

[21]
Educational (1903) Department.

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ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Special test examinations.

Stating that the Governor-in-Council is not
prepared to adopt the suggestions of the
Board of Revenue in regard to the splitting up
of the revenue & criminal tests into two
compartments.

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 {1903} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1903.

Enclosures

Spare copies.

ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 162, 9th April 1903.

APRIL.

Special Test Examinations.

Stating that the Governor in Council is not at present prepared to adopt the suggestions of the Board of Revenue in regard to the splitting up of the Revenue and Criminal Tests into two sub-divisions.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 760, dated 6th March 1903.

Read—again Board's Proceedings, No. 260, dated 12th November 1902, considering it unnecessary and undesirable to issue a rule requiring candidates for appointments carrying a salary of more than Rs. 20 in the huzur and subordinate offices to pass Revenue Test, Lower; and referring to the Commissioner for Government Examinations for remarks the suggestion of the Collector of Malabar that candidates for the Revenue Test may be allowed to pass it in compartments.

Read—the following letter from E. H. ELLIOT, Esq., B.A., Secretary to the Commissioner for Government Examinations, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated Madras, 4th February 1903, No. 11/2-D:—

In paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 260, dated 12th November 1902, Mr. Pinhey's suggestion that candidates for the Revenue Test might be allowed to pass the examination in sections or compartments was referred to the Commissioner for remarks. I have the honour now, by direction, to inform you that the Commissioner does not approve of the suggestion. It is true, as pointed out, that this course is followed in the B.A. and B.L. degree examinations, but the cases can hardly be said to be analogous. The Revenue Test comprises only four subjects, and candidates have to answer only four papers. In the B.A. and B.L. degree examinations the number and variety of the subjects may be held to justify their division into groups or branches, each of which in itself is more comprehensive than the Revenue Test,—to say nothing of the difference in the standards. I may mention that the system of examination by compartments in the case of the B.A. degree examination is not followed in Bombay or Calcutta, and it is a question under consideration now whether it should be allowed to continue in Madras.

In the same paragraph of the Board's Proceedings an opinion is expressed that the large number of failures in the Revenue Test is due to the difficulty of the examination and to the inability of clerks in the midst of heavy office work to find time to study simultaneously all the subjects prescribed. If after a perusal of the question papers that have been set in recent years, and a reconsideration of the question, the Board is of opinion that the standard is too high, the Commissioner will have no objection to any proposals that may be made for lowering it, but he desires me to add that the examiners selected by him for the work are, as a rule, revenue officials of experience, and they may be expected to know the requirements of the department and what the proper standard ought to be. If the failures are more numerous than they ought to be, the reason, he thinks, is not far to seek. More than half the candidates that appear for the Revenue Test appear for other tests also simultaneously. If candidates in their eagerness to qualify at once for appointments

for which more than one test is prescribed will bring up two or more tests at the same time, when they have little or no leisure for preparation, failure is all that they can expect.

Resolution—Mis. No. 760, dated 6th March 1903.

In its Proceedings, No. 168, dated 18th July 1902, the Board invited the opinions of Collectors on the question of the advisability of prescribing the Revenue Test, Lower, as a *sine qua non* for appointments carrying a salary of more than Rs. 20 per mensem in huzur and subordinate offices, and in submitting his reply the Collector of Malabar brought to the Board's notice *inter alia* the failure of a large number of clerks to pass the test by reason of the number of subjects that had to be brought up at one and the same time, and suggested that candidates for the test should be allowed to pass it in compartments.

