

Educational (190 /) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 156

DATED 16. 3. 01

INCISED

ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Translation test, highest grade

Exempting M.A.s who have taken this
degree in a vernacular, from the necessity
of passing the ———, ^{in the case of the latter test,} & approving the
discontinuance of the practice of
lithographing the vernacular papers
given for translation into English.

The Notes

in these Proceedings have been printed.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government {1901} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1901.

Enclosures

Spare copies

ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 156, 16th March 1901.

MARCH.

Translation test, higher grade.

Exempting M.As., who have taken their degree in a vernacular, from the necessity of passing the —, and approving, in the case of the latter test, the discontinuance of the practice of lithographing the vernacular papers given for translation into English.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 293, dated 10th May 1898:—

READ—also the following papers:—

From M.R.Ry. N. DURAISWAMI PILLAI, B.A., to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 23rd August 1900.

Those who have passed the B.A. Degree examination when entertained in public service are exempted from appearing for the Translation Test Lower, provided their second language is a vernacular of the Presidency. The principle underlying this seems to be that they have undergone an equally searching test in the translation paper for the degree examination.

2. Those who appear for the M.A. Degree examination in the Dravidian languages are obliged to translate passages even superior in point of difficulty to those given in the examinations for the Translation Test Higher. The truth of this statement may be testified to by the Tamil Board of Examiners and the Translators to Government. I suggest, therefore, that those who have passed the M.A. Degree examination in one of the vernaculars may be declared to have passed the Translation Test Higher, or to have been exempted from it.

3. I request that the decision of the Government in this matter may be communicated to me as soon as possible.

Endt. No. 247, Educational.

Referred to the Commissioner for Government Examinations for remarks.

(Signed) A. T. PRINGLE,
Assistant Secretary.

29th August 1900.

From the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. STUART, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Commissioner for Government Examinations, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 16th October 1900, No. 360—2-D.

In returning a letter from M.R.Ry. N. Duraiswami Pillai referred to me for remarks in endorsement No. 247, dated 29th August 1900, I have the honour to state that as B.As. are exempted from passing the Lower Grade Translation Test there seems to be no reason why M.As. should not be exempted from passing the Higher Grade Test. There is a difference, however, between the two cases which needs to be considered. In the Higher Grade Translation Test the vernacular papers are lithographed and are supposed to be written "in a pretty difficult hand." In this respect, therefore, they are unlike the papers set for the M.A. examination. I cannot see, however, that any advantage is gained by lithographing the papers, and if Government could order the discontinuance of the practice—a comparatively recent one,

dating from the year 1894—there would be no objection to the adoption of the suggestion made by N. Duraiswami Pillai in his letter. In this connection I would invite the attention of Government to Dr. Duncan's letter on the subject, dated 19th March 1898, No. 64/2-D., and would respectfully suggest a re-consideration of the decision arrived at on the question. I am quite at one with the views expressed by my predecessor and would only add to the reasons he assigns that, in the opinion of those who, as examiners, have had personal experience of the matter, the practice of lithographing the vernacular papers has nothing to recommend it.

ORDER—No. 156, Educational, dated 16th March 1901.

The Governor in Council accepts the suggestions made in the letters read above and sanctions the exemption of masters of arts of the Madras university, who have taken their degree in a vernacular language of the presidency, from the necessity of passing the translation test, higher grade, in the same language. He also approves, in the case of the latter test, the discontinuance of the practice of lithographing the vernacular papers given for translation into English. A draft of the modifications in the special test notification which these orders have rendered necessary should be submitted for approval.

2. M.R.Ry. N. Duraiswami Pillai will be informed that orders have been issued approving his suggestion that masters of arts in a vernacular should be exempted from the translation test, higher grade.

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner for Government Examinations.

„ M.R.Ry. N. Duraiswami Pillai, B.A. (paragraph 2 only).

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 156, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
16TH MARCH 1901.

[SUBJECT.—*Exemption of M.As. from the Translation Test, Higher Grade.*]

From M.R.Ry. N. Duraiswami Pillai, dated 23rd August 1900.

*From the Commissioner for Government Examinations, dated 16th October 1900,
No. 360—2-D.*

In revising, in 1894, the regulations under which the special tests were conducted the Government ruled that the vernacular papers given for translation into English in the translation test, higher grade, should not be printed but should be written in a pretty difficult hand and lithographed.

2. In his letter read in G.O., No. 293, Educational, dated 10th May 1898, the Commissioner for Government Examinations brought to notice that the practice thus introduced was attended with much inconvenience and had little to recommend it and suggested that it might be discontinued. The inconvenience lay in the facts—

(i) that while the examiners selected are not always able to write the sort of running hand required, they cannot employ others to copy the papers,

(ii) that the writing in the original manuscripts has to be executed on paper specially prepared for lithographing which the examiners are not always able to do in a satisfactory manner, the result being a great deal of trouble and vexatious delay,

(iii) that when at last the work is completed the matter spreads over so many pages and the papers appear inconveniently long.

The practice had nothing to recommend it because the object of the examination is to test the candidates' knowledge of English and of his vernacular language and not his ability to decipher handwriting.

