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200-2-11-05.
Educational (190 /) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 557

DATED 2. 10. 01

INDEXED.

ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Special Test Notification

Recording prop. Rev depts stating that
the Second class Vernacular test may
be accepted in lieu of the translation
test, lower grade, but not vice versa
altering the grade to the translation
test in the ——— accordingly

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. 557, 2nd October 1901.

OCTOBER.

Special Test Notification.

Recording proceedings, Revenue department, stating that the second-class vernacular test may be accepted in lieu of the translation test, lower grade, but not *vice versa*, and altering the footnote to the translation test in the — accordingly.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

G.O., Mis. No. 2199, Revenue, dated 12th September 1901.

Read—again the following paper :—

G.O., Mis. No. 2157, Revenue, dated 7th September 1901.

ABSTRACT.—Informing P. Krishnaswami Aiyar that the translation test, lower grade, in a vernacular is not considered equivalent to the third-class test in that vernacular for purposes of the Provincial Civil Service Examination rules.

Read—also the following telegram from P. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR, dated 10th September 1901 :—

Mis. 2157, Revenue, seventh instant, clashes footnote, page fifty-five, latest Calendar, Commission, Government examinations. Pray exemption before fifteenth.

Order—Mis. No. 2199, Revenue, dated 12th September 1901.

Krishnaswami Aiyar will be informed that the footnote referred to by him merely means that, of the two tests mentioned therein, the second-class vernacular test being the more difficult, will be accepted in lieu of the other, the translation test, lower grade, in cases where the latter is required to be passed under the examination rules. It does not mean that the translation test, lower grade, is equivalent to the second-class vernacular test.

2. His request for exemption from the third-class vernacular test cannot in the circumstances be complied with.

(True Extract.)

G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To P. Krishnaswami Aiyar.
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Educational Department.
„ the Public Department.

ORDER—No. 557, Educational, dated 2nd October 1901.

Recorded.

2. The footnote on page 7 of the special test notification will be altered as follows :—

“A person who has passed the second-class vernacular test will be exempt from the translation test, lower grade”.

(True Extract.)

C. J. WEIR,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
„ Commissioner for Government Examinations.

Exd. A. J. l' Monte.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 557, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
2ND OCTOBER 1901.

[SUBJECT.—*Translation tests and Vernacular tests.*]

G.O., Mis. No. 2199, Revenue, dated 12th September 1901.

Krishnaswami Aiyar has passed the translation test, lower grade, while for admission to the competitive examination for the Provincial Civil Service he should have passed the third-class vernacular test (G.O., No. 5, Public, dated 3rd January 1899, page 5). He asked the Revenue department whether the translation test, lower grade, would be accepted as equivalent to the third-class vernacular test. That department said in its order No. 2157, dated 7th September 1901, that it could not be.

2. Krishnaswami Aiyar then referred Government to the foot-note on page 7 of the special test notification where it is stated that the second-class vernacular test will be accepted as equivalent to the translation test, lower, and raised the question whether in that case translation, lower, should not *a fortiori* be accepted as equivalent to the third-class vernacular test. He has been informed in reply that though the second-class vernacular test is accepted in lieu of translation, lower, the latter cannot be deemed equivalent to the former.

3. As the foot-note on page 7 of the special test notification stands at present, there is no doubt some ground for believing that the two examinations are interchangeable, and from G.O., No. 716, Educational, dated 10th December 1897, on which this foot-note is based, it would seem that this was the intention. That Government order was, however, passed without the concurrence of Revenue. Prior to this in G.O., No. 684, Educational, dated 5th November 1896, it was ruled (also without the knowledge of the Revenue department) that the papers in translation, lower, are longer and more difficult than those in the third-class vernacular test; but Revenue has, as stated above, held without the knowledge of Educational that translation, lower, cannot be accepted as equivalent to even the third-class vernacular test. The orders passed in the two departments are therefore conflicting. The matter appears on the whole to be one for decision in the Revenue department and G.O., No. 684, Educational, dated 5th November 1896, may therefore be now cancelled, while in modification of G.O., No. 716, Educational, dated 10th December 1897, the foot-note on page 7 of the special test notification may be altered as follows :—

“A person who has passed the second-class vernacular test will be exempt from the translation test, lower grade.”

The Revenue department may, however, be consulted *u.o.* before this is actually done.

