

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 1248, 18th September 1918.

Translation test

Passing orders on the simplification of the —

N. P.

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ORIGINAL

Government of Madras

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Passing orders on the simplification of the —.

Order—No. 1248, Home (Education), dated 18th September 1918.

The Government have had under consideration the question of the simplification of the Translation test of the Special Tests Examinations and of its suitability for the various offices for which it has been prescribed. They have decided to replace the existing Translation test, higher and lower grades, by a single test to be called the Translation test which will approximate to the present higher grade. The Government desire that the question papers should be so framed that the subject matter offered for translation from English into vernacular should be limited to the translation of an ordinary official document and piece of simple narrative prose.

2. The Government further direct that the Translation test shall cease to be a necessary qualification for the following appointments for which the test has hitherto been prescribed :—

(i) Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Examiner, Record-keeper or clerk in the correspondence section of any court other than the High Court drawing salaries of Rs. 50 and upwards ;

(ii) Sarishtadars in District Courts and Subordinate Judges' Courts ;

(iii) Head clerk in the City Civil Court ;

(iv) Head clerk in the Court of Small Causes, Madras ;

(v) Head clerks in the District Courts, Subordinate Judges' Courts and District Munsifs' Courts ;

(vi) Chief clerk or Manager in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts ;

(vii) All clerks on Rs. 100 and upwards in the Chief Secretariat ;

(viii) Central Nazirs and the Nazir in the City Civil Court.

3. The Munshis and first clerks in the Translators' department shall hereafter pass the new Translation test.

4. The examination in the Translation test to be held in October 1919 shall be conducted in accordance with the modification ordered in paragraph 1 above.

5. Further orders will issue in the Home (Judicial) Department regarding the languages in which Translators and Interpreters in the several Courts of law will have to pass the test.

6. The Commissioner for Government Examinations is requested to submit a draft of the necessary alterations in the Public Service and Special Test Notifications.

(True extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.To the Commissioner for Government Examinations.
„ Home (Judicial) Department.
„ Local and Municipal (Legislative) Department.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1248, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 18TH SEPTEMBER 1918

[SUBJECT.—*Simplification of the Translation test.*]

Extract from original of notes to G.O. No. 1965, Revenue, dated 18th May 1918.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Please send me a copy of the Government Order and notes on the subject when it has been got out.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—21-4-18.

The copy of G.O. No. 1965, Revenue, dated 18th May 1918, and notes put up may be submitted to the Honourable Member.

S.R.G.—11-6-18.

G. H. JACKSON—13-6-18.

I should be glad to know whether any orders have been issued regarding the Criminal Judicial tests and the Translation tests. Can I have the examination papers set in these tests for the last three years?

A. G. C[ARDEW]—14-6-18.

So far as this department is concerned, Translation test (lower grade) ceased to be a qualification for any appointment by the orders in G.O. No. 1093, dated 1st March 1918. Orders have been issued in G.O. No. 1337, Home (Judicial), dated 5th June 1918, replacing the Criminal Judicial tests, higher and lower grade, by a single test, all the question papers to be answered with books. Home (Education) may be requested to answer the Honourable Member's query about the Translation tests in general and to supply him with the question papers he has asked for.

S.K.—14-6-18.

G.H.J.—15-6-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

A complete set of the question papers asked for by the Honourable Member is placed below. No orders have issued in this department regarding the Translation test, as each Secretariat Department has, under recent orders, been left to decide in regard to the tests concerning it—vide Honourable Member's notes at page 19 of notes to G.O. No. 521, Home (Education), dated 23rd April 1918.

○ E.A.V.—21-6-18.

T.K.—21-6-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—24-6-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—25-6-18.

