8/7/05

Educational (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 100

Dated 21st Feb. 1896

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

DRAUGHTSMEN'S CERTIFICATES.

Stating that, as there does not appear to be anything in the subjects of the examination for -- which cannot be thoroughly tested by a written examination, the Government is of opinion that no harm is likely to result from the discontinuance for two years of the system of granting term marks thereat, and requesting the Director of Public Instruction to embody this alteration in the syllabuses and rules which are now under consideration.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	628	Go 444 Mis C No. 1422 of 99 Go 626 Mis	1896 22/7/96 16/9/99				

Office of the Director of
Public Instruction,
Madras, 17th December 1895.

No. 13560

From

The Honorable Mr. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc.,
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras,

To

The Honorable The CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort St. George.

(Through the Chief Engineer)

Sir,

With reference to paras 3 and 4 of G.O Educational No. 525 dated 21st June 1895, I have the honour to state that the question of assigning marks to students ~~of~~ the College of Engineering for term work received full consideration in connection with the revision of the College Syllabuses.

2. The Chief Engineer and the Board of Examiners, College of Engineering, have been consulted as to the expediency of making the results of the College final Examinations depend solely on the marks assigned by the College Examination Board the

marks given by the College authorities for term work being used to determine the eligibility of Students for admission to the final Examinations held by the Board. The Chief Engineer is strongly in favour of the proposal. The Board of Examiners first expressed itself in favour of the proposal; but on a representation from Major Love, states that it has no objection to the inclusion of the term marks; separate minima in the College and Board's marks being required for a pass, in the case of College Students and a minimum in the Board's marks alone in the case of other Candidates.

3. The Principal is very much against the proposal and apprehends that the College discipline would be seriously effected if the term marks were to be ignored. Marks for term work are not taken into account in the case of any other public examination and there seems to be no reason why a departure is necessary in the case of the College of Engineering. In Arts, Law, Medical and Training Colleges discipline is maintained hardly at all through the artificial pressure of College marks, but through the careful exercise of the power vested in the College authorities to withhold term certificates from Students for misconduct, idleness or want of progress. There is no reason why a similar regulation should not suffice to maintain discipline and efficiency in the College of Engineering. The College rules may be so revised as to admit of the grant of term certificates only for Students who have shown satisfactory progress and done a fair amount of practical work and Students failing to secure such certificates will be debarred from appearing for the final examination

examination which will be open to two classes of candidates only, viz, to Students of the College who have secured term certificates and to persons who have not attended the College but who have been specially permitted by the Director on the recommendation of the Superior officers of the Public Works Department. Again Major Love's suggestion that a separate minimum of 50 per cent in the term marks and 50 per cent in the Board's marks be demanded for a pass does not seem to be a fair arrangement; a Student failing to secure the minimum in the term marks need not appear for the final examination at all, as he will not be able to secure a pass; On the other hand, the term marks, however high they may be, are of no use to a Student failing to secure a minimum in the final

examination

Examination. After a careful consideration, I am decidedly opposed to the inclusion of the College term marks in the final marks. Should Government approve of my proposal, outside candidates may appear for the final examinations without any technical difficulty.

4. I am following the above principle in revising the College Syllabuses and rules.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

D Duncan

Director of Public Instruction

Copy to the Principal, College of Engineering

G.O. 525 : 21-6-95 orgl
" 986 : 22-12-94 Mis
" 887 : 22-11-94 "
" 753 : 5-10-94 "
" 462 : 23-6-94 "
" 358 : 23-5-94 "
" 284 : 25-4-94 "
" 890 : 5-12-93 "
" 516 : 17-7-93 "
" 406 : 19-6-93 "
" 330 : 16-5-93 "
" 45 : 25-1-93 orgl
" 32 : 20-1-93 "

From

The Director of Public Instruction
Madras

To

The Honorable the Chief
Secretary to Government
Fort St. George
(through the Chief Engineer)

DESPATCHED
18 1895

525 – 21-6-95 + papers put up for it

College of Engineering

Stating that the Director is not in favour of the inclusion of the College term marks in the final Examination marks

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P. W. CURRENT No. 10219.

