

**A GUIDE FOR CANDIDATES FOR
THE EXCISE, WITH EXAMINATION
PAPERS OF 1871, SPECIMENS OF
ESSAYS, AND DIRECTIONS FOR
INTENDING COMPETITORS**

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A guide for candidates for the excise, with examination papers of 1871, specimens of essays, and directions for intending competitors by R. Johnston

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R. JOHNSTON

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R. JOHNSTON.



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A Guide

FOR

CANDIDATES FOR THE EXCISE.

THE mode of entering into the *Excise* has been considerably varied since the abolition of the system of patronage and nomination. Such appointments are now filled up by means of competitive examinations held periodically, generally speaking, three times in every year, as vacancies arise. Having procured copies of the questions given at the Open Competition for the Excise in February, 1871, when more than 700 candidates presented themselves for examination, and again in June, 1871, when some 500 were examined, and having had a most extensive experience in the preparation of candidates for all classes of Civil Service examinations, persons who intend to compete may receive such remarks as are made on the various subjects which constitute the programme of examination with that amount of confidence usually accorded to a successful teacher.

Though many of the intending competitors, at least for some weeks previous to the examination, wisely place themselves under the guidance of teachers of eminence in their profession, yet a large per-centage from various causes are unable to do so, particularly those who live in remote country districts. To the latter the following observations must be doubly valuable, especially to those who have not yet made a first attempt at the examination. It is neces-

sary also for persons who purpose undergoing a short course of special preparation, to work some time in the country previously, lest the classes which they join in London, Dublin, or elsewhere may be too advanced for their individual improvement. The programme issued by the Civil Service Commissioners for the open competition for 60 Second Class Assistants of Excise in June, 1871, is here annexed.

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Regulations (framed in pursuance of Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 4th June, 1870) for an open competitive examination for the situation of Second Class Assistant of Excise in the Department of Inland Revenue:

1.—“Candidates will be required to satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners that they are natural-born subjects of Her Majesty; between the ages of 19 and 22 on the day of the examination; that they are unmarried, and without family, and of good health and character.

2.—“Candidates who have served as pupil teachers or schoolmasters in schools under inspection by the Committee of Council on Education, England, or by the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, will be reported specially to those departments, and such of them as have been trained in normal schools at the public expense will not be qualified to receive appointments until the consent of those departments and the concurrence of the Treasury therein has been notified to the Civil Service Commissioners.*

3.—“The examination will be in the following subjects, viz:—

1. Handwriting, 200 marks; 2. Orthography, 200 marks; 3. Arithmetic (to vulgar and decimal fractions), 300 marks; 4. English Composition, 200 marks.

4.—“Candidates failing in any of the above-named subjects will not be eligible.

* It appears that the Treasury do not object to the admission of pupil-teachers and schoolmasters into the Civil Service further than what is here stated, provided they refund one-third of the salary received during the period they had been pupil-teachers before entering the office to which they have succeeded. Teachers who have been trained must refund about £40 before obtaining appointments.

5.—“A fee of £1 will be required from each Candidate attending the examination.

“Civil Service Commission, 19th May, 1871.”

“An open competition will be held in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Cork, Galway, and Belfast, under the above regulations, on Friday, 23rd June, 1871. Sixty persons will be selected, if so many should be found qualified, with the view of filling the sixty vacancies which are expected to occur before the 31st October next.”

“NOTE.—Second Class Assistants of Excise receive a salary of £60 per annum, with an additional allowance of 2s per diem when actively employed. They are eligible for promotion to higher situations.

The successful candidate is first compelled to undergo a course of instruction for about six weeks attached to some distillery, under the superintendence of a superior officer of the department. According to the usual course of promotion he may after about two years expect to become a *first-class* assistant; in about two years more he obtains a “ride,” in which he usually remains four years before he can be appointed a division officer. Having passed the examination for a supervisorship, he can after a short time compete for a collectorship. Without any pretence for that extreme accuracy which every experienced officer of the department necessarily possesses, we may safely state that the above is a sufficiently correct outline of the general course of promotion.

The following information, from the latest Parliamentary returns, is also of importance to intending candidates :—

* The next examination will probably be held in October, or early in November, 1871.