Action has—I see—already been taken regarding the Judicial Special tests. As regards the Translation tests, the papers from the vernaculars into English do not seem unduly difficult. The chief difficulty in the test probably consists in the translation from English into the vernacular. It might be useful to know why these papers are set. It is obviously desirable that clerks should be able to translate vernacular documents, but are there any practical uses for translation from English into the vernacular? The object of the Special tests is to fit men for their official duties, or to test their fitness for those duties. Among the posts, for which the Translation test, higher and lower grade, is prescribed, ability to translate from

English into the vernacular is presumably required in some instances, e.g., translators in Collectors' offices; but is this accomplishment needed in clerks in the Chief Secretariat, Secretariat appointments on Rs. 50, etc.? If not, it would perhaps be best to remodel the Translation tests—by making the higher grade a regular test for men doing the special work of translators, and the lower grade a mere test of ability to translate from the vernacular without any paper to be translated from English into the vernacular. Perhaps the Secretary, Home (Education), will kindly give his views.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—27-6-18.

Submitted for orders.

2. It has been since decided in another file that clerks in the Chief Secretariat should be relieved of the liability to pass any special test other than the Account test.

E.A.V.—3-7-18.

Papers from the record office have been obtained and examined. The translation test as it stood in 1862 is substantially the same as it is to-day. The papers do not help to show why translation from English into vernacular was introduced. It was apparently with a view to *enforce* a knowledge of the vernacular in Government servants and at the same time to test their power and felicity of expression in that language. If such a course was considered necessary at a time when the study of vernacular was compulsory for university examinations, the necessity for it is greater now when the regular study of the vernacular is *not* compulsory for any of the university examinations.

2. As regards the practical use of possessing a knowledge of vernacular by Government servants, it is submitted that officers below the grade of deputy collectors have also to draft, or to pass draft of, their orders in vernacular and consequently they ought to possess a sufficient knowledge thereof. Ordinarily the passages chosen for translation at the examinations are of the nature that is likely to come up in use in the discharge of the duties of the officer. Further, it is always not an easy matter to find out appropriate expression in vernacular which could ordinarily be understood by the public, for the technical expressions used in legal judgments and official documents. Capacity to do so is always a useful test of the ability of the candidate to understand the import of official expressions and of the facility with which he can converse or correspond with a ryot in vernacular on official subjects.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—18-7-18.

So far as the Translation test is concerned, I conceive it serves two purposes; (a) ability to draft in the vernacular and (b) familiarity with a language so as to converse freely on official subjects.

2. Regarding (a), it is obvious that this capacity is chiefly required in the case of persons like taluk clerks, who have to deal with subordinate officers who do not know English. But the test is not prescribed for them. Evidently their natural acquaintance with their mother-tongue coupled with practice serves official purposes.

3. In my opinion, the second purpose is more important. It is indispensable that an officer should be able to freely converse with ryots at large at least on official subjects without the aid of an interpreter.

4. The question then is whether the provision of a paper to translate English into vernacular is necessary.

5. I think it is. Any amount of facility to read vernacular print and to translate the vernacular in English is no index of a real conversational grasp of the language. Take my own case. I took Malayalam as my second language for the university examinations. And owing to a special dispensation in my favour permitting me to write out my answers in the English language, I passed (after I had once failed before I had the concession). And when I took the degree, I could not talk Malayalam or read Malayalam manuscripts. The paper from English into vernacular is the best practical test of the candidate's real progress in the vernacular.

6. But in order that the Special test may not be a really academic test, I would limit the paper to an official subject. The best thing is to translate an existing vernacular document in English and present it to the candidate for retranslation. This is usually done.

7. In my opinion I do not see the necessity for the two grades of Translation test. Once the rudiments are learnt, it is on practice that we should rely for the officer to improve his knowledge. The passing of a difficult (higher) test some years in advance of any officer securing a post for which higher knowledge is necessary is no criterion that the officer who passed such a test is better off than another who has passed the lower test and has kept up his knowledge by continual practice.

8. Perhaps in the case of interpreters the above observation may not apply. Even here I would leave it to the presiding officer to test the candidate *viva voce* at the time of appointment to the office of interpreter. If he judges wrongly, it is he that will chiefly suffer.

