

4. The questions for pupils applying for admission to the Junior Department (First Year's Course) shall be prepared by the Department of Education, and forwarded in due season to the Principal, of each Academy. At the entrance Examinations for the next ensuing School year (to be held on the 27th and 28th October, 1887, and 26th and 27th April, 1888, respectively) papers will be set by the Department of Education as follows: (1) Grammar, Analysis, and Composition; (2) Geography; (3) British and Canadian History; (4) Arithmetic; (5) The Elements of Useful Knowledge. The latter paper will be designed to test the acquaintance of candidates with the substance of the *oral Lessons on Nature* in the Common School Course of Study, which Course will also determine the limits of knowledge in all the above subjects.

5. A supplementary Examination, for such applicants for admission as can show good reason for not having presented themselves at the regular Examination in October, will be held immediately after the Christmas Vacation. The questions for this Examination will be prepared by the Principal (or faculty) and must be preserved in connection with candidates' papers as provided in following regulation. They should not follow closely the lines of the previous October questions, and should be framed so as to test the pupils' fitness to take up the work at the point then reached by the previously organized classes.

6. The entrance examinations shall be conducted and the candidates' papers valued by the Principal of the Academy, and such other persons as the Board of Trustees may choose to associate with him. The questions furnished by the Department of Education will be accompanied by the directions for holding the examinations, and a statement of the standards according to which papers are to be valued. The Examiners shall in all cases be required to certify that the examination has been conducted in accordance with the prescribed rules. When a change in the Principalship shall occur at the close of the term, the incoming Principal shall always take part in the valuation of Candidates' papers.

7. For the present the admission of pupils (not holding Provincial Licenses of First and Second Classes) to advanced standing is left to the discretion of the Principal (or Faculty) of each Academy. Such pupils should be examined on the essential subjects of the year preceding that to which admission is sought.

8. All papers written by candidates for admission must be carefully filed, and preserved for inspection by officers of the Education Department. Each paper shall have legibly endorsed upon it the value assigned it by the Examiner.

9. No person shall be recognized as a qualified pupil of a County Academy, who has not been regularly admitted under some one of the foregoing provisions.

10. Each County Academy shall be examined annually by the Superintendent of Education, in conjunction with the Inspector of Schools for the District. The Examination shall be conducted orally, or in writing, at the discretion of the Examiners, and in its scope shall have regard to the time of the school year at which it may be held. The annual report of the Superintendent of Education shall contain a statement of the number of pupils (by departments or years) presented and passed in each Academy.

11. To entitle itself to the grant claimed, each Academy must pass at each annual examination at least the minimum number of pupils required by law as the basis of such grant.

12. It shall be the duty of the Trustees of each County Academy to supply for the teachers' use all text-books, which by the appended Course of Study are made the basis of oral lessons and lectures. They must also provide the philosophical and chemical apparatus essential for the experiments and demonstrations required by the Course as a regular part of the teaching. A selection of physiological and zoological diagrams, models and specimens is deemed desirable. The teacher should encourage the pupils to collect cabinets illustrating the geology and varied mineral resources of Nova Scotia.

13. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Education to report to the Council of Public Instruction as to the equipment of each County Academy, in respect to school room accommodation and conveniences, apparatus, and provision for physical exercise. If, in case the Council of Public Instruction notifies the Trustees of any Academy that its equipment in any or all of the above respects is deemed insufficient, the Trustees if within a reasonable time to remedy such deficiency, the Academy shall forfeit its claims to public grants, until such time as the required improvements are made.

14. Students may be admitted to special classes, provided they can be accommodated without encroaching on the rights of the regular pupils, but such special pupils shall not be counted as qualified pupils under the Act to which these regulations refer.

15. The Trustees shall make satisfactory provision for the instruction of all Common School pupils within their section in lower schools or departments, provided that with the sanction of

the Inspector a limited number of 8th grade (Common School Course) pupils may be admitted to the Academic Department, when its average attendance of qualified pupils does not exceed twenty.