The Government was not however prepared to adopt the Commissioner's suggestion—*vide* G.O., No. 293, Educational, dated 10th May 1898.

3. The question has again come up for consideration in connection with a suggestion made by one Duraiswami Pillai that masters of arts in a Dravidian language may be exempted from the translation test, higher grade. The Commissioner for Government Examinations, to whom this suggestion was referred, states that as B.As. are exempted from the translation test, lower grade, there is no reason why M.As. should not be exempted from the higher grade test. As, however, the question papers for this test are lithographed while those for the M.A. degree examination are printed, the Commissioner would recommend the adoption of the suggestion made by Duraiswami Pillai only in case G.O., No. 293, Educational, dated 10th May 1898, is reconsidered.

4. Mr. Stuart agrees with Dr. Duncan in considering that the practice of lithographing papers is inconvenient and has nothing to recommend it, and adduces the testimony of examiners in support of the position taken up by him.

5. In the circumstances stated it is submitted that the G.O. of 1898 may be reconsidered and the practice of lithographing papers abolished. Proficiency in deciphering handwriting is even otherwise required of candidates for posts for which the higher grade test is prescribed. Under the schedule to the special test notification such candidates must satisfy the head of the office concerned that they can read *arzis* in manuscript badly written and badly spelt.

6. If the above suggestion is approved, that made by Duraiswami Pillai may also be adopted.

P. T. THARYAN.
1-11-00.

Perhaps Government may be disposed, finding that the present Director holds the same views as Dr. Duncan did, to reconsider the decision of 1898. On that occasion the Educational Honourable Member of the day (the late Mr. Grose) was outvoted by Sir Henry Bliss and Sir A. Havelock.

It appears probable that the last named was strongly influenced in his decision by the method in which the case was presented by Sir Henry Bliss. As that Honourable Member stated the question for settlement it was simply this: Was a man a competent translator of a language who could not read the cursive character?

Mr. Grose was a scholar and perfectly competent to appreciate the merits of the question.

2. In the office-note above the objections to the present system, as they were stated by Dr. Duncan in 1898, are briefly summarised, and it will be seen from them, I venture to think, that the matter was not exactly apprehended by Sir Henry Bliss. It is one thing to say that a master in arts and translator should be able to read ordinary cursive writing, and another to contend not only that he should be able to read off cursive characters in manuscript written for the occasion by the examiners in imitation of the illegible handwriting of uneducated persons and on paper specially prepared for the stone, but should also do it twice over in what is practically the same examination. Any thing more likely to increase the difficulties under which a person would ordinarily labour in deciphering rather bad handwriting can hardly be conceived than to set him to read an imitation of such handwriting made on paper on which the imitator found it difficult to make his pen travel along. All persons who have had the smallest acquaintance with old English manuscripts, for example, would, I am confident, agree that such an imitation would be more difficult to decipher than the original it was copied from, as the personal peculiarities running through the manuscripts—each one of them an aid to the reader in making out the more obscurely written letters—would disappear in the copy, while it would be of very little, if any, value as a specimen of handwriting of the period. To some extent these remarks would, it is thought, equally apply to Dravidian or to Persi-Arabic cursive characters.

3. But even if undue stress has been laid on this side of the question, it has also to be remembered that what has been held by Dr. Duncan and Mr. Stuart in turn to be a sufficiently searching test of ability to decipher handwriting of a tolerably difficult character has to be undergone by these masters of arts before their appointment to any of the offices for which the higher translation test is prescribed. Surely this is enough to warrant Government in accepting the advice of experts on a technical question of this sort?

4. If, as has been recommended, the Government resolve on cancelling G.O., No. 293, dated 10th May 1898, the question of exempting masters of arts in Persian, Hindustani and the Dravidian languages from the translation test in the higher grade, just as bachelors of arts are exempted from the corresponding lower test, remains for decision. The Commissioner for Government Examinations recommends the exemption, and it is submitted that his opinion should be accepted. The fact is that the present rule is simply an oversight.

A. T. PRINGLE.
16-2-01.

Secretary.

A. T. PRINGLE.
16-2-01.

The papers are submitted for orders. No doubt there is much to be said for Sir Henry Bliss' view; but the fairness of the test is much spoilt by the fact that it is only one paper and one kind of handwriting that is given. A man will often be able to read with ease one type of running hand, which another man reads with difficulty. It is no doubt quite true that educated natives in offices are often quite incapable of reading ordinary running hand, and one's experience is that it is often necessary to take a paper from the passed man and give it to a dufterbund or even a peon who will sometimes read it better than the translator. But it is very doubtful whether giving this one paper in a written hand is of much use; probably as a rule the paper is not written in a really difficult hand. Certainly the paper forwarded by Dr. Duncan was not so, and the hand of an educated examiner is never likely to be like the hand of the ordinary letter writer or the hand of the clerk writing rapidly in taking down depositions. It seems very doubtful whether what is gained is worth the trouble it seems to entail. If Divisional officers, Collectors and Judges make it a point to insist that their examiners shall read manuscripts rapidly, all would learn to do so. It is simply laziness and a sort of contempt for the art which lead educated natives to neglect it. Much more could be done by an executive order than by maintaining the very insufficient test of this one paper.