9. My recommendations therefore are—(a) to abolish the two grades and hold only one examination; and (b) to have both papers, but the subject of the paper for translation from English into vernacular should be a translation by the examiner himself from a current vernacular document.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—19-7-18.

First please now to Sir Alexander Cardew.

F[ENTLAND]—20-7-18.

The foregoing notes bring out some interesting points.

2. In the first place the Registrar suggests that the English into vernacular paper in the Translation test was introduced in order to force clerks to learn the vernacular. I think that this is not at all unlikely because I know that in other respects the Special tests used to be regarded as an indirect way of promoting general educational objects. Thus, admission to Revenue Higher was limited to graduates in 1886 in order to encourage collegiate education. But this indirect way of promoting education has now been abandoned. If a knowledge of the vernaculars is necessary, it should be provided for by the regulations of the University in the Intermediate or Degree examinations and by the Director of Public Instruction in the School Final or High School examinations. It is not the function of the Special tests to subserve general educational objects but to see that Government servants possess the necessary training to fit them for the work they have to do. If therefore the object of the English into vernacular paper was merely to stimulate a general study of the vernacular, it seems to be out of place in a Special test.

3. Secondly Mr. Ramachandra Rao points out that ability to draft in the vernacular is chiefly required in the case of taluk clerks who have to issue orders (or *takids*) in the vernacular. But it is a good instance of the unpractical character of many of the rules regulating the Special tests that for this class of officer,—the class for which knowledge of translation from English into vernacular is specially necessary for the performance of their official duties—the Translation test is not prescribed! Mr. Ramachandra Rao says "Evidently their natural acquaintance with their mother tongue coupled with practice serves official purposes." If this is the case with those men who really have to use the vernacular in their official work, why should the same 'natural acquaintance with their mother tongue' not suffice in the case of men who have not got to use the vernacular in their official work, such as officials (other than translators and interpreters) of the High Court, District Courts, Sub-Courts, Small Cause Court, Madras, City Civil Court, etc.? To impose a test on those who don't need it and to exempt those who do seems an extraordinarily topsy-turvy procedure.

4. Thirdly, Mr. Ramachandra Rao goes on to say that the Translation test serves the purpose of ensuring such familiarity with the vernacular as to enable an officer to converse freely on official subjects, and he opines that to secure this free colloquial command of the vernacular, a paper for translation from English into the vernacular is necessary. I confess I do not follow Mr. Ramachandra Rao's argument.

He says himself that 'no amount of facility in reading vernacular print or translating from the vernacular into English will give an index of real conversational grasp of the language.' I agree, but if so, why is a *written* paper of translation from English into the vernacular *necessary* to enable an officer to *converse* freely in the vernacular? If the more important purpose of the Translation test is to ensure power to talk, why should it include only a test of power to write? As a matter of fact, the Translation tests—Higher and Lower—contain no test of conversation at all. They are wholly a written test. Either therefore they are totally unfitted for the object they have to serve or Mr. Ramachandra Rao's view of that object is mistaken. The latter is, I think, the case. These tests are *not* colloquial tests; as their names denote, they are Translation tests, intended to fit men to write translation from and into the vernacular, and not at all to converse in the vernacular. This being so, I am afraid that as Mr. Ramachandra Rao's premise is erroneous, his conclusion in favour of the paper for translation from English into the vernacular will not apply correctly to the facts of the case.

5. There might be something to be said for turning these Special tests into colloquial tests, if it were seriously asserted that the ordinary Indian officer cannot freely *talk* his own mother-tongue. But this has not been asserted, so far as I know, and Mr. Ramachandra Rao's own case, which he instances, is entirely beside the point, because he was being examined in Malayalam, which is not his mother-tongue at all. I have never met an Indian who could not 'freely converse with ryots without the aid of an interpreter' in his own mother-tongue—Tamil in Tamil, Telugu in Telugu and so on. Hence a colloquial test is not needed for Indians in their own vernacular. It is needed for Europeans and Eurasians, and that is why they have to pass a colloquial test. It is also needed for Indians who want to pass in a vernacular other than their own, and it is so provided. But it would be a mistake to turn the Translation tests into colloquial tests, besides being very difficult to carry out.