16

Recd: 19.12.95

No. 28 C.d/ 6th January 1896

Forwarded with the remark that the Chief Engineer concurs in the views expressed by the Director of Public Instruction.

Col. R.E.
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

-8 JAN. 1896

Recd 8 }
Rep 9 } 1.96

20/12/95

Ed. Cor. 17. 2,000—29-3-94.

CURRENT No. 76

189 .

Educational Department.

From

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras,

To

THE HONORABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT,
Fort St. George.

DESPATCHED
20 JAN. 96

No. 444

Dated 18th
Despatched 20th } January 1896
Received 21

E.C. 16/96

No.

ENCLOSURES. 1

21 JAN. 1896

Subject.

College of Engineering Madras – Submitting, with remarks, copy of a communication from the Principal, ——, regarding the inclusion of college marks in the final examination marks.

E.C. 16 of 96
+ papers put up forth

No. 11886.

Dated 11th January 1896.

From

The Principal,
College of Engineering
Madras

To

The Director of
Public Instruction, Madras.

Sir,

Referring to your letter No. 13,560 dated 17th December 1895, to the address of the Honourable the Chief Secretary, a copy of which you were so good as to forward to me immediately before the Christmas holidays, I have the honour respectfully to request that my reasons for supporting the award of marks for session work at the term and final examinations may be laid before Government.

2. I would not adopt this attitude of opposition to the views which you hold on the subject, were it not that I entertain the strongest conviction that the abolition

of

of the present system would prove a retrograde step, and would seriously affect the progress which the college is making. I take it also that your action in furnishing me with a copy of your letter was intended to afford me the opportunity of which I now avail myself.

3. The main object of the marks awarded for session work is to encourage practical work, and to test the students in subjects in which an Examining Board could not conveniently apply a test, either on account of the quantity or the nature of the work done. A secondary object is to provide a constant incentive to the students to work. In the third paragraph of your letter I am represented as supporting the present system on the ground that it materially assists in the maintenance of discipline. Unless the term *discipline* be taken to cover

the

the important features I have just described, the representation scarce embraces my reasons.

4. Your proposal is that the session work shall merely count towards a students' eligibleness to appear before the Board for Examination. I submit that though this plan appears theoretically sound, it would not operate so well as the present system in practice. The average student's mental attitude towards practical work will be one of passive resistance. He will do as much as will just satisfy his Instructor and no more. He will say, "All this work will do me no good at the final examination, which is a paper one. "Cramming" a text book will bring me far more marks than ability to manipulate a theodolite in the field, or to cut a screw in the workshop. Why should I harass myself?" The Instructor again will say, "This is not a first class student; still

Still the Board of Examiners are the final arbiters of fitness. Let him appear." I do not say that this is the attitude which ought to be adopted; but it will be adopted. For the student, the constant incentive to work which is given by the knowledge that every drawing done, every survey executed, every article made in the workshop, will carry marks, will have disappeared. The teacher on the other hand will no longer have that sense of responsibility in his award of marks, which is caused by the knowledge that each mark directly affects the students' prospects in life. But since I have had charge of the College my chief aim has been to make the work done thoroughly practical, and I think I may say that much has been effected in this direction during the past ten years. Any step which would tend to make the final test one of academic character is in my opinion greatly to be deplored.

5. You remark that the present system at this college is not adopted in the other professional colleges in Madras. Whether a dead level of uniformity in this matter is desirable appears to be doubtful, since the aims and work of these colleges present the most varied characteristics. The Agricultural College is not on a sufficiently firm basis to inspire imitation, while the work done at the Law College is of a nature which can be tested completely by written examinations. If a precedent is required for the system adopted at this college, I would point to the Royal Indian Engineering College, Coopers Hill, the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and the City and Guilds of London Technical Institute, at all of which, marks counting towards the final total are awarded by the College Professors for work done during the session.

6. The proposal to abolish

the

the college marks emanated originally from the President of the Board of Examiners in what I must regard as a moment of unpremeditation. As you point out, Mr Ashpitel subsequently stated that he would offer no objection to the inclusion of these marks. The President of the Board has since had opportunities of further investigating the question, and I believe that if he were again referred to, he would make a strong protest against the abolition of session marks. The Chief Engineer supported the President's earlier views, I believe, because he considered that persons in the Public Works Department should be able to compete on equal terms with students of the College Draftsman class. All his remarks in Proceedings of Government Educational No. 525 dated 21st June 1895 have reference to Draftsman, and the Government order, in relation to which your

letter

letter is written raises the question of the retention of session marks in connection with that class alone. The system against which you inveigh is however universal throughout the College, and its importance is even greater in the remaining classes than in the Draftsman class.