16. The Schools entitled to employ a grade A teacher under section 10 of the "Act to encourage Academic Education," shall comprise at least three departments, each in charge of a separate teacher, shall be regularly graded according to prescribed Courses of Study, and shall maintain in the Principals Department a certified average of at least *five* pupils regularly pursuing the studies of the prescribed High School Course. It is also provided that in all cases the Inspector of Schools shall certify that the equipment and management of these Schools is such as to warrant the payment of the special grant.

17. For the present the Council deems it inexpedient to prescribe definite qualifications for Teachers of Graded Schools in French Sections. Trustees or teachers anxious to take advantage of the provision of section 10, should correspond with the Council through the Superintendent of Education. No teacher will be deemed eligible who cannot, in addition to other qualifications, speak and write with ease and correctness both the French and English languages. The condition requiring the average attendance of five qualified High School pupils shall not apply to schools established in French Sections.

In connection with the foregoing Regulations the following instructions regarding the Entrance Examinations have been issued to County Academy Trustees and Principals:—

1. The examination in each of the prescribed subjects shall be held on the day and hour indicated on the envelope containing the questions. Until required for use, the questions shall remain in your own custody, under lock and key; the seals of each envelope to be broken open in the presence of the candidates.

2. Paper, pens and ink should be supplied by the Trustees for the use of candidates who may come unfurnished with these articles.

3. Candidates while engaged in writing shall not be allowed to hold communication of any kind with each other, and to this end they should be seated so as to render such communication as difficult as possible.

4. The Examiner will exert himself to the utmost to prevent recourse on the part of the candidates to improper practices. Before each session, the desks should be carefully cleared of all books and papers, and any candidate seeking to take advantage of books, notes, or manuscripts of any kind, or to obtain assistance from his neighbours, should be promptly dismissed.

5. In framing the questions great care has been taken to make them intelligible to any reasonably qualified candidate. Examiners are therefore not at liberty to respond to the applications of candidates for explanations of the meaning of questions, a form of assistance which tends to defeat one of the chief objects of written examinations.

6. Candidates' papers shall be valued on the basis of 100 as the maximum mark for each paper. To the general average obtained on papers, examiners may add, at their discretion, a number not exceeding 3, for marked excellence in spelling, penmanship, etc. The general average obtained on papers, plus any increase given for spelling, etc., shall be known as the *rectified average*; and no candidate shall be considered as passing the required Entrance Examination who shall not make a rectified average of 50 or upwards, and who at the same time shall not fall further below 25 in any single paper, than his rectified average is above 50, provided that for the ensuing year this latter condition shall not apply to the paper on "The Elements of Useful Knowledge."

NOTE.—The object of the Entrance Examination being to test the candidate's fitness for entering upon High School work, Examiners should carefully discriminate between trifling and serious deficiencies. Most of the pupils applying for admission are of very youthful age, and it is unreasonable to expect from them evidences of the breadth and maturity of mind which belong only to riper years. But while the necessarily limited range of a child's powers and acquisitions is kept in mind, it should not be forgotten that the work proper to the Common School ought to be thoroughly done before admission to the High School is sought. In applying these obvious principles, Examiners will observe that it has been found necessary to render the arrangements for supplementary examination somewhat less elastic than those at first experimentally provided. The spending of a third part of the term in *coaching* pupils unable to pass at the previous entrance examination involves a misdirection of energy, highly injurious both to the Common School and the High School. Admission to the latter should not be refused to any persons showing reasonable evidence of fitness; but pupils qualified only for the Common School should remain there till requisite qualification for promotion has been obtained.

The experimental character of the examination in "Elements of Useful Knowledge" will justify examiners in estimating with some leniency any defects in the candidates' papers on that branch.

7. As soon as possible after the results of the examination have been arrived at, the Principal shall furnish the Superintendent of Education with a statement of such results, giving the names of the persons examined and the general average made by each. He shall also forward a certificate, signed by himself and any authorized persons acting with or for him, in conducting the examination, that the examination was in all respects conducted in accordance with the above instructions.