6. I assume, therefore, that it is proved that the Translation tests are not required in order to test power to converse but in order to test ability to draft in the vernacular. As already noticed, this ability is particularly needed in taluk clerks who are not required to pass the test. There has been no complaint that taluk clerks are unable to draft sufficiently well, and I therefore accept Mr. Ramachandra Rao's view that 'their natural acquaintance with their mother-tongue' suffices. That being so in this case, it must *a fortiori* be the case with other officers who have not got to draft in the vernacular. Accordingly for all such officers, the Translation test is unnecessary.

7. There remains the class of officer—other than taluk clerks—whose main duty is to translate from and into the vernacular, i.e., translators in the High Court, translators in District Courts, munshis in the offices of Translators to Government, translators in Collectors' offices and the Board of Revenue and the like. These men ought to have a good knowledge of the vernacular and ought to be able to translate accurately and well from and into the vernacular. I would therefore require all such men to pass the Translation test, which should be that of the higher grade. The Translation test, Lower grade, might then be abolished. Thus I agree with Mr. Ramachandra Rao that only one Translation test should be retained. I am rather doubtful whether his further suggestion that the paper for translation from English into the vernacular should be only an official document. No doubt the papers now set are thoroughly unsuitable. A sentence like the following would never be required except in the case of highly paid Government translators doing semi-literary work:—

Translation Test, 1215.

A [worthy of the closest attention of the Government.]

That such papers are set illustrates the difficulty of preventing examiners from perverting the objects of a qualifying Special Test and turning it into a sort of academic "Honours Examinations" in the vernacular. On the whole I think Mr. Ramachandra Rao's suggestion may be adopted.

8. To sum up, then, I would propose to have only one Translation Test, which will be (as at present) a written and not a colloquial test, and which will be

prescribed only for those appointments in which translation from and into the vernacular is the essential duty of the holder of the post. This test would approximate to the present Translation Higher and would retain the paper for translation from English into the vernacular, but the subject-matter should be a translation into vernacular of an ordinary official document. "Translation Lower" would be abolished.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—21-7-18.

Submitted that the file may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—22-7-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—23-7-18.

Would it not be well that the test paper should include a passage of ordinary prose as well as "an ordinary official document"?

P[ENTLAND]—24-7-18.

Submitted.

R.R.—26-7-18.

The only objection to the suggestion in His Excellency's note is that noticed in paragraph 7 of my note dated 21st July 1918, viz., that if the test includes a passage of ordinary prose, the examiners will put in pieces of difficult literary English such as the sentence quoted at A on page 4. The work which a translator in a Court or a Collector's office has usually to do is not to translate Macaulay's Essays into the vernacular but to produce a readable version of a Government Order or High Court circular. On the whole, therefore, and with some hesitation, I thought that the test should be limited to the translation of an ordinary official document.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—29-7-18.

The file may be recirculated to His Excellency the Governor.

C.R.—30-7-18.

R.R.—31-7-18.

I agree. The difficulty pointed out is substantial, as Sir Alexander Cardew says.

Would the words "ordinary narrative prose" meet the point? I leave it to Sir Alexander Cardew's judgment.

P[ENTLAND]—1-8-18.

May be circulated to Honourable Member.

C.R.—2-8-18.

R.R.—3-8-18.

Will the Secretary kindly now make a draft so that the phrasing may be considered?

A. G. C[ARDEW]—3-8-18.

A draft order is submitted.

2. It is observed from the Honourable Member's note that in future the under-mentioned officers alone should be liable to pass the new Translation Test—vide paragraph 7 at page 4 ante:—

- (1) Translators in the High Court, the District Court and the City Civil Court.
- (2) Interpreters in the High Court and the Court of Small Causes (other than Persian, Hindustani and Gujarati interpreters).
- (3) Interpreters in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts.
- (4) Assistant to the Hindustani Translator to Government.
- (5) Munshis and the two senior clerks in the offices of the Translators to Government.

