

## Appendix 11 Comunn na Feinne - Competitive School Examination

### Typical Time Table for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1865.

1 <sup>st</sup> Division (under 10 years)	9.00am to 10.30am	Grammar
	10.45am to 12.35pm	Geography
	2.00pm to 3.00pm	Arithmetic
	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Dictation
2 <sup>nd</sup> Division (under 12 years)	10.00am to 12.00pm	Reading
3 <sup>rd</sup> Division (under 14 years)	9.00am to 11.00am	Composition
	11.15am to 12.30pm	Geography
	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Arithmetic

### Time Table for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1865

1 <sup>st</sup> Division (under 10 years)	10am to 12.00pm	Reading
2 <sup>nd</sup> Division (under 12 years)	9.00am to 10.30am	Grammar
	10.45am to 12.30pm	Arithmetic
	2.00pm to 3.00pm	Geography
	3.00pm to 4.00pm	History

### Time Table for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1865

1 <sup>st</sup> Division (under 10 years)	9.00am to 9.45am	Writing
2 <sup>nd</sup> Division (under 12 years)	10.00am to 10.45am	Writing
3 <sup>rd</sup> Division (under 14 years)	10.00am to 12.30pm	Reading
	11.00am to 11.45am	Writing

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4 <sup>th</sup> Division (under 16 years)	9.00am to 11.00am	Euclid
	11.15am to 12.30pm	Algebra

As a guide to school principals, Comunn na Feinne prepared, each year, the areas which each branch of the examination would cover. In this way, schools wishing to have their pupils compete at these educational competitions would lengthen and broaden the curriculum which the students would then be taught during the year.

The examinations were conducted under four divisions based on the ages of the pupils. The typical areas covered by Comunn na Feinne competitive examinations are shown as follows.

## **Appendix 11 Comunn na Feinne - Competitive School Examination**

### **Curriculum for 1865.**

#### **Prizes awarded for each Division.**

#### **Fourth Division (under 16 years)**

Algebra - Up to Simple Equations included.

Euclid – The first two Books, including the Definitions and Axioms according to the text of Dr Simson.

History – The History of England

#### **PRIZES**

Gold Medal awarded for total of greatest number of marks obtained for first two subjects.

Silver Medal awarded for runner-up.

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## **Third Division (Boys under 14, Girls under 15)**

Reading – To read fluently, with proper tone and emphasis, both prose and poetry. Grammar – Orthography, Etymology, Syntax. Prosody. To parse Prose and Poetry. Analysis of a simple sentence.

Arithmetic - Boys: Practice and Theory. Numeration. The four Simple Rules. Reductions. The Four Compound Rules. Vulgar and Decimal Fractions. Proportion. Practice. Interest. Discount. Fellowship. Involution. Evolution.

Arithmetic – Girls: Examined only in numeration. The Four Simple Rules. Reduction. The Four Compound Rules. Vulgar and Decimal Fractions. Proportion. Practice. Interest.

Geography - The Whole of local geography. The drawing of the outline of maps. Sullivan's Geography Generalized – to know the first fourteen chapters.

Writing – Bold, free hand.

Composition - To write an Essay on a given subject. Spelling must be correct.

### **PRIZES**

Gold Medal of Honour for the greatest number of marks for all subjects.

Silver Medal for runner-up.

Twelve Book Prizes.

Twelve Certificates of Merit.

## **Second Division (Boys under 12 years, Girls under 13 years)**

Dictation – From any book selected by the Examiners.

Reading – To read fluently, with proper tone and emphasis, from any book selected by the examiners.

Grammar – Orthography. Etymology. To parse easy sentences in Prose.

Arithmetic – Practice and Theory. Numeration. The Four Simple Rules. Reduction. The Four Compound Rules. Simple Proportion. Extraction of Square Root.

History – The history of Scotland and England to the Union.

Geography – Local. The World in General and Europe and Australia in particular. To draw an outline of the whole or a portion of the World, Europe and Australia.

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Writing – Bold, free hand.

## PRIZES

Silver Medal for the Greatest number of Marks obtained for all the subjects.

Fourteen Book Prizes.

Fourteen Certificates of Merit.

## **First Division (Boys under 10 years; Girls under 11 years)**

Dictation – From any book selected by the examiners.

Reading – To read fluently and correctly from any book selected by the examiners.

Grammar – The etymology of the Noun, Adjective, and Pronoun. To point out the parts of speech, in passages taken from any book selected by the examiners.

Arithmetic – Practice and theory, numeration. The four simple rules. Practice and Theory.

Numeration. Reduction of money. The Four Compound Rules of money.

Geography – Local. Of the world in general and Europe in particular.

Writing – Bold, hand.

## PRIZES

Silver Medal for the greatest number of marks in all subjects.

Five Book Prizes.

Five Certificates of Merit.

The *Geelong Advertiser* provided a summary of what took place on one of the three days over which the Comunn na Feinne Competitive Examinations were held in 1865. It judged the examination questions to be, ‘stiff’.

“The second division went through their themes in grammar and arithmetic, and the third division did their themes in Grammar, British History, and Geography generalized. The first phase of the third division comprised the changes of nouns from singular to plural, and

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the transitions of the various parts of speech, according to grammatical rules, together with parsing, conjugations and derivations, and rhythmical quantities.

The examination in British History extended from the Danish Invasion to Henry 2nd, the wars of the "Roses," the union of the Plantagenets with the Stuarts and the connexion thence with the reigning dynasty of England - together with subjective details. And amongst these latter is a problem given as follows:- "Give the reign and dates when each of the following persons lived, and mention what made each of them famous. Caxton, Hampden, Titus Oates, Claverhouse, Wren, George Fox, Ben Johnson."

[The *Advertiser* could not refrain from passing its own comment regarding the use of the term 'famous' when describing a historical character whose behavior marked the type of 'fame' which branded him the exact opposite of what was worthy in a person.]

[It commented], "With due deference, we must object to "Mr Titus Oates" being summarized as famous. He was "notorious," and has no business with such a company, with whom he had nothing in common."

[The paper then resumed its description of the examination.]

"The themes on "Geography generalized" comprise subjects which, to answer satisfactorily, would require the knowledge of Humboldt, supplemented, by our friend Mr Ellery as private tutor for the occasion. It is a hard task for the "Third Division."

The Mechanic's Hall was well attended, and the young gentlemen and ladies, beyond the intentness of their studies, were " exemplars" of propriety and decorum." (*Geelong Advertiser* 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1865, p2).