2. Mr. Pinhey's suggestion was referred to the Commissioner for Government Examinations, and in his letter read above Mr. Stuart has expressed his disapproval of the proposal. The Board regrets, however, that it cannot altogether agree with the Commissioner. The majority of the men who appear for the special tests are hard-worked officials with little leisure at their command and many of them are middle aged men who cannot master a number of text-books with the same facility as more youthful students. It is hardly reasonable, therefore, to expect from them the same quantity and quality of work as is required from students who have youth on their side and the whole of their time at their disposal. Some concession either in quantity or quality might well be made, the Board thinks, to such men without prejudicing the object which Government has in view in making them pass these examinations; the Commissioner suggests that, if made at all, the concession should be in quality and that the standard should be lowered, but this does not commend itself to the Board, which, on the contrary, would make the concession in quantity, and while keeping the examination at its present high standard, would allow it to be passed in compartments. Such a concession indeed is to some extent desirable in the interest of Government, since there is reason to believe that a great many of the clerks and officials who now pass the special tests do so at the expense of the time and energy which should properly be devoted to the work for which they are paid by Government, and this interference of the special tests with the discharge of the official duties would be considerably diminished under a system of examinations by compartments.

REVENUE TEST (HIGHER).

A. Division.

1. Revenue Acts and Regulations.
2. The Stamps, Excise, Customs and Income-tax Manuals.

B. Division.

1. Board's Standing Orders.
2. Village and Taluk Manuals and the Special Funds Code.

REVENUE TEST (LOWER).

A. Division.

1. Revenue Acts and Regulations.
2. The Stamp, Excise and Income-tax Manuals.

B. Division.

Same as those for Revenue (Higher).

CRIMINAL (HIGHER AND LOWER).

A. Division.

1. The Penal Code.
2. The Evidence Act.

B. Division.

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure.
2. Medical Jurisprudence.

(True Extract.)

A. R. CUMMING,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue department.

ORDER—No. 162, Educational, dated 9th April 1903.

As at present advised, Government is not prepared to adopt the Board's suggestions.

(True Extract.)

A. G. CARDEW,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ Revenue department.
„ Commissioner for Government Examinations.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 162, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
9TH APRIL 1903.

[SUBJECT.—*The splitting up of the Revenue and Criminal tests into compartments.*]

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 6th March 1903, No. 760.

May the Board's Proceedings be transferred un-officially to the Educational department?

G. A. VAIDYARAMA AIYAR—11-3-03.

C. RATNAVELU MUDALIYAR—11-3-03.

Submitted that the disposal must be in Educational, but doubtless the file would come in ordinary course to this department for remarks, and it may save time if the Board's proposals were discussed here so far as they relate to the Revenue tests.

2. The Board makes a touching reference to "hard-worked, middle-aged" officials who struggle against age and time: and the Board's recommendation seems to be based on the proposition that these poor creatures may be expected to learn off by heart one or two text-books but not more. It seems, however, a fatal objection to the Board's benevolent intention that the object of the tests is not to educate or to exercise the memory but to ensure a correct knowledge of Revenue law and practice. In the lower grade very little more than rudimentary knowledge is required: in the higher grade no doubt a fuller knowledge of details as well as of principles is looked for. It must, I submit, be remembered that the passing of these tests qualifies for appointment to certain of the higher posts in the Revenue department and therefore we should be very careful not to diminish their value as tests. By dividing the examination into compartments we do not make the test any easier for men who know their work but do open the door wider to those who can learn by heart without understanding. It is submitted that it is not those who have had some experience in revenue work, but the beginners, who find the tests difficult. I believe the Board is quite wrong in saying that the majority of those that appear for these tests are

I can't admit this. Our practice often differs widely from theory.

H. M. W[INTERBOTHAM].

hard-worked, middle-aged officials: the majority appear in Madras and comprise boys from college. I have examined in both the main subjects of the Revenue tests, higher and lower, and know that the mistakes made are not the kind that would occur to any middle-aged official, hard-working or otherwise.

3. It is submitted that the splitting up of the examination into compartments will merely lead to those men passing who are not really qualified for the designated posts and whom therefore we don't want to see pass.