3. In the case of some of these officers the Translation Test had till recently to be passed in the *higher grade* and in *two languages*. In G.O. No. 1524, Home (Judicial), dated 27th June 1918, it was ordered that such officers might pass the test in the higher grade in one language and in the lower grade in the other. Now that the Translation Test (lower) is to be abolished, the above Government order requires reconsideration.

4. The draft, if approved, may go to Local and Municipal (Legislative) and Home (Judicial) for acceptance of paragraphs 3 and 5 respectively of the draft.

5. The case may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Member.

E.A.V.—14-8-18.

T.K.—14-8-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—14-8-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—16-8-18.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

Including the two posts of first clerks recently created in the Translators' Department—one on Rs. 75—5—100 and the other on Rs. 50—7—75, there are now six posts of senior clerks (who are all styled as first clerks)—G.O. No. 10, Legislative, dated 5th February 1918. They are distributed as follows:—

Two	under the Tamil Translator.
"	" Telugu "
One	" Kanarese "
"	" Malayalam Translator.

and they are all required to pass the Translation Test (lower) till now; while the Translation Test (higher) has been prescribed for the munshis. As these two tests are to be replaced by a single test (vide draft order) for the words 'the two senior clerks in the offices of the Translators to Government' occurring in paragraph 3 of the draft order, the words 'the munshis and first clerks in the Translators' Department' may, it is submitted, be substituted. With the above remarks, the file may be passed on to Home (Judicial) u.o.

* Item 7 on page 93 of the rules relating to Public Service Examinations.

† Item 17 on page 94 *ibid*.

ment' may, it is submitted, be substituted. With the above remarks, the file may be passed on to Home (Judicial) u.o.

C.S.—24-8-18.

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARIYAR—25-8-18.

HOME (JUDICIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that paragraph 5 of the draft order may be accepted. Orders modifying G.O. No. 1524, Home (Judicial), of 1918 may be passed on receipt of a copy of the Educational order. The case has not been seen by Honourable Member (Judicial).

P.S.R.—6-9-18.

For orders as to circulation to Honourable Member (Judicial).

C. H. BROWN—7-9-18.

Educational will circulate. First to Educational accepting the draft.

R.R.—10-9-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Paragraph 3 of the draft order has been modified with reference to the suggestion of the Legislative Department on the previous page. For orders as to circulation to His Excellency, Honourable Member (Judicial) and the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.

P.R.—11-9-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—11-9-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—12-9-18.

P[ENTLAND]—13-9-18.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—13-9-18.

I think 'simple' may be substituted for 'ordinary'. The passage marked A on page 4 cannot be said to be at all extraordinary but it is certainly difficult.

A. G. O[ARDEW]—14-9-18.

For orders as to issue of the draft with the modification above.

S.K.—14-9-18.

C.R.—14-9-18.

R.R.—17-9-18.

P[ENTLAND]—17-9-18.

[G.O. No. 1248, Home (Education), dated 18th September 1918.]

Translation Test.

Passing orders on the simplification of the -----.

Read:--

Order.

No. 1248 dated 18-9-1918.

Press.

(Notes to be printed).

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H. M's note at p. 134
H. E's note at p. 14, Note file

(iii) Head clerk in the City Civil Court;
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H-9410 of Notif. V

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4.8.18.
Jel
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14.8.18

12/9/15

To the C.G.F.
Home (Judicial) Deptt
L & M (Leg.) Deptt.

do. S. E. to be terminated
month after issue of

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1248, HOME (EDUCATION)
DATED 18th SEPTEMBER 1918

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failed before I had the concession). And when I took the degree, I could not talk Malayalam or read Malayalam manuscripts. The paper from English into vernacular is the best practical test of the candidate's real progress in the vernacular.

6. But in order that the Special test may not be a really academic test, I would limit the paper to an official subject. The best thing is to translate an existing vernacular document in English and present it to the candidate for retranslation. This is usually done.

