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Educational (1901) Department.

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G.O., No. 345

DATED 22-6-01 ✓



INDEXED

ORIGINAL 5

[Despatch Abstract.]

Final Examinations - College of Engineering.

Recording letter from the D. P. I. sub?
report of the Board of Examiners, College
of Engineering on the examinations held
in February 1901.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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

Government {1901} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

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Enclosures

1901.

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ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 345, 22nd June 1901.

JUNE.

Final Examinations, College of Engineering.

Recording letter from the Director of Public Instruction, submitting report of the Board of Examiners, College of Engineering, on the examinations held in February 1901.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. STUART, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department, dated Madras, 15th June 1901, C. No. 4752.

In continuation of my letter, C. No. 4145, dated 16th ultimo, I have the honour to submit a copy of the report of the Board of Examiners, College of Engineering, on the examinations held in February last, together with a copy of the Principal's letter containing his remarks on the report. The matter referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the President's report will be dealt with separately.

ENCLOSURES.

From A. B. STRANGE, Esq., President of the Board of Examiners, to the Director of Public Instruction, dated Madras, 6th May 1901.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the College of Engineering examinations held last February; the reasons for the change of date have no doubt been laid before you by the Principal.

2. The examining board consisted of Mr. R. Ll. Jones, M.R.Ry. S. A. Subramanya Aiyar and myself (as president); Diwan Bahadur V. Krishnama Chariar was an assistant examiner for languages; Mr. R. F. Stoney, Public Works Department, assisted me by marking two of my papers; and I believe Mr. Jones had an assistant, but am not aware of his name. Mr. Jones took papers on mathematics and science, Mr. S. A. Subramanya Aiyar those relating to engineering (in general) and surveying, Diwan Bahadur Krishnama Chariar examined in Tamil and Telugu, and my papers dealt with mechanism and the steam-engine, drawing (in its various branches) and estimating.

3. I believe that the standard reached by the candidates was higher than that attained to last year. As regards Mr. Jones' subject the point which most caught my attention was the great range in marks earned by any one class in any given paper; for instance, in calculus (E.I.) out of a maximum of 125 one candidate obtained so many as 99, while another was awarded only 34; again in plane trigonometry (E.S.I.) the best and worst results were, respectively, 78 and 6, the maximum being 100.

4. With regard to Mr. Subramanya Aiyar's paper, I learn that the answers were generally very good; the exceptions were in the case of a few men of each of the three engineering classes, whose answers were "inaccurate and digressive"; the surveyor and sub-overseer classes gave evidences of having received excellent training in the field.

5. Diwan Bahadur Krishnama Chariar draws attention to mistakes in spelling, the introduction of foreign words, and to a "slovenly mode of writing vernacular words" in the language papers; he expresses gratification at the result of the colloquial test; but he is of opinion that the time devoted to the study of Tamil or Telugu, as the case may be, is insufficient to produce first-class results without very special preparation on the part of the teacher and home work on that of the students.

6. Concerning my subjects I need say little: a fact that struck me was the small attention shown to practical as contrasted with theoretical considerations, but I presume this fault is common to students the world over; where the function of a piece of machinery was susceptible of analytical demonstration this was, as a rule, done well, while student after student broke down hopelessly when called upon to explain the practical purpose of some simple machine or boiler fitting; again their drawing is beautiful, but of sketching (as applied to engineering) few possess any knowledge; it may be that I attach undue importance to sketching, having personally found it useful.

7. You invited me, if I remember rightly, to make a few remarks on the question of the scale of fees now paid to this board; not knowing what the old scale was, I am unable to compare it with that which now obtains, and I will therefore merely criticize the latter on its merits, as they appear to me; in the first place the division of papers into two groups "superior" and "inferior" is, from the examiner's point of view, objectionable; those set for the engineer and engineer subordinate classes are termed "superior," while those for the surveyor and sub-overseer and the draftsman classes are "inferior"; furthermore if a paper is set for two or more classes, of which one is, say, "engineer," while another is "surveyor and sub-overseer," that paper is "inferior"; this strikes me as an arbitrary arrangement; no doubt there is some reason for it; possibly it is regulated by the fees paid in by students of the several classes concerned; still my contention is that the work an examiner is called upon to perform in setting and marking papers should be the criterion; the paper on estimating, for example, is an "inferior" one this year, for it was set to the engineer, engineer subordinate, surveyor and sub-overseer and the draftsman classes; the fees to the examiner for setting and working it are therefore calculated on the "inferior" scale; now as regards the mere setting of this paper I have no complaint to make; it is an easy paper to set, and the fee payable on that account is adequate; but, as regards the marking, the matter is quite on another footing; it is a most troublesome paper to mark on, and the fee for this work, eight annas a paper, is by no means sufficient.

8. Without going further into details I would respectfully suggest that the practicability be considered of awarding fees for setting and working on the basis of the work involved in these operations, and I would deprecate unnecessary refinements in this, but let the papers be divided into groups according to the known average time and thought required for setting and marking them; let, moreover, the two processes (of setting and marking) be considered separately, for, as I have shown, a paper may be easy to set but troublesome to mark.

9. In conclusion and with apologies for having written at such length, I beg to forward herewith the book of marks. It has been revised and corrected by the Principal, and is, I believe, complete.

From Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. LOVE, R.E., Principal, College of Engineering, Madras, to the Director of Public Instruction, dated 31st May 1901, No. 225-C.

In returning your endorsement, N. Ref. on C. No. 3898, dated 21st May 1901, I have the honour to report that I have already in my No. 82-C., dated 12th April 1901, commented on the results of the February examination. The following are the only additional remarks that seem called for by Mr. Strange's report:—

(a) Article XV (i) of the college rules provides that the board may employ assistant examiners with the sanction of Government. It is not known whether such sanction was obtained in regard to all the assistants engaged this year.

(b) The standard of difficulty of the papers set in mathematics and science was considerably higher than that of the technical papers.

(c) More time cannot be devoted to language without detriment to the study of subjects which are, to engineering students, of greater importance.

(d) Efforts are constantly being directed towards making the courses of instruction more and more practical in character, and special attention has lately been given to the improvement of the freehand sketching of models, etc., done by the students. It is expected that advance in regard to the points alluded to in Mr. Strange's sixth paragraph will be observed when the influence of the recently sanctioned additional staff has had time to operate.

ORDER—No. 345, Educational, dated 22nd June 1901.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

C J. WEIR,

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

Educational (190 /) Department.

CURRENT No. 838

From

[Name] The Honble Mr. G. A. Stuart. B.A. Barr-at-Law.

[Designation] Director of Public Instruction

[Station] Madras.

DISPATCHED
15 JUN. 1901

C No. 4752 of 01

Received _____ 190 .

Dated 15th June 1901 .

Enclosures 2

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Submitting a copy of the report of the Board of Examiners, College of Engineering, on the examinations held in February last together with a copy of the Principal's letter containing his remarks on the same.

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" 351 R 7 7-6-01	

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Educational Department.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter C.No.4145 dated 16th

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. H. Stuart

Director of Public Instruction.

READ AGAIN G.O., No., dated..... 190 .

READ ALSO :—

C. No. 838, From the O.P.I. C, No. 4752, dated 15th June 1901

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ORDER No. 345, dated 22-6- 1901

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