7. It may be that your objections refer rather to the agency under which the session marks are awarded than the general principle of their award. It would be quite satisfactory to me if the session marks could conveniently be assigned by the Board of Examiners instead of by the College staff. Both the nature and amount of the work done, however, would render this course impracticable. Prior to the last examination in December 1895, the number of finished drawings and surveys alone to which marks were assigned was upwards of three thousand, while the mass of

estimate

estimates, field books, inspection note books &c., would appal any Examining Board. No doubt some of the practical work, such as surveying in the field, might be tested by a Board, but only at the expense of several days of unremitting toil, which would seriously increase the cost of the Examination.

8. A final argument in favour of the retention of the present system is that it has worked well in the past. The only objection hitherto raised is that on some occasions candidates have qualified who received low marks for their paper work. It was to eliminate this objection that I proposed that separate minima should in future be demanded on the Board's marks and the College marks respectively. To this proposal you take exception in the third paragraph of your letter, on the ground that "a student failing to secure the minimum

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in the term marks need not appear for the final examination at all, as he will not be able to secure a pass." This is precisely what is desired. An insufficiency of college marks will shew that the student is unfit, through dearth of practical knowledge, to secure a certificate, even if he qualifies in the paper work. Your remarks on this subject are based on the assumption that two classes of candidates will appear before the Board, viz college students, and persons specially permitted to present themselves on the recommendation of the Superior officers of the Public Works Department, and your conclusions are made applicable to all the certificate examinations. I would point out that the only persons entirely independent of the College who are eligible to appear before the Board are selected Draftsmen of the Public Service, and these only for the next two years. Conclusions affecting all the classes in the College

cannot ~~at~~

cannot I think, be drawn from so insufficient a premiss. I would offer no objection, however, to this tentative plan being extended to persons desirous of securing the other diplomas and certificates granted by the college, provided their practical knowledge is properly certified to by competent authority - such certificate would in their case take the place of the session marks qualification required of the students of the college.

9. To recapitulate - I urge the retention of the present system on the following grounds:-

(1) It encourages work of a practical kind.

(2) It tests students in essential branches in which the Board cannot conveniently examine.

(3) It affords a constant incentive to work.

(4) It is in conformity with the practice at certain great professional colleges in England.

(5th). It is supported by the Board of Examiners

(6)

(6). It has been tested, and found to work satisfactorily, save on one point for which a remedy is proposed.

I have &c

Sd/ W. D. Love
Major R. E.
Principal.

(True copy)

D Duncan

Director of Public Instruction

compared

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Enclo: to D.P.I.'s letter No. 444/96

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Edn
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76

URRENT NO. 76

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras, 18 January 1896.

No. 444.

From
THE HONORABLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc.,
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Madras,

To
THE HONORABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 13560 dated 17th December 1895, I have the honour to submit copy of a letter from the Principal, College of Engineering, No. 1188 C. dated 11th January 1896, urging reasons for the inclusion of session marks in the final examination marks.

2. After carefully reading Major Lowis letter I have not been able to change my views on the subject. The question no doubt arose in connection with the draughtsman class; but altho

been struck for some time with the anomaly of the addition of college marks to the marks allotted by an independent Board at the final examination. The inclusion of such marks in certain institutions in England is no ground for the continuance or ~~[illegible]~~ observance of the practice in India. Marks will continue to be awarded by the staff for practical and outdoor work, and students failing to secure the minimum will be refused term certificates the production of which will be insisted on before admission to the Board's examination in the case of all pupil-candidates. When a separate minimum is demanded for college work and at the final examination, a student who has not secured the minimum in college marks would gain nothing by being allowed to appear for the final examination. Such a candidate even though he passed

the

the examination held by the college Board would nevertheless have to study again in the college in order to secure the minimum in the college. *Per contra*, however high the marks secured by a student from the college may be, they would be of no use to him if he failed to satisfy the Board of Examiners. The college marks would be of use only in determining the position in the pass list of candidates securing the minima at both the sessional and final examinations. Moreover the college marks are awarded by the staff and it is not likely that they are awarded always on a uniform principle. It is for this and other obvious reasons that the final examination at the medical college, college of Agriculture, Training colleges and college of Engineering are conducted by Boards the members of which are not connected with the teaching work of the colleges concerned