P. T. THARYAN.
18-9-01.

Second Assistant—

Bring this up. We have apparently got into a tangle over this subject, having in the Educational department decided or admitted that third-class vernacular is the lowest test of all, while Revenue department has decided that it is more difficult than translation, lower. Is there any authority for these decisions beyond office-notes? I mean from persons who really know what the papers are.

C. J. WEIR.
19-9-01.

For the Secretary—

Under the special test notification, translation lower, shall comprise (1) the translation of an ordinary official paper from English into the candidate's vernacular and (2) the translation of an ordinary official paper from the candidate's vernacular into English. The papers shall be such as persons filling the posts for which the test is prescribed may be expected to deal with in the ordinary course of business.

2. The third-class vernacular test consists of (1) reading fairly and translating with accuracy an original vernacular letter or report of moderate length and difficulty in the language of the district, (2) dictating an order, (3) rendering into English a vernacular report read out and (4) conversing with the examiner.

3. It will not be a very difficult thing to translate papers from English into the vernacular and *vice versa* when these papers are printed and the candidate has the whole time to himself. It is, however, just the reverse if one has to read and at the same time go on translating a vernacular letter. Dictating an order is also a difficult thing in an examination hall as also the rendering into English of a vernacular report read out. It would thus seem that the third-class test is by far the more difficult of the two. A ready man may perhaps find the two equally easy, but if he is a little nervous it will be almost impossible for him to pass the vernacular test. The Commissioner for Government Examinations has not yet had any occasion to place on record his views on the comparative merits of the two examinations. Papers are, however, set only for the translation, lower.

P. T. THARYAN.
20-9-01.

Then it is pretty clear that a translation test should not be accepted under any circumstances as equivalent to a vernacular test. The proposed alteration in the footnote would remove misunderstandings and may be sent to Revenue department for remarks.

C. J. WEIR.
22-9-01.

To Revenue u.o.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To Under Secretary—

The alteration proposed is given at page 1 and there does not, it is submitted, appear to be any objection to accepting it in the Revenue department.

P. NARAYANA MENON.
23-9-01.

Secretary—

The alteration is on the lines indicated in this department and may be accepted.

E. S. LLOYD.
24-9-01.

G. S. FORBES.
27-9-01.

To Educational u.o.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

The draft placed below may issue. Should it go to the Honourable Member?

P. T. THARYAN.
27-9-01.

Yes.

C. J. WEIR.
30-9-01.

J. T. HOMSON.
1-10-01.

Issue.

C. J. WEIR.
1-10-01.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE SUBJECT OF TRANSLATION AND
VERNACULAR TESTS.

In paragraph 3, page 1, of the notes connected with G.O., No. 512, Educational, dated 27th instant, the question is raised whether the third class vernacular test should be accepted as equivalent to the translation test, lower grade. At page 2 of the notes stitched with G.O., No. 557, Educational, dated 2nd October 1901, the view was expressed that the third class test was the more difficult of the two, but the Commissioner for Government Examinations was not given an opportunity for placing on record his opinion in the matter. It is submitted that a reference may now be made to him u.o. and if he agrees, the footnote on page 7 of the special test notification as altered in G.O., No. 557, Educational, dated 2nd October 1901, may be modified by the insertion of the words "or third" between "second" and "class".

2. The attention of the Commissioner may be also drawn to the fact that in the special test notification re-published in the gazette of the 15th April last, the footnote on page 7 was not altered as required by G.O., No. 557, Educational, dated 2nd October 1901.

P. T. THARYAN—28-8-02.

We may invite the Commissioner's remarks.

A. T. PRINGLE—29-8-02.

To the Commissioner for Government Examinations.

Of the two tests, the third class vernacular test for Europeans and Eurasians and the translation test, lower grade, there can be no question that the latter is far the more difficult. It requires a knowledge of the vernacular, a power of expression and a facility of expression which candidates for the third class vernacular test do not possess and cannot be expected to possess. In the third class vernacular test, which is intended for Europeans and Eurasians who have only a colloquial knowledge of the vernacular, candidates can pass without being able to put down a single word in writing. The test consists only in translating *viva voce*, or rather, giving the purport in English of a few lines of a vernacular report, reading and translating an arzi or manuscript petition and dictating an order to a clerk. It is a rule that, if a candidate prove his ability to comprehend readily all that is said to him and make himself fairly intelligible, more should not be required of him. Very few men who pass this examination would have a chance of passing the translation test, lower grade, while no one who has passed the latter would have any difficulty in passing the former.

