

Reg. 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1906.

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**—The Growth of Examinations.—**  
 "How are examiners appointed, and who are they?"  
 "They are appointed by the University Council, and the setting of the papers is left to them. In the early days of examinations the whole of the work was conducted by the professors of the University. But the very success of the examinations themselves has rendered it necessary to relieve the professors of all such duties except the supervision and general responsibility in regard to the setting of the papers and the standard fixed by the examiners in marking them. There are groups of examiners for each subject, and it is the rule for them, as the framers of the papers, to submit their questions to the professor in charge of the department concerned. For instance, all the mathematical and physics questions papers are first submitted to Professor Bragg. The choice of examiners is not necessarily limited to members of the University staff, although they are chiefly composed of its junior members. To obtain examiners from outside the sources are obviously limited, because it is impossible to take any teacher from any school which is sending in candidates for examination. The papers very often undergo severe criticism, and are materially altered from their original form before they are finally approved. It is doubtful if any system can be devised by which—with the existing machinery—mistakes can be absolutely prevented." With regard to that question No. 1 of the junior Latin paper—"The brave Balbus, having lost one hand, drew his sword and cut off the other"—the examiners' object was to set a particular kind of English phrase for translation into its equivalent in Latin."

To the Editor.  
 Sir—The eccentricities of the professors in setting the papers for the junior examination have amused me considerably. First, in the arithmetic paper we find a question absolutely indefinite. Next, we notice among the Latin questions that poor old Balbus has three hands. And now we have set us in the Greek paper a passage to be translated from Greek into English, and then to be translated into Latin. Does it necessarily follow that a student who is able to translate Greek is equally familiar with Latin? By the recurrence of these absurdities one is led to ask, "Is there any supervision of these examinations by the governing body of the University?" Truly examiners need to be examined now and again. We poor students have to suffer for these mental lapses of the examiners, but we are repaid sometimes with a laugh at their expense. We have, however, enough to do to pass our exams, without being worried by the idiosyncrasies of the examiners.  
 I am, Sir, &c.,  
 JUNIOR.

To the Editor.  
 Sir—One geography question put to candidates at the junior examinations was, "Describe the drainage area of the Mississippi, name the chief towns on its banks, and state its economic value to the United States." That seems an unreasonable question to put to young Australians. By the way, what is the matter with the drainage area of our own great river, the Murray, that it should have been overlooked in favour of the Mississippi?  
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**UNIVERSITY AND EXAMINATIONS.**

**HOW QUESTIONS ARE FRAMED.**  
**EXPLANATIONS AND ADMISSIONS.**

Much interest and controversy having been aroused among a large section of educationists and students in the State in connection particularly with certain questions included in the papers set before candidates for the Junior Public Examination of 1903, and generally with the whole system of preparing examination papers, a representative of The Register interviewed Professor Rennie (Chairman of the Public Examinations Board) on Thursday.  
 The reporter asked:—"Will you explain the method by which examination papers are framed. If, for instance, examiners may consider that they are justified in setting questions which are outside the syllabus officially authorized?"  
 "Yes, there is no doubt that if a syllabus is set the examiners are supposed to keep within the limits of the syllabus. That at any rate, is the general feeling among members of the board. We must admit, however, that in one instance at least—namely, in the junior geography paper, question 4—"Draw a map of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, showing boundaries and physical relief of bordering countries, and chief seaport towns"—the question was outside of the syllabus. However careful examiners may be mistakes must occasionally occur."

—Allowances Made for Examiners' Errors.—  
 "With regard also to question 1 in the geography paper—"Draw an outline map showing the countries which lie on the borders of India. Place on the map the capital of each, and describe the form of government."—it might have been framed more explicitly, but it certainly came within the limits of the syllabus, and should have been also within the knowledge of an average student. We must further admit a blunder in the working of the second question of the junior geometry paper. The board deeply regrets these errors. Of course, in all cases allowances will be made when going through students' papers. No candidate will ever fail because of any mistakes made in the setting of a paper, because an examiner can always judge by the general results of a paper whether a candidate is fit to pass or not, independently of those particular questions. With regard to the question of credit also, if an examiner found any serious mistake among the questions set, the standard for credit would be specially considered."