N. E. MARJORIBANKS—13-3-03.

I quite agree with this view, and would submit that an important suggestion of this sort might well have been considered by the Full Board. I think it would be a very bad thing to make the passing of the higher revenue test a mere feat of memory and this is what it would become, if the examination was sub-divided. We want the examination made so that only men of some experience can pass it. If sub-divided, everybody will pass it as mere boys.

M. HAMMICK—14-3-03.

I cannot in the least agree that the tests do in practice favour the man of experience as against the book student.

2. In my opinion the chief value of the tests is that they teach the official to find what he wants—to put his finger on the authority for what he does (or ought to do) in transacting daily business. There is no section of the examination which our officials can afford to let drop while reading up another.

3. How ridiculous to let a Magistrate mug up his Penal Code and forget his Procedure! Or to let a Tahsildar mug up his Revenue Law, and forget the Board's Standing Orders.

4. I disapprove the Board's proposal though not precisely on the grounds stated by Under Secretary and Secretary.

H. M. W[INTERBOTHAM]—17-3-03.

To the Educational department.

M. HAMMICK—19-3-03.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

The draft placed below may issue.

K. E. RAMAN UNNI NAYAR—23-3-03.

P. T. THARYAN—23-3-03.

May issue as revised.

F. HANNYNGTON—23-3-03.

Before issuing the Government order, I should like a little information on the question how far the number of men passing the Revenue and Judicial (Criminal) tests annually, say last five years, is sufficient to meet the annual demand for promotion to the grade of Revenue Inspector and above. The figures of passes (including 1902-1903) should be tabulated and compared with the strength of Revenue establishments.

2. When replying, please put up the Government orders which added the Sea Customs Manual and three others to the Revenue Special test.

A. G. CARDEW—24-3-03.

The statement required by the Secretary is as follows:—

STATEMENT showing the number of passes in the Revenue and Criminal tests (higher and lower) for the past five years and the number of appointments in the Revenue and Judicial departments for which these tests are prescribed.

Year.	Number of passes.				Number of appointments for which the tests are prescribed.			
	Revenue.		Criminal.		Revenue.		Criminal.	
	Lower.	Higher.	Lower.	Higher.	Lower.	Higher.	Lower.	Higher.
1902-1903 ..	29	60	38	35	(1) Huzur Sarishtadars .. 22 (2) English and Vernacular Head Clerks in Collectors' offices .. 41 (3) Tahsildars .. 160 (4) Deputy Tahsildars including Stationary and Town Sub-Magistrates .. 284	(1) Deputy Collectors .. 79 (2) Uncovenanted Assistants in the Board of Revenue .. 4 (3) First Assistant, Second Assistant, Registrar, Head Clerk and other Clerks on Rs. 70 and upwards in the Revenue Secretariat .. 11 (5) Taluq Sarishtadars and Taluq Head Accountants .. 161 (6) Subordinate, Head Assistant and general charge Deputy Collectors' Head Clerks .. 78 (7) Revenue Inspectors .. 657	(1) Tahsildars .. 160 (2) Taluq Sarishtadars (when also Magistrates) .. 34 (3) Deputy Tahsildars including Stationary and Town Magistrates .. 284 (4) Sarishtadars and Head Clerks of Sessions Courts .. 40 (5) Police Inspectors (except reserve) and Managers and Accountants in District Police offices .. 400 (6) Criminal Appeals Clerk and Criminal Revision cases Clerk in the High Court .. 2	(1) Deputy Collectors .. 79 (2) Chief Clerk or Manager in the Presidency Magistrate's court. 1
1901-1902 ..	54	68	51	34				
1900-1901 ..	38	65	19	21				
1899-1900 ..	39	109	44	31				
1898-99 ..	35	90	67	22				
Total ..	195	387	219	143	1,403	94	920	80

The number of appointments for which the revenue test, higher or lower, is required is 1,497 or say 1,500 in round number. If the annual vacancies be calculated at 10 per cent.—they may be more—150 men should qualify every year, but the average of the last five years is only 116. One however hears little or nothing about any dearth of passed candidates. The same remark applies to the criminal tests—but here at least several probationary inspectors are temporarily exempted.