7. In my opinion I do not see the necessity for the two grades of Translation test. Once the rudiments are learnt, it is on practice that we should rely for the officer to improve his knowledge. The passing of a difficult (higher) test some years in advance of any officer securing a post for which higher knowledge is necessary is no criterion that the officer who passed such a test is better off than another who has passed the lower test and has kept up his knowledge by continual practice.

8. Perhaps in the case of interpreters the above observation may not apply. Even here I would leave it to the presiding officer to test the candidate viva voce at the time of appointment to the office of interpreter. If he judges wrongly, it is he that will chiefly suffer.

9. My recommendations therefore are—(a) to abolish the two grades and hold only one examination; and (b) to have both papers, but the subject of the paper for translation from English into vernacular should be a translation by the examiner himself from a current vernacular document.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—19-7-18.

First please show to Sir Alexander Cardew.

[RENTLAND]—20-7-18.

The foregoing notes bring out some interesting points.

2. In the first place the Superintendent suggests that the English into vernacular paper in the Translation test was introduced in order to force clerks to learn the vernacular. I think that this is not at all unlikely because I know that in other respects the Special tests used to be regarded as an indirect way of promoting general educational objects. Thus, admission to Revenue Higher was limited to graduates in 1886 in order to encourage collegiate education. But this indirect way of promoting education has now been abandoned. If a knowledge of the vernaculars is necessary, it should be provided for by the regulations of the University in the Intermediate or Degree examinations and by the Director of Public Instruction in the School Final or High School examinations. It is not the function of the Special tests to subserve general educational objects but to see that Government servants possess the necessary training to fit them for the work they have to do. If therefore the object of the English into vernacular paper was merely to stimulate a general study of the vernacular, it seems to be out of place in a Special test.

3. Secondly Mr. Ramachandra Rao points out that ability to draft in the vernacular is chiefly required in the case of taluk clerks who have to issue orders (or *takids*) in the vernacular. But it is a good instance of the unpractical character of many of the rules regulating the Special tests that for this class of officer,—the class for which knowledge of translation from English into vernacular is specially necessary for the performance of their official duties—the Translation test is not prescribed! Mr. Ramachandra Rao says "Evidently their natural acquaintance with their mother tongue coupled with practice serves official purposes." If this is the case with those men who really have to use the vernacular in their official work, why should the same 'natural acquaintance with their mother tongue' not suffice in the case of men who have not got to use the vernacular in their official work, such as officials (other than translators and interpreters) of the High Court, District Courts, Sub-Courts, Small Cause Court, Madras, City Civil Court, etc.? To impose a test on those who don't need it and to exempt those who do seems an extraordinarily topsy-turvy procedure.

4. Thirdly, Mr. Ramachandra Rao goes on to say that the Translation test serves the purpose of ensuring such familiarity with the vernacular as to enable an officer 'to converse freely on official subjects' and he opines that to secure this free colloquial command of the vernacular, a paper for translation from English into the

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vernacular is necessary. I confess I do not follow Mr. Ramachandra Rao's argument. He says himself that 'no amount of facility in reading vernacular print or translating from the vernacular into English will give an index of real conversational grasp of the language.' I agree, but if so, why is a written paper of translation from English into the vernacular necessary to enable an officer to converse freely in the vernacular? Of the more important purpose of the Translation test is to ensure power to talk, why should it include only a test of power to write? As a matter of fact, the Translation tests—Higher and Lower—contain no test of conversation at all. They are wholly a written test. Either therefore they are totally unfitted for the object they have to serve or Mr. Ramachandra Rao's view of that object is mistaken. The latter is, I think, the case. These tests are *not* colloquial tests; as their names denote, they are Translation tests, intended to fit men to write translation from and into the vernacular, and not at all to converse in the vernacular. This being so, I am afraid that as Mr. Ramachandra Rao's premise is erroneous, his conclusion in favour of the paper for translation from English into the vernacular will not apply correctly to the facts of the case.

