

**THE ECLECTIC QUESTION BOOK: DESIGNED
TO ASSIST PUPILS IN REVIEWING THEIR
STUDIES: ALSO, TEACHERS
IN EXAMINING THEIR CLASSES, AND
NORMAL SCHOOLS AND TEACHER'S
INSTITUTES IN CLASS AND DRILL EXERCISES**

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The Eclectic Question Book: Designed to Assist Pupils in Reviewing Their Studies: Also, Teachers in Examining Their Classes, and Normal Schools and Teacher's Institutes in Class and Drill Exercises by Alexander Duncan

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ALEXANDER DUNCAN

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BY

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PREFACE.

HAVING been an examiner for many years, the author has watched, with the deepest interest, the results developed in the examination of hundreds, nay thousands, of candidates for the Teacher's profession. While some of them have been gratifying, most have been sufficiently surprising and painful. The facts are these:

1st. A considerable number of those applying, from year to year, are rejected, because they *totally fail* to sustain the requisite examination.

2d. A larger number *barely* pass the ordeal, and receive certificates scarcely less discreditable than would be rejection itself.

3d. Quite 25 per cent of the remainder pass the required examination about half as well as they ought, and receive certificates accordingly.

4th. Not more than 10 per cent, hardly more than 5 per cent, of the whole secure the highest testimonials of scholarship, which the law puts fairly within the reach of all.

Convinced that there is no necessity for this state of things, and that he who shall point out a reasonable method of avoiding it will be doing an acceptable service, the author has prepared this work, earnestly hoping that it will contribute, in some degree, at least, to a higher and more thorough grade of qualification on the part of candidates for the important and responsible position of the Teacher.

Another want I have sought to supply, viz.: a *convenient manual for reviewing the common branches in schools.*

Reviewing, as ordinarily practiced, is irksome and almost profitless. It is going over the same ground very much in the same way, but without the stimulus of novelty. Rather let the teacher insist on thoroughness from the very first, and at every step; and then, at the proper time, supply his pupils with the means and method of testing their actual attainments, and supplying their deficiencies. It is hoped that the *QUESTION BOOK* will be found peculiarly adapted to this end.

Kindred to this might be mentioned its fitness as an *auxiliary* work, in the conduct of Teachers' Institutes and Normal Schools.

THE AUTHOR.

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SUGGESTIONS TO CANDIDATES.

REMEMBER that the object of the examination which the law requires you to pass, before you can be legally authorized to teach in any public school, is not to puzzle or harass you in any manner whatever. It is simply to ascertain whether you have such an acquaintance with the branches specified as shall qualify you to *teach* them. You see, therefore, on what your success as a candidate must depend.

You may and ought to be fully qualified to sustain a satisfactory examination. The books which treat of the branches specified lie within your reach. You profess to have studied them. You understand, therefore, where the requisite knowledge is to be found. Have you mastered it? If called upon to point out, distinctly and accurately, the difference between a vowel and a consonant, between a palatal and a lingual, between prose and poetry, can you do it?

Examiners will wish to know whether you can teach the various vowel and consonant sounds; and they will want you to *show* this, by actually making and illustrating them. Can you do it? In a similar manner, they will test your knowledge of Geography. They may ask you why the Polar Circles and the Tropics are located where they are, rather than elsewhere; or, in what direction Iceland is from the North Pole, Australia from the South Pole, etc. Are you fully prepared to answer these, and other questions that may be propounded to you on this topic? Of course, you will expect to be subjected to a similar scrutiny in relation to English Grammar and Arithmetic.

Hence, it is urged that you examine yourselves, and so familiarize your minds with each topic, that neither the questions here named, nor any others of a proper character, may find you unprepared. You can do this,—indeed, you can hardly avoid doing it,—if you pursue the course indicated in the *QUESTION BOOK*.

There are presented in the following pages, not *the* questions that will meet you in the examination-room, but rather such as will test

your knowledge of the several branches upon which you must be examined; and these are accompanied by such references as will enable you to supply, by proper study, your deficiencies.

In using this work, in many cases, where there is more than ordinary scholarship or experience, it may answer merely to read the questions in the order in which they are presented, answering them mentally, as you proceed, being sure, however, not to pass *one* unanswered. When you come to a question calling for information which you can not readily furnish, avail yourselves of the *reference* and *so study* it as to enable you to answer, not only that question, but any similar one that may be submitted to you.

But a surer, and therefore a better, method will be to supply yourselves with paper, pencil, and the requisite authorities, and resolutely determine to answer, *in writing*, every question found in the *QUESTION BOOK*. This is decidedly preferable, especially for two reasons:

1st. It will serve to render your knowledge definite, fixed, and satisfactory, and therefore always available.

2d. Because written examinations are fast becoming more and more common, and will doubtless soon be generally adopted.

Candidates, therefore, should accustom themselves to this mode of answering questions on *all* topics, and should study to do this with clearness, neatness and dispatch. With such a preparation, you need not fear to enter any examination-room.

During the time of your examination, observe the following directions:

1st. Have your mind fixed exclusively on the business before you.

2d. In no case resort to books or to your fellow-candidates for aid.

3d. In your reading exercises, be deliberate and natural.

4th. Be careful of your spelling, penmanship, punctuation, and capitals.

5th. Do not delay too long on questions you can not answer, if, unfortunately, you find such; rather pass them, leaving a corresponding blank in your manuscript.

6th. Cheerfully comply with all rules and regulations established by the Examiners.

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