2. The orders which added the Sea Customs Manual and three others to the Revenue test are put up.

P. T. THARYAN—27-3-03.

F. HANNYNGTON—27-3-03.

The Honourable Member in charge of Education should see the draft order. It is perhaps too soon to judge fairly of the effect of G.O., No. 80, Educational, dated 14th February 1902, but there can be little doubt that the addition of the four Manuals—Excise, Sea Customs, Income-tax and Special Funds, to the Revenue test has placed a considerable extra burden on examinees. The view expressed in the Revenue notes that the majority of those who appear for the examinations are boys from college is, of course, entirely opposed to the facts as seen in the mufassal, where the candidates are almost all clerks. It is rash to prophecy, so I refrain, but there seems to be a diminishing number of men who pass the Revenue tests, and if this goes on, Government may have to relax the rules in one direction or another.

A. G. CARDEW—29-3-03.

The only argument of the Board that requires consideration is that their ordinary work suffers by their attempts to pass the tests. Against this is the opinion of the Commissioner that candidates seek to pass too many tests at one time.

2. The Commissioner ought to know and the Board does not contradict him. Is he correct or not?

J. T[HOMSON]—31-3-03.

I think we shall have to call for information from the Commissioner and he may have to compile it from the applications. Probably he is wrong. Please examine the available figures.

A. G. CARDEW—1-4-03.

The available figures did not show readily in what subjects a candidate appeared. It has however been ascertained from the Commissioner's office that of the 238 candidates who went in for revenue higher in 1902, only 127 applied for revenue higher alone: the rest appeared for some other tests also. The corresponding figures for 1901 were 225 and 126 and those for 1900, 238 and 116. Similarly 341 went in for revenue lower with other tests in 1902 and 212 for revenue lower alone, the figures for 1901 being 566 and 325 and those for 1900, 564 and 306, respectively. The Commissioner is thus correct in his statement that candidates seek to pass too many tests at one time.

P. T. THARYAN—4-4-03.

F. HANNYNGTON—6-4-03.

The figures are submitted to the Honourable Member, but they are not of much value. Many of those who took up extra tests probably appeared for Précis-writing which requires no preparation. Even if a Special test other than Précis-writing was taken up, it would only be the Account test.

A. G. CARDEW—7-4-03.

Draft passed as altered.

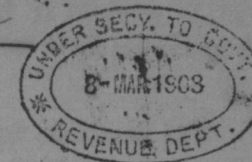
J. T[HOMSON]—8-4-03.

[G.O., No. 162, Educational, dated 9th April 1903.]

50-28-1-00 Educational
REVENUE

Financial (190³) Department.

CURRENT No. ⁴⁸⁸ 1418



From

The Board of Revenue,

Land Revenue.

No. 760 Miscellaneous,

Dated 6th March 1903.

Enclosures

Received ²⁰ 8 - 3 - 1903.

Registered ²⁰ 9 - 3 - 1903.

SUBJECT.

Suggesting to Government the advisability of ~~the~~ splitting up the Revenue and Criminal Tests into two compartments.

BACK PAPERS.

B.D. 2607 12-11-02 = Co. 1104 1/2 12-02
B.D. 1607 10-1-02
Ref + file
9/3

FURTHER PAPERS.

The Board's proposals cannot, therefore, be approved.

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
190 .

, DATES

CURRENT No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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P. 11
The Board of Directors
cannot be approved
part of opinion that there
is no action of the same
in question which
can be allowed to keep
the working of another
is correct
revenue or commission
and practice cannot be
of a working and revenue
then to be in two parts
in Board of Directors
185*

*29
The Board of Directors
is not approved
the working of another
is correct
revenue or commission
and practice cannot be
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185*