5. There might be some thing to be said for turning these Special tests into colloquial tests, if it were seriously asserted that the ordinary Indian officer cannot freely talk his own mother-tongue. But this has not been asserted, so far as I know, and Mr. Ramachandra Rao's own case, which he instances, is entirely beside the point, because he was being examined in Malayalam, which is not his mother-tongue at all. I have never met an Indian who could not 'freely converse with ryots without the aid of an interpreter' in his own mother-tongue—Tamil in Tamil, Telugu in Telugu and so on. Hence a colloquial test is not needed for Indians in their own vernacular. It is needed for Europeans and Eurasians, and that is why they have to pass a colloquial test. It is also needed for Indians who want to pass in a vernacular other than their own, and it is so provided. But it would be a mistake to turn the Translation tests into colloquial tests, besides being very difficult to carry out.

6. I assume, therefore, that it is proved that the Translation tests are not required in order to test power to converse but in order to test ability to draft in the vernacular. As already noticed, this ability is particularly needed in taluk clerks who are not required to pass the test. There has been no complaint that taluk clerks are unable to draft sufficiently well, and I therefore accept Mr. Ramachandra Rao's view that their 'natural acquaintance with their mother-tongue' suffices. That being so in this case, it must *a fortiori* be the case with other officers who have not got to draft in the vernacular. Accordingly for all such officers, the Translation test is unnecessary.

7. There remains the class of officer—other than taluk clerks—whose main duty is to translate from and into the vernacular, i.e., translators in the High Court, translators in District Courts, Munshies in the offices of Translators to Government, Translators in Collectors' offices and the Board of Revenue and the like. These men ought to have a good knowledge of the vernacular and ought to be able to translate accurately and well from and into the vernacular. I would therefore require all such men to pass the Translation test, which should be that of the higher grade. The Translation test Lower grade might then be abolished. Thus I agree with Mr. Ramachandra Rao that only one Translation test should be retained. I am rather doubtful whether his further suggestion that the paper for translation from English into the vernacular should be only an official document. No doubt, the papers now set are thoroughly

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NOTES TO G.O. No. 1248, HOME (EDUCATION), 18TH SEPTEMBER 1918 6
unsuitable. A sentence like the following would never be required except in the case of highly paid Government translators doing semi-literary work :—

"If prevention of the inevitable consequences of drought be an ideal incapable of attainment, mitigation is manifestly an object worthy of the closest attention of the Government."

Translation Test, 1/15.

That such papers are set illustrates the difficulty of preventing examiners from perverting the objects of a qualifying Special Test and turning it into a sort of academic "Honours Examinations" in the vernacular. On the whole I think Mr. Ramachandra Rao's suggestion may be adopted.

8. To sum up, then, I would propose to have only one Translation Test, which will be (as at present) a written and not a colloquial test, and which will be prescribed only for those appointments in which translation from and into the vernacular is the essential duty of the holder of the post. This test would approximate to the present Translation Higher and would retain the paper for translation from English into the vernacular, but the subject-matter should be a translation into vernacular of an ordinary official document. "Translation Lower" would be abolished.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—21-7-18.

Submitted that the file may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—22-7-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—23-7-18.

Would it not be well that the test paper should include a passage of ordinary prose as well as "an ordinary official document" ?

P[ENTLAND]—24-7-18.

Submitted.

R.R.—26-7-18.

The only objection to the suggestion in His Excellency's note is that noticed in paragraph 7 of my note dated 21st July 1918, viz., that if the test includes a passage of ordinary prose, the examiners will put in pieces of difficult literary English such as the sentence quoted at A above. The work which a translator in a Court or a Collector's office has usually to do is not to translate Macaulay's Essays into the vernacular but to produce a readable version of a Government Order or High Court circular. On the whole, therefore, and with some hesitation, I thought that the test should be limited to the translation of an ordinary official document.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—29-7-18.

The file may be recirculated to His Excellency the Governor.

C.R.—30-7-18.

R.R.—31-7-18.

I agree. The difficulty pointed out is substantial, as Sir Alexander Cardew says.

