

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 1372, 10th November 1919

University Regulations

Sanctioning certain alterations in the — with a view to lightening the English course for the B.A. (Pass) Degree.

Government of Madras

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University Regulations

Sanctioning certain alterations in the — with a view to lightening the English course for the B.A. (Pass) Degree.

READ—the following paper:—

Letter—from FRANCIS DEWSBURY, Esq., B.A., LL.B., Registrar, University of Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—the 4th November 1919.

No.—7395.

I have the honour, by direction of the Syndicate, to submit for the sanction of Government, under section 25 (1) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, the enclosed alterations in Regulation 5 of Chapter XXIII and in Chapter XXXI of the Regulations relating to the course and examination in English for the B.A. Degree adopted by the Senate on the motion of Mr. R. M. Statham at its meeting held on 24th October 1919.

I am to explain that these alterations which were adopted by the Senate by 37 votes to 27 are intended to lighten the course and examination in English for the B.A. Degree by omitting therefrom the option of *either* the 'History of the Language' or the 'Principles of Rhetoric and Style.'

The Syndicate has directed me to request that the Government will give its immediate consideration to this communication, so that the proposed alterations in the Regulations, if sanctioned, may operate for the benefit of students in affiliated colleges and others who are preparing for the B.A. Degree Examination of 1920, and who are at present in a state of uncertainty as to the subjects they will be required to present at that examination.

ENCLOSURE

University of Madras—Resolutions adopted by the Senate at its meeting held on 24th October 1919.

That Regulation 5 of Chapter XXIII and Chapter XXXI of the Regulations be altered as follows:—

(i) In Regulation 5 of Chapter XXIII under 'I. English Language and Literature' omit the words '(C) at the option . . . and style,' and omit the paragraph 'For the History . . . and style.'

(ii) In Chapter XXXI in the time-table for the B.A. Degree Examination in English Language and Literature for the existing time-table for the third day substitute the following time-table:—

Hours.	Subject.	Marks.
10—12-30 . . .	Modern Poetry . . .	60

and in the tot. l. marks for '400' substitute '340'.

8/11/16



UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

No. 7397

SENATE HOUSE, 4 - NOV 1919

Dear Mr. Ramachandra Rao,

I am sending officially today for the consideration of the Government alterations in the Regulations for the B.A. Degree course and examination in English to eliminate from the course the alternative subjects - History of the Language and Rhetoric and Style. These proposals were accepted by the Senate on the motion of Mr. R.M. Statham after a prolonged debate and the student population is fully aware of the fact but is uncertain whether to continue the study of these subjects or not. It is obviously desirable that orders should be passed as soon as possible so that the candidates for 1920 examination may know what they have to prepare. The Syndicate has directed me to ask the Government to treat the matter as urgent, and I shall esteem it a favour if you can do what you can to expedite the issue of orders.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Baskin

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur
R. Ramachandra Rao Avl., B.A.

Subject.

University Regulation 2206/B, from the Regs. univ. of Madras

No. 7395, dt. 4.11.19

Home (Ed. 2)

The proposed alterations in the University Regulations may be referred w/o to the D.P.G. for remarks in the first instance. Newspaper report of the Senate Proceedings at (A)

Univ. no 2206/B
5.11.19

5.11.19

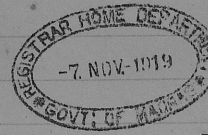
5.11.19

5/11/19

D.P.G.

U.O. Reply No. 3388, 7-11-19.

Together with a large number of other members of the Senate, I think it unfortunate that the resolution proposing these alterations should have been accepted by the Senate. This, however, is not a sufficient reason for Government refusing to accept the changes in the regulations involved by the acceptance of the motion. I suggest the alterations be sanctioned by Government.



Home (Ed. 2)

A draft order sanctioning the alterations in Regulations is submitted. It is an unauthenticated message on the subject from the final year B. A. Students

Box 15
8.11.19

3

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B

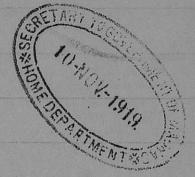
of the Madras colleges or put up & played (B)

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ORDINARY.

PRESS SLIP.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

Form II-38-1-17.

DEPARTMENT.

Current No. dated 191

G.O. No. 1372 dated 10. 11. 1919

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(b) Notes 3 (Thurs)

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(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

TO PRESS, MADRAS COTTY.

Please send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.

Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send number of copies as indicated.

As the matter is clear manuscript and has been carefully edited, (a) proof need not be sent. Please print and supply number of copies as indicated.

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Type may be released after usual interval.

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To

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL,

Port Saint George

MADRAS.

