

Educational (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 293

Dated 10-5-88

A  
10-5.

27 7-7

[Despatch Abstract.]

Declining to adopt  
the suggestion of the Commission  
for Govt Examinations that the practice  
of lithographing the Vernacular  
papers for the Translation Test  
Higher Grade, may be discontinued  
and informing him that he  
must devise some means to  
get over the difficulties which  
the present practice is attended  
with.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|      |     |             |       |      |     |             |       |

# FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|      |     |             |       |      |     |             |       |

# Public Works (1898) Department.

H.M.

470-482. V

## For Orders

The lithographed paper was introduced on the suggestion of the Honble Sir Henry Bliss. Please see at flag N. under cover of G.O. no. 317 Ed 8<sup>th</sup> May 1894.

It is submitted with ref. to para 3 of the D.P.'s letter that in practice it is better that the test should be as complete as possible and should afford some guarantee of the ability to read difficult hands. There should be no difficulty, as the D.P.'s point out, in learning the art and this branch of the examination affords a pretty conclusive test of the ability of the candidates to read such manuscripts, for the lithographed copies are, as a general rule, harder to decipher than the originals. It is possible to pass an examination intended to show one's knowledge of a subject or a somewhat limited knowledge, but when it is a practical test of being able to do anything (in this case to be able to read a difficult handwriting) the examinee must either be able to do what is required or he must fail. The difficulties mentioned by the D.P.'s are very real but it has to be considered on the other hand whether it is advisable to so alter the examination as to make it possible that a ~~clerk~~ Government officer might get a "qualified" candidate - often with difficulty - from some other district & find him eventually unqualified to take up general translation work immediately.

988/98  
4

The Director seems on the whole to have made out a case for the change to be discontinued.

H.T.  
5-2-98

A. W. 39  
701-8-8-98.

Yes I think the reasons he gives are good & must be accepted. Shows that the question is...

CURRENT No. 374

From  Commissioner for Government Examinations, Madras

No. 64/120

Dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 1898

Received 21-3-98

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

A.S. kindly write a large sample not so

SUBJECT.

Recommending for reasons stated that the present practice of lithographing the Vernacular papers for Translation Test - Higher Grade may be directed to be discontinued.

12/4/98

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|------|-----|-------------|-------|

Special Test Notifications

ps 317 of 3/4 orgl & copy

67 of 94 copy

u 818 of 93 copy

is as to the object of the exam-  
It should be to certify a man  
fit for translation work. If  
the rule is changed this object  
will not be attained. Would  
any sane man certify a man  
as a competent translator from  
German who could only read  
printed, but not written German?  
Certainly not. I would main-  
tain the rule still the D.P.?  
that he must devise means  
to get over his difficulties, the  
existence of which I do not deny.  
Dr. Duncan by the way, is  
probably hardly a fair judge  
in the matter, as he probably  
does not know a single vernac-  
ular, & does not appreciate  
the extent to which the vernac-  
ular languages are now  
neglected - to the frequently  
serious detriment of the public  
business.

1574/98

H. C. of Am. & H. E. The Governor. My dear friend  
 I can't help thinking that it is an obviously H. T.  
 important part of a man's knowledge of a still 16.4.98  
 living language, to be able to read the written  
 character. I agree, therefore, with the Hon. Sir H. Bliss,  
 that the D. P. T. must devise some means of getting over his difficulties.  
 B. H. 23.4.98

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------|
|------|-----|-------------|-------|

The Iransolians Test Higher

For a de can any but some of the  
 qualifications of a good Translator,  
 which include honesty and as  
 number of other virtues, as well  
 as ability to read the written Ver-  
 nacular. I think it will be suf-  
 ficient for it to test the knowledge  
 of English of the Vernacular  
 as a translator ought to possess.  
 This Commission seems likely to have  
 shown that the present system of  
 copying papers involves much  
 delay to in viewing them, that  
 there must always be great  
 danger of their getting known to  
 those who ought not to know  
 them. Moreover, I do not think  
 it supplies a satisfactory test of  
 ability to read writings, es-  
 pecially as it shows ability to read  
 the writing of one person only.  
 A translator ought to be able  
 to decipher many hand writings,  
 & this can only be tested by the  
 method indicated in the 1st Test  
 Schedule which requires the ap-  
 plicants to show that they can  
 read "argies" in the M. S. S., badly  
 written & badly spelt. This can  
 not now only be done ver-  
 bally, so cannot  
 form a part of the  
 1st Test exam.

19/4/98

D. 4H 23.4.98

Special Test - October 1897

Translation - Higher grade.

Tamil

Time - Three hours.

[Note. Candidates are particularly requested to note on their answer papers the vernacular language brought up by them for the Translation Test and from or into which their translation is done.]

Translate into English:

[illegible][illegible]



தமிழ்நாட்டில் புகழ் பெற்ற சாத்திரிகளில்  
பயிற்சியைப் பெற்றவர் பட்டே."