Would the words "ordinary narrative prose" meet the point? I leave it to Sir Alexander Cardew's judgment.

P[ENTLAND]—1-8-18.

May be circulated to Honourable Member.

C.R.—2-8-18.

R.R.—3-8-18.

Will the Secretary kindly now make a draft so that the phrasing may be considered?

A. G. C[ARDEW]—3-8-18.

A draft order is submitted.

2. It is observed from the Honourable Member's note that in future the under-mentioned officers alone should be liable to pass the new Translation Test—vide paragraph 7 at page 4 ante:—

(1) Translators in the High Court, the District Court and the City Civil Court.

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(2) Interpreters in the High Court and the Court of Small Causes (other than Persian, Hindustani and Gujarati interpreters).

(3) Interpreters in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

(4) Assistant to the Hindustani Translator to Government.

(5) Munshis and the two senior clerks in the offices of the Translators to Government.

3. In the case of some of these officers the Translation Test had till recently to be passed in the *higher grade* and in *two languages*. In G.O. No. 1524, Home (Judicial), dated 27th June 1918, it was ordered that such officers might pass the test in the higher grade in one language and in the lower grade in the other. Now that the translation Test (lower) is to be abolished, the above Government order requires reconsideration.

4. The draft, if approved, may go to Local and Municipal (Legislative) and Home (Judicial) for acceptance of paragraphs 3 and 5 respectively of the draft.

5. The case may be circulated to His Excellency the Governor and the Honourable Member.

E.A.V.—14-8-18.

T.K.—14-8-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—14-8-18.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—16-8-18.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

Including the two posts of first clerks recently created in the Translators Department—one on Rs. 75—5—100 and the other on Rs. 50—7—75, there are now six posts of senior clerks (who are all styled as first clerks) (G.O. No. 10, Legislative, dated 5th February 1918). They are distributed as follows:—

Two under the Tamil Translator.

One " Telugu "

One " Kannaree "

" Malayalam Translator.

and they are all required to pass The Translation test (lower) till now; while the Translation Test (higher) has been prescribed for the munshis. As these two tests are to be replaced by a single test (vide draft order) for the words 'the two senior

* Item 7 on page 93 of the rules relating to Public Service Examinations, ~~not up~~.
† Item 17 on page 94 *ibid*.

ment' may, it is submitted, be substituted. With the above remarks, the file may be passed on to Home (Judicial) u.o.

C.S.—24-8-18.

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARIYAR—25-8-18.

HOME (JUDICIAL) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that paragraph 5 of the draft order may be accepted. Orders modifying G.O. No. 1524, Home (Judicial), 1918 may be passed on receipt of a copy of the Educational order. The case has not been seen by Honourable Member (Judicial).

P.S.R.—6-9-18.

For orders as to circulation to Honourable Member (Judicial).

C. H. BROWN—7-9-18.

NOTES TO G.O. No. 1243, HOME (EDUCATION), 18TH SEPTEMBER 1918 7

Educational will circulate. First to Educational accepting the draft.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—10-9-18.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Paragraph 3 of the draft order has been modified with reference to the suggestion of the Legislative Department on the previous page. For orders as to circulation to His Excellency, Honourable Member (Judicial) and Honourable Member, P.R.—11-9-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—11-9-18.

R.R.—12-9-18.

P[ENTLAND]—13-9-18.

H. F. W. GILLMAN—13-9-18.

I think 'simple' may be substituted for 'ordinary'. The passage marked A on page 5 cannot be said to be at all extraordinary but it is certainly difficult.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—14-9-18.

For orders as to issue of the draft with the modification above.

S.K.—14-9-18.

C.R.—14-9-18.

R.R.—17-9-18.

P[ENTLAND]—17-9-18.

[G.O. No. 1243, Home (Education), dated 18th September 1918.]

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The	Handwritten (unclear)	1	
The	Handwritten (unclear)	1	
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Referencer.
Clerk.

Supdt.

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Referencer.
Clerk.

Supdt.

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