May it please Your Excellency to accord a sympathetic hearing to the prayers of your humble memorialists:--

We, the students of the final year (pass course) of the three first grade Colleges of this City, beg to leave to approach you with the prayers that the resolution relating to the deletion of Rhetoric and Language from the B.A. English course may be given effect to from the date of its acceptance by the Senate. It is apprehended that as the resolution was not clear or definite about its operative part, it might not be made to apply to the candidates who have to sit for the B.A. Examination next April (1920).

The memorialists beg permission to state that in the case of a resolution permitting the Intermediate students to appear for their Examination in Compartments, the resolution was interpreted so as to give the benefit accruing from it to the candidates of the year.

The memorialists feel that it would be but an act of justice if the students of this year are given the relief which they require very much. Since the advent of Influenza in Madras the health of students has been considerably impaired and the strain of Examination study, if ever it can be said to be severe, has been particularly severe on this batch of students.

None
(20/11)

The memorial
to be submitted.

3. The Syndicate
has just decided
the Senate
recommendations
it is intended
that the changes
in Regulation shall
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immediately.
3. cannot
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4.11.19
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In the three Colleges in Madras there has been considerable dislocation in the Professorial Staff and both the Professors and the students have been trying hard to cope with the heavy strain involved in the present over-burdened English studies. Besides this handicap the students of this year will have to face a thorough change of Text-books next year in English. The extending of this facility to this year's students will considerably strengthen and improve the chances of their passing the Examination this year.

It is the devout prayers of your memorialists that Your Excellency will be gracious enough to include your memorialists in the Scheme of relief so generously granted by the members of the Senate.

For this act of generosity and sympathy Your Excellency will earn the grateful homages of your humble memorialists.

We beg to remain,

Your Excellency's humble memorialists,

(Copy forwarded to His Excellency the Chancellor, University of Madras, with the list of signatures of the Memorialists).

Home DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—

The Madras Times

2. Published at—

Madras

3. Dated—

25-10-19

PASS B. A. ENGLISH LITERATURE.
The existing Regulation regarding the subjects in English Language and Literature was as follows:—

The course shall be (a) composition on matter supplied by books set for perusal; (b) the study of English literature and its history with special reference to set books studied in detail; (c) at the option of the candidate either the history of the Language or the principles of Rhetoric and Style. For the history of the language, a work or a portion of work of Chaucer shall be prescribed from year to year but need not necessarily be changed each year. A Syllabus of the outlines of historical English Grammar be prescribed. A syllabus shall be prescribed in the principles of Rhetoric and Style.

Mr. R. M. Statham proposed that clause (c) and the proviso following it be deleted. Two objects, he said, forced him to move this resolution. In the first place they were in an anomalous position. The subjects for the Pass B. A. were harder than those for the Honours Course. At present they were trying to make the students for the Pass B. A. Scholars more than good citizens and perfect gentlemen, which it was intended to make the subjects were of the nature of an advanced technical culture. There was every reason that the Pass B. A. boy should have a lighter course. The length of the course of study for Pass B. A. was the same as that for Honours. There were 18 text books for Pass B. A. while for the Honours course there was a lesser number.

Mr. R. Swaminatha Iyer seconded the resolution.

Mr. C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyer, in supporting the resolution, said that the question involved was one of very great importance, viz., what was the aim of an average lad in the English course. He had had the advantage of a well known Professor and though he was a medalist, his general impression was that the average student obtained a knowledge of Chaucer and the history of the language by cramming by means of compendia. They were dealing with the Pass B. A. students, of whom what was expected was a workmanlike knowledge of present-day English, to express himself decently.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Couts-Trotter supported the principle involved in the resolution. They had to select

between two aims—capacity to express one self in idiomatic English, or to know English sufficiently well to go on and study other subjects as a special course. He was not, however, in favour of deleting clause (c) in its entirety. He believed that a knowledge of Style was somewhat essential. On the whole something more radical must be done and the syllabus remodelled.

Mr. A. Krishnaswamy Iyer said that he took it that the object of the University in emphasising a knowledge of English was, firstly, that the students might have a wide outlook so that they might become good citizens and, secondly, that they might be in a position to express their thoughts in good English. If that be so, the object of continuing the present system would be that the Senate had put its stamp of approval on the system of cramming.

Rao Bahadur K. B. Ramanaatha Iyer said that the pass-course as a whole was better. With regard to the much criticised Chaucer

it was perfectly open to everybody to neglect him altogether, for there was the alternative course in rhetoric. The resolution of Mr. Statham, he thought, would not achieve the object he had in view.