Not so — academic examns
GK

concerned. I am strongly convinced that the departure advocated by me can in no way be prejudicial to the interests of discipline or efficiency of the college, and it will certainly be in keeping with the practice followed in the administration of the other colleges of the kind.

Where?

3. The favour of very early orders on the point is requested to enable me to complete the revision of the college rules.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. servant.

D Duncan

Director of Pub. Instn.

[G./25]
1,000—5-11-95

Ed Department
C. Nos 16 & 76 of 96

FOR ORDERS.

I do not think there shd be any general alteration with regard to "term" marks. The arrangement for these was made chiefly to encourage practical work wh. is as important in India as England or more so & the arrangement has worked satisfactorily. But I do not see why the change proposed by the Director shd not be adopted in the case of the Draughtsman's class only. There is nothing in the subjects of that class that cannot be tested by an examiner.

JG

12/2/96

* G.O. 525. Ed. 21.6.95

Under existing rules of the College of Engineering, the subjects of examn. for the grant of draughtsman's certificates carry 1000 marks, of which 600 are ~~allowed~~ awarded by the Bd. of Examiners and 400 by the College Staff for work done in the College. Separate minima in the marks awarded by the Board are not demanded for a pass and candidates are allowed to supplement the marks awarded to them by the Board by the marks awarded to them by the College Staff. This advantage is denied to candidates who are not students of the College and who have, in view of the dearth of draughtsmen qualified for the work of the P.W.D., been permitted by Govt*

[illegible]

to appear for the examination. In order to place both class of candidates on the same footing Govt thought that separate minima should be prescribed for examination marks and asked the D.P.I. in G.O. no 525 Ed dated 21st June 95 to report how the examination marks should be distributed, what separate minima should be adopted and whether the term marks should continue to be granted.

In reply the D.P.I. submits, in cno 16, that he is decidedly opposed to the inclusion of the College term marks in the final marks but that the College term marks should continue to be granted and should determine the eligibility of students for admission to the examination conducted by the Board. The C. E. agrees with the D.P.I. The Bd of Examiners, it is reported, agreed in the first instance but has, on a representation from Major Love, expressed itself in favour of Major Love's proposal to require in the case of College students separate minima in the Bd's and College marks and in the case of other candidates a minimum in the Board's marks only.

This proposal does not, as pointed out by the D.P.I in his second letter, appear to be a satisfactory one. A student who has not secured the minimum in the College marks would gain nothing by passing in the examination conducted by the Board as he would have to study again in the College in order to secure the required minimum in the College marks. The proposal of the D.P.I. that students who have not secured the minimum in the College mark should not be allowed to appear before the Board seems preferable.

Major Love is strongly against the proposal of the D.P.O. and urges the maintenance of the existing system on the following grounds:—

(1) It encourages work of a practical [illegible]

[illegible] is likely

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E.
THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE.

He does not propose this he is only using it as an argument

(2) It tests Students in essential branches in which the Board cannot conveniently examine.

(3) It affords a constant incentive to work.

(4) It is in conformity with the practice at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich and the City and Guilds of London Technical Institute.

(5) It is supported by the Board of Examiners.

(6) It has been tested and found to work satisfactorily.

In these nos 2 & 4 appear to be of some importance and require careful consideration. In respect of no 2, the D.P.I. has offered no remarks in respect of 4 he states that that the practice is in vogue in certain institutions in England is no ground for its adoption in India and that in other Professional Colleges the term marks are not included in the final examination marks. As regards (1) & (3) it may be [illegible] itself [illegible] not in any way

He does not instance any technical institute

S.K.