மகாபகவதே மிகுந்தவனே உன் புகழை உன்  
 யை வாய் வாய் வாய் வாய் வாய் வாய்  
 உன் புகழை உன் புகழை உன் புகழை  
 உன் புகழை உன் புகழை உன் புகழை

[illegible]

இவ்வாய்வினை கிடைக்கும் வாய் வரவேண்டி  
 கருவியை நினைவதென்ற வாய் வரவேண்டி  
 கேட்குகின்றனரென்ற செய்தி :-

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible]

'குடிமான்  
 உருவத்து  
 தனிவந்து  
 துடிமான்

ਅਨੰਦ ਲਿੰਗ

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No. 64/2000 CURRENT No. 394  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
FOR GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS,  
Madras, 19<sup>th</sup> March 1898.

From  
THE HON'BLE MR. D. DUNCAN, M.A., D.Sc., LL.D.,  
COMMISSIONER FOR GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS,  
Madras,  
To  
THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,  
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT,  
Fort St. George.

SIR,

The Notification that now regulates the Special Test Examinations requires that the Vernacular papers given for translation into English, in the case of the Translation Test, Higher Grade, 'shall not be printed, but shall be written in a pretty difficult hand and lithographed'; and, accordingly, it has <sup>been</sup> in the practice since the present Notification came into force in 1894, to place before candidates lithographed copies of papers written in a running hand. The practice, however, is attended with so much inconvenience and has so little to recommend it that I beg to suggest that it be forthwith discontinued and that, as in former

12 of the  
Special Test Notifs

1/98

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Encl  
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years, candidates be required to translate from papers printed in the ordinary manner. My reasons for making this recommendation are these.

2. The persons selected as Examiners in the several Translation Tests, though qualified in every other respect, are not always able to write the sort of running hand required, and cannot, of course, employ others to copy the papers for them.

The papers to be lithographed must be in their own hand-writing. Then, the writing in the original manuscripts must be done on paper specially prepared for lithographing, and this the Examiners are not always able to do in a satisfactory manner. Either the paper is bad or the ink is bad: or the writing is too thick or the writing is too thin; and the manuscripts are returned by the lithographers who find it impossible to reproduce them. The result is a great deal of trouble and vexatious delay.

And when at last the work is completed by the lithographers, the matter spreads over so many pages that the papers are inconveniently long, as will be seen from the specimen copy I send in, one out of the six Vernacular languages in which similar papers have to be prepared. As the Government

Government Press too does no lithograph work, the papers have to be entrusted to private firms or individuals, and this, coupled with the length of time taken in printing the papers, adds an element of insecurity to the trouble and delay.

3. Apart from all this, there appears to be no good reason or necessity for the practice which I wish to see discontinued. The object of the Examination, as I understand it, is to test a candidate's knowledge of English and of his vernacular language, and his ability to translate from one into the other; — not his ability to decipher handwriting more or less rude and illegible. The art of writing a difficult running hand in the vernacular and of reading such writing is, I believe, possessed in greater perfection by those who are uneducated than by scholars. It is an art not difficult to acquire and needs only some practice in an office. If a knowledge of it is required at once when a vacancy has to be filled, all that is necessary is to select from among the applicants for the vacant office the one who best possesses this knowledge. It is expressly declared in the Schedule to the Special Test Notification that

that no person shall be appointed to any of the posts for which this test is prescribed, unless he first satisfies the head of the office in which he seeks employment that he can interpret fairly and readily and can read arjis in manuscript badly written and badly spell. Any additional test of the kind seems, therefore, unnecessary and I hope Government's agreeing with me in this matter, will direct its discontinuance.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
J. D. D. D.  
Commissioner

M.H.

[G. 24] 501-1-98.

C 3.5.98  
B 6.5.98

Ed DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:-

|                 |                                       |                   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Again G.O., No. | , dated                               | 189 .             |
| Again G.O., No. | , dated                               | 189 .             |
| Current No. 394 | of 1898, dated 19 <sup>th</sup> March | , from the C & E. |
| " "             | " 189 , "                             | " "               |
| " "             | " 189 , "                             | " "               |

ORDER. W. 293 210 5-88  
mis

H.M. (as dissenting member)

Seen  
JG  
5/5/98

The Govt is not prepared to adopt the suggestion of the Commissioner and he must devise means to get over the difficulties referred to by him.  
(from orders)

H.T.  
25-98

M  
28/4/98  
SLR  
29.4.98

To  
The C. & E. 740 Dep.  
12.5.98

When given for copying 10/5  
 When copied 10/11  
 When examined 11/5  
 When signed \_\_\_\_\_ 189 .

When given G.O., No. \_\_\_\_\_, DATED  
 189 ,

No.

CLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT. . . . .

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BRING MBANT FOR DESPATCH  
 IN ORIGINAL.

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