

With regard to the several proposed lines of telegraphic communication my Lords are glad to find that, with some slight exceptions, the whole of the routes along which the lines in question would be laid have been examined, and the soundings completed sufficiently for telegraphic purposes, by the Admiralty, and marked in charts, the incomplete portions of the lines being between Java and Australia, of which about one-half has been sounded; between Saigon and Hongkong, of which about one-half has been sounded, and the remainder is in progress; between China and Japan, of which about one-third has been sounded.

My Lords have now only to add that (whilst acting on the principles laid down for their guidance in the foregoing Minute), they will be prepared to give their attentive consideration to any proposals which may be submitted to them for carrying out any of the schemes of telegraphic communication above adverted to, by parties who can adduce satisfactory proof of their possessing the necessary pecuniary means for carrying such undertaking into effect, whether by submarine cables, or when circumstances will admit, by alternative land lines; and my Lords will make arrangements with the Admiralty so as to afford such parties the opportunity of inspecting the surveys referred to.

Transmit copy of this Minute to Sir F. ROGERS, and request that in laying the same before the Earl of Carnarvon he will state to his Lordship, that my Lords, in laying down principles for their own governance in regard to the amount of encouragement which it may be deemed expedient on the part of the Imperial Government to afford towards the extension of telegraphic communication, have no wish to interfere with any arrangements, whether pecuniary or otherwise, which the Governments of any of the Australian Colonies may be inclined to enter into with any company or companies formed for the furtherance of the object in question.

Transmit copy of this Minute to Mr. Hammond, for the information of Lord Stanley; to Mr. Romaine, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; to Mr. Merivale, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council; and to Mr. Farrer, for the information of the Board of Trade.

No. 103.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Regulations for an Examination of Candidates for the Civil Service of India, which is to take place in the months of March and April, 1868, are published for general information.

By Order,

HENRY JOHN BALL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 6th July, 1867.

EXAMINATIONS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE OF INDIA.

REGULATIONS

For the Open Competition of 1868.*

1. On Tuesday March 31st, 1868, and following days, an Examination of candidates will be held in London. Not less than candidates will be selected, if so many shall be found duly qualified. Of these, will be selected for the Presidency of Bengal, [for the Upper Provinces, and for the Lower Provinces,] for that of Madras, and for that of Bombay.†—Notice will hereafter be given of the days and place of examination.

2. Any natural-born subject of Her Majesty, who shall be desirous of entering the Civil Service of India, will be entitled to be examined at such Examination, provided he shall, on or before the 1st of February, 1868, have transmitted to the Civil Service Commissioners, Dean's Yard, London, S.W.—

(a) A certificate of his birth, showing that his age on the 1st March, 1863, will be above Seventeen Years and under Twenty-one Years;

(b) A certificate, signed by a physician or surgeon, of his having no disease, constitutional affection, or bodily infirmity unfitting him for the Civil Service of India;

(c) Satisfactory proof of good moral character;

(d) A statement of those of the branches of knowledge hereinafter enumerated in which he desires to be examined.‡

3. In any case in which a doubt may arise as to the eligibility of a Candidate in respect of age, health, or character, such inquiries as may be necessary will be instituted by the Civil Service Commissioners.

4. The Examination will take place only in the following branches of knowledge.§—

	Marks.
Language, Literature and History of England—	
Composition	500
History, including that of the Laws and Constitution	500
Language and Literature	500
Language, Literature, and History of Greece	750
" " " Rome	750
" " " France	375
" " " Germany	375
" " " Italy	375
Mathematics, Pure and Mixed	1,250
Natural Science; that is, (1) Chemistry, including Heat, (2) Electricity and Magnetism, (3) Geology and Mineralogy, (4) Zoology, (5) Botany	500
** The total (500 marks) may be obtained by adequate proficiency in any one or more of the five branches of knowledge included under this head.	
Moral Sciences; that is, Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy	500
Sanskrit Language and Literature	375
Arabic Language and Literature	375

* The Regulations are liable to be altered in future years.

† The number of appointments to be made, and the number in each Presidency, &c., will be announced hereafter.

‡ Candidates are at liberty to send in their names and evidence of age as soon as they think fit to do so; but evidence of health and character must bear date not earlier than the 1st January, 1868.

§ It should be understood that candidates are at liberty to name at their pleasure any or all of these branches of knowledge, and that no subjects are obligatory.

5. The merit of the persons examined will be estimated by marks, and the number set opposite to each branch in the preceding regulation denotes the greatest number of marks that can be obtained in respect of it.