They are in every way so affected I think S.K.

way affected by the proposal of the D.P.I. As regards (5), the Bd of Examiners does not appear to have supported the maintenance of the existing system; they are in favour of the modified proposal put forward by Major Lowe which has been examined above. From para 6 of Major Lowe's letter it will be seen that the proposal to exclude the College marks from the final examination marks came in the first instance from the President of the Board of Examiners.

The D.P.I.'s proposal may therefore perhaps be approved, and he may be told to embody it in the syllabuses & rules which are now under revision

WC 3.2.96

Hm.

Major Lowe's arguments, which are well set out in his letter, are convincing, in my opinion, and the existing plan of including in the final marks for certificates a proportion of college marks should not be set aside but maintained. The D.P.I. has taken the opportunity of the recent [illegible] is likel

Draughtsman's certificates.

about draughtsmens certificates to advocate this radical change to affect not only the examn. for these certificates but for all the college courses, in respect of which as Major Love declares the tests by session marks are even more important. Engineering ~~[illegible]~~ with its cognate branches is a practical art & not merely a scientific study; & there can be no more valuable or significant part of the test for certificates than the college marks. ~~[illegible]~~ If this part of the test is valuable & its retention ~~[illegible]~~ important ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ in England, it is still more so in this country. Indian students have a marvellous aptitude for cramming paper work. With regard to the public service itself too we cannot afford to introduce any change which may have the effect of lowering the standard of practical qualification.

H.M.

(For orders)

The draughtsmen scheme proposed by the G.O. of 21st June 1895 is only tentative, & need not be made the occasion of radically altering a system which has worked so well. The difficulty which [illegible] not [illegible] way

[illegible] 812

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arises at present is therefore only ~~certificates~~ the discovery of some method of examn. by wh. outside candidates may be tested so that draughtsmen's certificates given as the result of the examn. may be accepted as fairly equivalent to certifica gained under the present system by college students. I think the only mode is to require of them in place of the sessional test an additional viva voce & out-door practical examn. This wd. entail some extra time & cost but the latter wd. be probably covered by the additional fees or at any rate wd. be within the general examn. receipts credited to the treasury. The test wd. not ~~afford~~ be as ~~effective~~ practical as the long sessional course, but it could be made sufficiently effective for the purpose which the D.P.W. in advocating the scheme has in view. I think we may take it as axiomatic that the Presidency afford opportunities for trai can make

[G./24.]
200—5-10-95.

Ednl. DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings :—

Again G.O., dated 20th June 1895, No. 525
Again G.O., dated 189 , No.
Current No. 16 of 1896, dated , from
" " 76 " 1896, " , "
" " " 189 , " , "

Note

This certainly seems the right view — as I think Major Love quite makes out his case. I am afraid the D. P. I. is apt to get into a groove from which it is difficult for him to extricate himself.
I approve the draft. W

18 Feb

ORDER. No. 100 d/21 Feb. 96

The Govt. considers that the Principal of the Engineering College has made out a strong case for the retention, generally, of the existing system under which a proportion of the marks obtainable at the examn. are awarded by the College staff for practical work done during the terms in the College. The courses of practical instruction ~~work~~ are without doubt of the highest importance in ~~such~~ most of the subjects taught at the college; & the arrangement by which a value is assigned to them in the qualifying examns. if it is desirable ~~[illegible]~~ ~~as~~ in England, ~~such~~ is still more so in this country. The arrangement has also worked satisfactorily.

2. It does not, however, appear that there is anything in the subjects of the examn. for Draughtsmans' certificates ~~that~~ which cannot be thoroughly tested by a written examn., & the Govt. is of [illegible] that no harm is likely

to result from the discontinuance of the system of granting term marks ~~at~~ Mercara, during the two years for which the plan of admitting to ~~it~~ the examn. subordinates of the Public Works Dept. will be ~~tried~~ under trial.

3. The D.P.I. will accordingly be requested to embody this alteration in the syllabuses & rules which are now under revision.

W.F. 14.2.96 (from orders.)

S.K. 14/2/96

To

The D.P.I. g.to

despd 21/2/96

Draughtsman's certificates

G. S. Forbes Esq.

(from orders.)

H.E. the Governor

with draft on H.M's notes

S.K. 14.2.6

When given for copying ______
When copied ______
When examined ______
signed ______
189 .

AIN G.O., No. DATED
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No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No

ER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A

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