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**THE JUNIOR EXAMINATION.**  
 To the Editor.  
 Sir—I quite agree with Mr. Newman that some of the questions set for the present junior public examination call for comment. I should like to see the examiners' solution of question 2 in the geometry paper. Part of question No. 7 in English literature I consider unfair. Candidates were asked to quote the passages in which these expressions occur, "That memorable scene," "The brute bullet." Now, neither of these expressions occurs in the poetry set to be learnt, and if the University wished candidates to learn the context of any three words in the "Poems of England" they should have so specified it, and intending candidates would have learnt all the poems in the book. These young people like fair play as well as older people. Nothing darkens their souls so much as injustice. Papers like those set this year turn people against the examination system. If the University of Adelaide were as careful about the questions they set as they are about the fees there would be no dissatisfaction.—I am, &c., FAIRPLAY.

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**UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE**

**EXAMINATION RESULTS.**

Honors Degree of Bachelor of Arts.  
 Classics.—First class—Mary Lillecrapp Langman.  
 Second class—Mabel Evangeline Williams.

**DEGREE EXAMINATIONS.**  
 The following students passed in subjects of the courses for the ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science or the Applied Science Course, at the annual examination in November, 1906:—

**Greek.**  
 First class—David Davis.  
 Second class—None.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Robert Harkness, Josephine Hartley Moncrieff, Elsie Madeline Woranop.

**Latin.**  
 First class (in order of merit)—Eirene Mary Williams, Adolf John Schulz.  
 Second class—George Coutts Ligertwood.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Ralph Horwood Paynter, Lillian Mary Theakston Stephens, Elsie Madeline Woranop.

**German.**  
 First class—None.  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Eirene Mary Williams, George Coutts Ligertwood.

**English History.**  
 Third class—Mabel Riley.  
 Ethics (in order of merit).  
 First class—Adolf John Schulz, Edward Charles Loan.  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Rudolph Oertel Nadebaum, Hilda Mary Hill, David Davis.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Gordon Cathcart Campbell, Charles Fishbourne Hall, Laura Olga Hedwig Heyne, Isabel Mary Saunders, Lillian Mary Theakston Stephens.

**Philosophy.**  
 First class—Adolf John Schulz.  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Edward Charles Loan, David Davis.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Edith Josephine Gardner, Charles Fishbourne Hall, Rudolph Oertel Nadebaum.  
 Inorganic Chemistry, B.A., Compulsory Chemistry, B.Sc. Chemistry I. (Diploma Course).  
 First class (in order of merit)—William Lawrence Bragg; Lancelot Salisbury Bagster, Louis Warnecke McNamara (equal), Wilfred David Rosengarten, Joseph Leslie Glasson.  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Mildred May George, Jacob Jona, Edward Charles Grigson, Edwin Corlett Higginbottom, Olive Pellow Pearce, Ronald Melville Scott, Muriel Hill, Elsie Myra Lillian Foster, Arthur Hammond Bell.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Clairinda May Caddy, Alexander Lorimer Kennedy, Josiah Percival Willmott.

**Chemistry, Part I., B.Sc. Course, or Chemistry II. Diploma Course.**  
 First class (in order of merit)—Leslie Frank Burgess, Robert William Tassie (equal), Arnold Edwin Victor Richardson.  
 Second and Third classes—None.  
 Passed in Physical Chemistry only for Physiology (honors).—First class—Irene Gwendoline Lewis.

**Pure Mathematics, First Year B.A. and Compulsory B.Sc.**  
 First class—Edwin Corlett Higginbottom.  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Robina Tweeddale, Albert Adams, Alice Maude Rinder, Nellie Agnes Matheson.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Stanley Whitbread Belcher, Reginald Hausden Begg, Arthur Benjamin Ellis, Edward Charles Grigson, Claude Dunleavy Hill, Felix David Dill Stapley, Ronald Melville Scott, Ralph Williams.

**Pure Mathematics, Second Year's Course.**  
 First class (in order of merit)—William Lawrence Bragg, Joseph Leslie Glasson (equal), Louis Warnecke McNamara, Emily Dorothy Proud (equal).  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Felix Kingeton Barton, Josiah Percival Willmott, John Howard Allen.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Stanley Simpson Addison, Arthur Louis George Ash, Leslie Edwards, Dora Inghamels, Lawrence Stanley Jackson, Morton Henry Moyes, Sabina Bertha Stolz.

**Applied Mathematics, B.A., B.Sc., M.A., and Diploma in Applied Science.**  
 First class (in order of merit)—Joseph Leslie Glasson, Leslie Frank Burgess, Frank Edgar Rosman.  
 Second class (in order of merit)—Lancelot Waring Gill, Errol Raffaele Henry Darwin, Hubert Harford Hanton.  
 Third class (in alphabetical order)—Stanley Simpson Addison, Frank Norman Bennett, Walter Richard Birks, Gordon Cathcart Campbell, Carl Wilhelm August Kuchel, Josiah Percival Willmott.