2. Although the third class vernacular test for Europeans and Eurasians cannot be considered as the equivalent of the translation test, lower grade, it is a question for consideration whether the former cannot be accepted instead of the latter in the case of European and Eurasian clerks employed in the Secretariat. Their work is mainly, if not entirely, English, and it would seem that the third class test (if any vernacular test at all is required) ought to be enough for them.

G. H. STUART—18-9-02.

From the Commissioner's point of view the translation test, lower grade, is more difficult than the third class vernacular test, but neither Educational nor Revenue

* We may speak of the Educational department in the past here. The point is not settled, and if the Revenue department is convinced by what Mr. Stuart says, I think Educational may also be.

A. T. PRINGLE—22-9-02.

that Revenue may see the case before this is done.

P. T. THARYAN—22-9-02.

Have the Revenue department any remarks to make at this stage? Surely Mr. Stuart establishes his case. We must remember that Europeans and East Indians only are concerned; for them I think he shows the translation test is the more difficult.

A. T. PRINGLE—22-9-02.

To the Revenue department.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The third class vernacular test has been prescribed for certain candidates applying for the Provincial Civil Service Examination, the bulk of whom are not Europeans and East Indians; so that it is not these latter alone that are concerned as stated at A.

Yes. This is so.

A. T. PRINGLE.

2. The point for orders is whether *Vide* paragraphs 1 and 2 of the office-note on page 2 of the notes stitched with G.O., No. 557, Educational, dated 2nd October 1901.

It is not a question of comparative difficulty but a question (1) of the qualifications required, and (2) which examination better tests the existence of these qualifications.

N. E. MARJORIBANKS—1-10-02.

3. At B *supra*, Mr. Stuart suggests that in the case of European and Eurasian clerks employed in the Secretariat the third class vernacular test may be accepted in lieu of the translation test, lower grade, now required. The reason given for this recommendation would apply to other clerks also who are not Europeans and Eurasians. The point is for orders.

G. A. VAIDYARAMA AIYAR—30-9-02.

I think all our clerks whether Indian, European or Eurasian should possess the qualification of a thorough knowledge of translation from and to English and a vernacular language. Many of them, even of the Indians, know English better than their mother tongue—at all events for practical purposes of translating. I mean they understand English better when they read it than they understand Tamil or Telugu or Malayalam. As the Director of Public Instruction advises that the translation test, lower, indicates the necessary knowledge in a higher degree than the third class vernacular test, we may stick to the former.

N. E. MARJORIBANKS—1-10-02.

I think so.

M. HAMMICK—3-10-02.

The question is whether the footnote to page 7 of the special test notification should not be altered as follows: "The second or third class vernacular test is accepted as equivalent to the translation test, lower grade". Mr. Stuart holds that the translation, lower, is much more difficult than the third class vernacular test. I accept this opinion though I find it difficult to reconcile it with the description of the two examinations as given on page 2 of the notes under G.O., No. 557, Educational. The result is that the proposed alteration should not, in my opinion, be made.

G. S[TOKES]—4-10-02.

To the Educational department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

These notes may now be printed and attached to G.O., No. 557, Educational, dated 2nd October 1901. Their heading will be "Further notes on the subject of translation and vernacular tests".

P. T. THARYAN—6-10-02.

A. T. PRINGLE—7-10-02.

Educational (190 /) Department.

CURRENT No. 1284-A

FROM

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

File No. 2199

Dated 12th September 1901.

Enclosures

Received 190

Registered 190
in number 14.10.01

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on a petition from C. Kishnaswami Aiyar B.A.
Madras, requesting that he may be exempted from the third class
Vocational list in order that he may appear for the P.L. 3. Examination.

BACK PAPERS.

FURTHER PAPERS.

READ ALSO:—

” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” 190

4-8m

Recorded.

2. The footnote on page 7 of the special test notification will be altered as follows:-

"A person who has passed the second class Vernacular test will be exempt from the Translation test, lower grade."

27/9/11

186
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by. 100.

To The Revenue Department
C. & E.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

1

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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- P = Print abstract only.
- Q = Print heading only.

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED. { Order complete. 50
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter.

Print with notes
7R

1. 15th September 1912

Revenue Report

Received.

The footnote on page 7 of the special
report will be altered as follows:

"A person who has been in the
army for 10 years will be considered
as a veteran."

The above is the only change
to be made in the report.

The report is now ready for
printing.

The report is now ready for
printing.

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