6. No candidate will be allowed any marks in respect of any subject of examination, unless he shall be considered to possess a *competent knowledge* of that subject. *

7. The Examination will be conducted by means of printed questions and written answers, and by *vivâ voce* Examination, as may be deemed necessary.

8. The marks obtained by each candidate, in respect of each of the subjects in which he shall have been examined, will be added up, and the names of the candidates who shall have obtained a greater aggregate number of marks than any of the remaining candidates will be set forth in order of merit, and such candidates shall be deemed to be selected candidates for the Civil Service of India. They shall be permitted to choose, according to the order in which they stand, as long as a choice remains, the Presidency (and in Bengal, the division of the Presidency) to which they shall be appointed.

9. Selected candidates before proceeding to India will be on probation for two years, during which time they will be examined periodically with the view of testing their progress in the following subjects † :—

	Marks.
1. Oriental Languages :	
Sanskrit	500
Vernacular Languages of India (each)	400
2. The History and Geography of India	350
3. Law	1,250
4. Political Economy	350

In these Examinations, as in the open competition, the merit of the candidates examined will be estimated by marks, and the number set opposite to each subject denotes the greatest number of marks that can be obtained in respect of it at any one Examination. The Examination will be conducted by means of printed questions and written answers, and by *vivâ voce* Examination, as may be deemed necessary. The marks obtained at each of such periodical Examinations will be added to those previously or subsequently obtained. The last of these Examinations will be held at the close of the second year of probation, and will be called the "Final Examination." By the merit then shown it will be decided whether a selected candidate is qualified for the Civil Service of India.

10. No candidate will be permitted to proceed to India until he shall have passed the Final Examination, and received a certificate of qualification from the Civil Service Commissioners, or after he shall have attained the age of twenty-four years.

11. The selected candidates who at the Final Examination shall be found to have a competent knowledge of the subjects specified in Regulation 9, shall be adjudged to have passed, and to be entitled to be appointed to the Civil Service of India.

12. The seniority in the Civil Service of India of the selected candidates shall be determined according to the order in which they stand on the list resulting from the Final Examination.

13. No person will, even after passing the Final Examination, be allowed to proceed to India, unless he shall comply with the regulations in force, at the time, for the Civil Service of India, and shall be of sound bodily health and good moral character.—The Civil Service Commissioners will require such further evidence on these points as they may deem necessary before granting their Certificate of Qualification.

14. Applications from persons desirous to be admitted as candidates are to be addressed to the Secretary to the Civil Service Commissioners, Dean's Yard, London, S.W.

15th April, 1867.

NOTE.—(1.) *The Secretary of State for India in Council has authorized the Civil Service Commissioners to state that it is his intention to allow the sum of 100l. for the first year of probation, and 200l. for the second year to each selected candidate who shall have passed the required Examination to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, and shall have complied with such rules as may be laid down for the guidance of selected candidates.*

(2.) *All selected candidates will be required, after having passed the second periodical Examination, to attend at the India Office for the purpose of entering into an agreement binding themselves, amongst other things, to refund in certain cases the amount of their allowance in the event of their failing to proceed to India. If a candidate is under age a surety is required.*

(3.) *After passing the Final Examination each candidate will be required to attend again at the India Office, with the view of entering into covenants and giving a bond for 1,000l., jointly with two sureties, for the due fulfilment of the same. The stamps payable by civilians on these documents amount to 3l. 10s.*

(4.) *Candidates rejected at the Final Examination of 1870 will in no case be allowed to present themselves for re-examination.*

* "Nothing can be further from our wish than to hold out premiums for knowledge of wide surface and of small depth. We are of opinion that a Candidate ought to be allowed no credit at all for taking up a subject in which he is a mere smatterer."—Report of Committee of 1854.

† Full instructions as to the course of study to be pursued will be issued to the successful candidates as soon as possible after the result of the open competition is declared.

No. 98.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

With reference to Government Notification No. 94 of the 15th instant, it is hereby made known that the period fixed for the receipt of Tenders for the Construction of a Sea Wall and Reclamation from Sea, West of the Harbor Master's Office, has been extended till Noon on Monday, the 8th Proximo.

By Order,

HENRY JOHN BALL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th June, 1867.

No. 73.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

It is hereby notified that henceforth all Public Offices under this Government, with the exception of the General Post Office, will be closed, as a rule, at half past 1 P.M. on the Saturday in each week.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 29th April, 1867.