The Hon'ble the Rev. E. M. Macphail said that he was under the impression that the amount of English in the B.A. ordinary course had been rather over-rated and consequently he was in favour of the proposals brought forward by Mr. Davies and carried by the House. Personally he was not going to support the proposals of Mr. Statham. He thought that it would be a great pity at the present juncture when the whole of their educational system was likely to be thrown again into the melting pot. From the educational point of view in India, English played very much the same part as Latin and Greek in the University courses in the West. Though he was inclined to a reconsideration of the whole question of a certain minimum course for English which all students should take, he was opposed to cut out the whole as proposed by Mr. Statham.

Mr. G. A. Natesan said that they should remember that they were dealing with a large mass of students who had to study other subjects and to whom English was a foreign tongue. If they were enabled to have a working knowledge of English, they should not be troubled with this cruelty to which they had been exposed. Way on earth students who had taken up Mathematics for B.A. should be compelled to undergo a course in English, which was unnecessary. The Calcutta University Commission had stated in their report that the physique of Indian students was very bad owing to various causes of study, hostel system, undergoing examinations and so on, and the study of subjects, which was unnecessary in his opinion, would be an additional difficulty to them.

The Rev. Mr. Gardiner opposed Mr. Statham's proposition, and said that it was quite true that English graduates were not taught English, because as Englishmen they were capable of reading and writing good English but they were taught the languages that they did not know. Because in India the students were not expected to know English, it was quite reasonable that English should be used as an instrument of culture. The knowledge of English had not only enabled the Indian to acquire culture but it had, as a matter of fact, united the whole of India.

Mr. R. Swaminatha Iyer supported Mr. Statham's proposal and said that he knew the physique of the boys in High Schools and Colleges was going down on account of elaborate study for the several University examinations. Therefore justice required that the course should be lightened as much as possible. The proposals of Mr. Statham would not prejudice the culture of students on the other hand, it would do them immense good.

Mr. Justice Couts-Trotter at this stage moved that this motion be referred to the Board of Studies in English and to report on the most desirable methods of remodelling the B. A. course on more practical lines so as to ensure the acquisition of idiomatic and accurate style of speaking and working with an expression of the Senate's opinion that such a re-modelling was desirable.

Mr. Davies seconded the motion.
Rao Bahadur K. B. Ramanaatha Iyer said that to refer the matter again to the Board of Studies would not help very much the object in view.

DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—

2. Published at—

3. Dated—

The Rev Mr. Gardiner said that he failed to see how more practical than at present it could be with regard to rhetoric and style. As a member of the Board of Studies in English he was at a loss to understand what definitely the Board was wanted to do. He wished to know in what direction definitely the course should be more practical.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Iyer opposed the motion to refer the matter to the Board of Studies as it had been done so often before. They ought to come to some conclusion on this point and therefore, they should vote straight on the matter.

Mr. S. E. Ranganathan said that the matter had been engaging the attention of the Board of Studies for a long time and the proposal brought forward by Mr. Davies and accepted by the House was the considered opinion of the Board of Studies concerned.

Mr. G. A. Natesan also opposed the motion on the ground that it had been referred to the Board of Studies concerned and that it was having a prolonged agony.

The Hon'ble Mr. Littlehales suggested that the question might either be referred to the Committee that would be appointed by the Senate to consider the recommendation of the Calcutta University Commission which had made definite recommendations with regard to the course in English, or be adjourned.

Mr. Justice Contis-Trotter withdrew his motion on this suggestion made by Mr. Littlehales.

The Rev. Mr. Zumbo said that he had spoken already in favour of reducing the course in English and he was fairly satisfied with what had been accomplished. Though he would entirely do away with the history and grammar of the language he was in favour of retaining rhetoric and style, to enable a student to have a good knowledge of the English language, which was necessary in any avocation he would follow.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. Littlehales moved that the matter be referred to a committee consisting of persons proposed by Mr. G. A. Natesan for the consideration of the Calcutta University Commission report on the agenda paper and Mr. Davies, Mr. Justice Contis-Trotter, the Rev. Mr. Meston, and Mr. S. E. Ranganathan.

Mr. Justice Seshagiri Iyer opposed the motion and said that it would not be fair to the student that they should send the resolution to the committee's proposal, as the students would be put to a great trouble in the meantime.

The motion to refer it to a committee was put to the vote and lost, 26 voting for and 33 against it.

Mr. Natesan's proposition was put to the vote and carried, 37 voting for and 26 against it.

HIS STORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
Mr. F. S. Davies moved that Regulation 19 of Chapter XXIII be altered by adding the following words at the end of the first sentence :—

"Except that the paper set in History of the English Language shall not include questions the answers to which involve a knowledge of Gothic."

Seconded by the Rev. Mr. Meston, the motion was carried. X

