. The D.P.S. may be requested to examine the question raised above and to state whether any amendments to the rules in the manner suggested above are necessary.

Home (287) u.o.
No. 956 B-1
7.5.18.

7.5.18.

S.P.1. u.o.

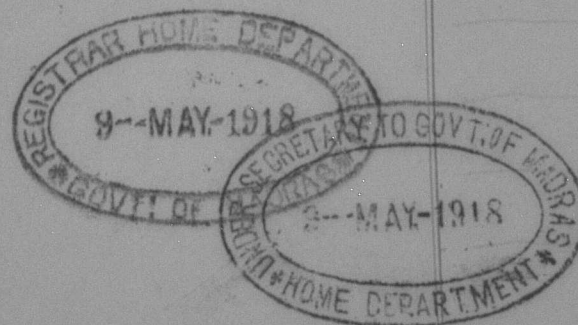
7.5.18.

27/7/18

Office of the D.P.S.

U.O. No. C.24/1918
8.5.1918.

here examination are managed by a board consisting of European school managers and teachers and as far as is known the board is satisfied that the marking is fair. No complaints have, moreover, come from the schools. These people are supposed to be being examined in their mother tongue and a boy or girl who cannot get 60% in both each paper is in my opinion deserving of very little concession. They are expected to get a higher percentage than 60% which is the minimum for Indian candidates who are being examined in a foreign language.



for v. 18
8.

Home (En) Department

Please see the D.P.G.'s note on the previous page. He is not in favour of making any alteration in the percentage of marks to be obtained by candidates for European high school examination.

2. The file may, it is submitted, be circulated to H.E. the Governor and H.M.

9.5.18

S. L.

The two divisions in English are Grammar & composition. Full marks 150. For a pass 60 Prescribed text books. 150 60.

2. If however a candidate fails to get 60 in either paper, he can yet be deemed to pass if he secures 180 marks in the aggregate.

3. H.M. 1 points out that if one just gets the minimum in both papers i.e. 120 marks he passes; if not, he has to secure 180; the difference is large; and suggests that the aggregate be limited to 150.

4. The D.P.G. is against this proposal. He says that a boy or girl who does not get 40 p.c. in either paper in a language which is the mother tongue is not deserving of any concession.

5. Taking the most liberal view viz

where a candidate gets as many as 39 marks in one paper. Then to secure a pass under the benefit of the alternative concession, he will have to obtain 141 marks in the other paper out of 150 maximum. Practically this is impossible. It follows therefore that the so called concession is none at all.

6. If it be considered in agreement with the D P I that no concession is necessary in the case of the candidate who does not secure 40 pc in one paper then I submit that the concession itself (which I have shown above is almost impossible of realisation) may be expunged from the Code.

7. If on the other hand it be considered that some sort of concession is necessary, I submit that, while agreeing that it is rational to expect a greater degree of excellence in one paper than the minimum so as to counterattack the deficiency in the other paper, the total expected should be such as can be expected to be realised in at least a few instances. If for example HM's proposal of 150 be accepted, even then, a

NOTES.

candidate who fails in one paper
will have to secure at least 111 marks
out of 150 — which in a language
paper is a sufficiently difficult
test.

H.E.
Hm 1

40 marks do not make 40% of the total
marks for a paper as the Secretary's note assumes.
Under Sir Alexander Cardew's proposal a candidate who
fails by one mark in one paper will have to secure
91 marks (not 111) out of 150 in the other and an
additional mark for each further mark by which he
fails. I am prepared to accept this suggestion.

P
15.5.18

Draft & let the draft go to Hm 1

A draft order is submitted for approval
if approved, the file may be submitted to

Hm 1
S.L.
15.5.18
Hm 1
Thanks
21.5.18

my mistake
I am sorry
my
16/5/18



Subject English

READ AGAIN G.O. No.

27 27

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 956 B

From the

No.

dated

191

22 22

” ”

22

22

191

77 77

77 77

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191

ORDER.

mis.

No. 648, dated

1918.

Canister
PM
22

Thus a candidate who obtains the minimum n^o of marks requisite for a pass in both branches of the exam can be successful with an aggregate of 120 marks; but if he fails by one mark in either branch he has to obtain a ~~penalty~~ ^{penalty} ~~is thus imposed on~~

total larger by 50%,
namely

180 marks. The Govt considers that the it is ^{unreasonable} desirable to ^{penalise} ~~penalise~~ a candidate who fails to obtain the minimum no. of marks in ~~the~~ one division of the Subject, the penalty imposed by the existing rule is excessive. They

They

Under art. 98 of the Code of Regulations for European schools a student ^{is required,} ~~must,~~ in order to pass the high school and scholarship examination, ^{to} obtain 40 p.c of the possible marks in each of the two divisions of the subject English or failing that, 60 p.c. of the aggregate marks in that subject. ~~The Govt. consider that the discrepancy between the percentage of marks which passes a candidate who qualifies in both divisions and that which is required from one who fails in one division is ^{excessive} ~~somewhat large~~ and that, while it is desirable to penalize those who fail in one division, the penalty should not extend to 60 p.c. as under~~



Received

191

Registered

191

Abstract.

Home (Education) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

648

dated 21st May

1918.

Read the following paper:—

ENCLOSURES.

No.

ORDER.

Under article 98 of the Code of Regulations for European schools a student is required in order to pass the high school and scholarship examination to obtain 40 per cent of the possible marks in each of the two divisions of the subject English or failing that, 60 per cent of the aggregate marks in that subject. Thus a candidate who obtains in both branches of the examination the minimum number of marks requisite for a pass can be successful with an aggregate of 120 marks; but if he fails by one mark in either branch he has to obtain a total larger by 50%, namely 180 marks. The Government consider that though it is desirable to penalise a candidate who fails to obtain the minimum number of marks in one division of the subject, the penalty imposed by the existing rule is excessive. They accordingly direct that in future a candidate who fails in one division of the subject English shall be required to obtain in the other division of the same subject such marks as, when added to the marks obtained in the division in which he fails, shall amount to 50 per cent (instead of 60 per cent) of the aggregate marks in both divisions of the subject.

in the other division
of the same subject

such marks as, when added to the marks obtained in the division in which he fails, shall amount to 50 per cent (instead of 60 per cent) of the aggregate marks in both divisions of the subject.

2. The D.P.G. is requested to submit

to Govt. for approval ^{the consequent} draft amendments to of the alterations required in.

The Code of Regulations for European schools in consequence of the above decision.

17-5-18

18/5/18

To, 21/5

The D.P.G.

(Keep for record)

1st reminder to issue on the expiry of a month after despatch

2. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to submit to Government for approval the consequent draft amendments to the Code of regulations.

(True Extract)

R. Ramachandra Rao.

Secretary.

To
The Director of Public Instruction.

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH L.M.T.O.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.