

4. Candidates may enter in any of the prescribed departments, but are recommended to limit themselves to one, or at most two. When the same work is prescribed for successive, or subsequent years, as in the doctrinal and historical departments, no second diploma, prize or medal will be given for it to anyone, nor will a medallist be eligible for a prize. Successful candidates of a previous year are not excluded from entering, but if the work is the same as that of which they were formerly examined they must take a higher standing, i. e., the holder of a diploma must obtain at least 75 per cent. on the second occasion, and one who has taken a prize, at least 90 per cent., in order to receive recognition.

5. Candidates between ten and fifteen years of age will rank as Junior; those aged fifteen and under twenty as Intermediate; and those twenty years of age and older as Senior. Ages to be reckoned as on January 30th, 1897.

6. Candidates obtaining 90 per cent. of the full marks in any department will be entitled to a silver medal; those obtaining 75 per cent., but less than 90 per cent., will be entitled to a book prize; and all other candidates who obtain 50 per cent. will be entitled to a diploma.

7. The value of each paper will be 200, and two hours will be allowed for writing the answers.

8. One question paper for the whole church will be set on each subject, and copies forwarded, under sealed covers, to the Presiding Examiners. The covers shall not be removed till the candidates are assembled, and the written answers shall be covered and sealed for transmission to the convener, before the candidates leave the place of examination. The packages must be posted thereafter without delay.

9. A Quarterly Examination on the S. S. LESSON (Department I.) will be substituted for the Annual whenever a special request is made to that effect. The examinations for the year 1896 will be held at the following dates:

1st Quarterly Examination on April 4th.

2nd Quarterly Examination on June 27th.

3rd Quarterly Examination on October 3rd.

4th Quarterly Examination on January 30th, 1897.

DEPARTMENT IV.—ESSAY.

Theme for all Grades: "Solomon and his Times."

Essays must not be sent in later than January 30th, 1897. Each essay must bear a motto written at the top of the first page, and the writer's name must on no account appear. It must be written on foolscap paper, and the sheets must be securely fastened together. Each essay must be the composition and in the hand-writing of the candidate. A list of books consulted in the preparation of the essay must be given at the beginning of the manuscript, and quotations must be carefully marked. The writer's name, address, congregation, age on January 30th, 1897, and motto, must be written upon a slip of paper and enclosed with the essay to the REV. W. FARQUHARSON, B. A., CLAUDE, ONT. Medals, prizes and diplomas will be given to essayists as in the examinations.

No essay in the Junior or Intermediate grades shall exceed 5,000 words, nor in the Senior 10,000 words in length.

The following *Instructions to Examiners of Essays* are published for the information of candidates.

1. The merits of each essay to be estimated more by the excellence of its matter than its literary form.

2. A fixed round number, say 200, to be taken by all the judges as representing the "full marks" due to an essay in all respects such as might be expected from a young person of the maximum prescribed age.

3. Of these marks a certain definite proportion, say three-fourths, to be given on the ground of (A) excellence of substance, and the remainder for (B) excellence of form. The marks may be apportioned as follows:—

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| A | { | I. For fulness of historical research combined with accuracy of historical statement
—a maximum of 75. |
| | | II. For aptness, sagacity, originality of investigation, illustration, comment or deduction—75. |
| B | { | III. For excellence of style as regards choice of appropriate words and grammar, vigor, rhythm of sentence—25. |
| | | IV. For symmetry and proportion of the composition as a whole, indicating some feeling for literary form—25. |