M. HAMMICK.
18-2-01.

Honourable Member.

I have no hesitation in agreeing with the view of the Hon'ble Mr. Grose and of Dr. Duncan and his successor Mr. Stuart. As we know in the case of our own language ability to decipher a difficult handwriting is entirely apart from a knowledge of the English language. And in the case of the Vernacular examinations as noted by the Secretary it can be only a single difficult handwriting which is put forward as a test and this may never be seen again.

Yesterday in Council I noticed two Secretaries to Government endeavouring to decipher a note in the English language written by a third Secretary to Government, and all were college men, entire masters of their own tongue! Ability to decipher crabbed handwriting is required in certain *viva voce* examinations and should be restricted to them, and not extended to written examinations intended to test a knowledge of the language itself.

I think G.O., No. 293, dated 10th May 1898, should be set aside.

A. T. A[RUNDEL].
20-2-01.

As the Government order of 1898 was passed by a majority of the Council, it will be according to rule that these papers should now be circulated before action is taken on the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel's note. I also venture to invite a reference to the passage marked Y.

A. T. PRINGLE.
27-2-01.

Secretary.

If the Government order is set aside as proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel, the whole test may as well be abolished as regards M.As. who pass in one of the vernaculars. Mr. Stuart, the Director of Public Instruction, recommends it.

M. HAMMICK.
28-2-01.

Honourable Mr. Winterbotham and His Excellency the Governor.

I agree with the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel, and would also accept the M.A. degree in a vernacular as an equivalent to passing the translation test, higher grade.

H. M. W[INTERBOTHAM].
2-3-01.

I entirely agree. The deciphering of manuscript should be a separate subject as it is in the Home Examinations for the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Services. It is unfair to mix it up with translation.

A[MPHILL].
11-3-01.

The draft placed below may issue.

P. T. THARYAN.
13-3-01.

Secretary.

Yes. The Honourable Member had better see it.

A. T. PRINGLE.
14-3-01.

M. HAMMICK.
14-3-01.
A. T. A[RUNDEL].
15-3-01.

To issue.

A. T. PRINGLE.
16-3-01.

Educational (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 1155

From Mr R. K. Duraiswami Pillai
C. B. R.

Order Est. no. 247 d/29-8-00.

Referred to the Commissioner
for Govt. examinations for
remarks.

No.

Dated 23-8-00

Received

Registered 23-8-00

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Requesting that those who have passed the M.A. degree Ex^{te} in one of the vernaculars of the presidency may, in the circumstances stated, be declared to have passed the translation test higher or exempted from that test.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Educational 1900
Local & Munl. (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 1420



Order

From
The Hon'ble Mr. G. H. Stuart,
M.A.,
Barrister-at-Law,
Commissioner for Government
Examinations,
Madras
No. 360
29

Dated 16th October 1900

Received 17 OCT 1900

Registered 20

Enclosures One

Spare copies Nil

SUBJECT.

Returning the letter from
Mrdy N. Duraiswami Pillai,
referred to him for remarks
and stating that there
would be no objection to
exempt M. A's from the Tran
station Test Higher Grade if
the practice of lithographing
the question papers for this
test were discontinued; and
suggesting a reconsideration
of Dr. Duncan's letter on the
subject.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
✓	505	100 R	
60	271	9-7-00	lines
✓	775	18-12	96
4	230	10-5-98	4

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To 317/94 coz
" 97/94 coz
" 818/93 -
Special Jail Note

$$\left[\frac{E.}{4} \right]$$

1,500—8-11-00.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 293, dated 10th May 1898/1900.

READ ALSO :—

C. No. 1155, From the N. Duraiswami Pillai, No., dated 23rd Aug - 1900.

" " 1420, " " C. J. L. " $\frac{360}{2 \text{ D}}$ " 16th october 1900.

ORDER No. 156, dated 16. 3. 1901.
P.S.

The Governor in Council ~~is~~
~~planned to~~ accept the suggestions
made in the letters read above
and ~~sanctions~~ the exemption of
~~the~~ masters of arts of the Madras
university, who have taken their
degree in a vernacular language
of the presidency, ^{(the necessity of} from passing
the translation test, higher grade,
in the same language. ^{He also approves} ~~and the~~
~~discontinuance~~ in the case of the
latter test, ^(The discontinuance) of the practice of litho-
graphing the vernacular papers
given for translation into English.

A draft of the modifications in the special test notification which these orders have rendered necessary should be submitted for approval.
 2. M.A. N. Duraiswami Pillai
~~2. The~~ ~~orders~~ will be informed that orders have been issued approving his suggestion that masters of arts in a vernacular ~~may~~ ^{should} be exempted from the translation test, higher grade.

(from orders)

74
13-3-01

13/3/01

M.P.

14.3.1

14/3/01

To the C.S.E. 27/3

in petition para 2 only.

M.A. N. Duraiswami Pillai. P.A. (para 2 only)

First copy sent to Press. 18/3

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

1

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

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- B = Not to be printed.
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18/3
3