

# QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER, 1890.

To COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS:

No new list will be printed until next February. Old lists will be sent you upon application, for additional examinations.

The annual reports in our hands, a larger number than usual at this date, indicate much painstaking care in their preparation. If those not yet here are sent soon and are complete and correct in the same degree, the laborious task of verifying all the work, securing corrections by correspondence, and afterwards compiling the tables for the printer, will be greatly lightened, and it may well be presumed that our summaries this year will have still more certain assurances of correctness, because founded upon original returns of more than usual accuracy.

Please send us the lists of school officers for 1890-91 as soon as returns can be secured from the secretaries.

The state board of examiners will hold an examination for state certificates and life diplomas, in Des Moines, commencing December 30. We suggest that you commend to your more advanced teachers of well-known merit and successful experience, that they procure the state certificate or diploma. Professional skill, and marked ability in management, deserve this additional recognition. To this we believe you will heartily agree, and we hope you will encourage your leading teachers to make application. Further information or circulars may be procured by application here.

In accordance with section 1577, all the county superintendents are hereby called to meet in convention at Des Moines, December 30 to January 2, inclusive. It is expected that every county superintendent will be present, unless attendance is absolutely impossible.

HENRY SABIN,  
Superintendent of Public Instruction.

DES MOINES, IOWA, OCTOBER 21, 1890.

## PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS.

(Every applicant is required to pay an examination fee of one dollar. See section 1769, S. L. 1888.)  
(Any violation of the promises you make in answer to 7 will be sufficient to withhold your certificate.)

1. Give your name, age, post-office address, and state the number of terms taught.
2. What professional training in normal schools or institutes have you received?
3. What higher schools have you attended, and how long?
4. What professional books have you? Have you read them; and what others have you read?
5. What educational journal do you take?
6. What class of certificate, if any, do you now hold?
7. Will you promise neither to give nor to receive aid during this examination?

INCLOSE ONE DOLLAR WITH THIS PAPER.

### PENMANSHIP.

1. Give the elements of the small letters; the capitals; name them.
2. Classify the small letters, stating the basis of classification.
3. Classify the capital letters, stating the basis of classification.
4. Name the space lines and describe the slant used in penmanship.
5. Describe the mode of teaching writing in a primary class.
6. Give a general outline of your method of conducting writing classes.
7. Name the requisites of a good business hand.
- 8-10. Write twenty lines illustrating the use of capitals, punctuation, and quotation marks.

### GEOGRAPHY.

1. Name the river basins of North America.
2. Give the geographical position of France, its form of government, its climate and leading productions, three important cities, two rivers.
3. Mention three modifications of climate. Compare the eastern and western shores of this continent as to climate.
4. What are the dikes of Holland? Why were they built? Describe briefly the levees of the lower Mississippi.
5. Describe an all water route from Liverpool to Constantinople.
6. Name five agricultural and five mineral productions of the United States and tell where each is produced.
7. Name five countries bordering on the Argentine Republic.
8. What form of government has Russia? England? France? Mexico? Brazil?
9. How are tides produced? Give a remarkable example of tidal action.
10. What bodies of land does Behring strait separate? What bodies does it connect? How has it figured in national history?

### ORTHOGRAPHY.

1. Define orthography, letter, and alphabet.
2. Name three valuable uses of the dictionary.
3. What are the leading uses of silent letters?
4. What is a substitute? Name three substitutes for long a.
5. Define word, root, derivative, prefix, and suffix.
6. Write three synonyms for each of the following: Merry, agile, timid.
7. What are the merits of written spelling exercises? How would you conduct such an exercise?
- 8-10. Twenty-five words dictated by examiner, and written by applicant.

### READING.

The true greatness of a nation cannot be in triumphs of the intellect alone. Literature and art may widen the sphere of its influence; they may adorn it; but they are in their nature accessories. The true grandeur of humanity is in moral elevation, sustained, enlightened, and decorated by the intellect of man. The truest tokens of this grandeur in a State are the diffusion of the greatest happiness among the greatest number, and that passionless, God-like justice which controls the relations of the State to other States, and to all the people who are committed to its charge.

It is a beautiful picture in Grecian story that there was at least one spot, the small island of Delos, dedicated to the gods, and kept at all times sacred from war, where the citizens of hostile countries met and united in a common worship. So let us dedicate our broad country. The temple of honor shall be surrounded by the temple of concord, so that the former can be entered only through the portals of the latter; the horn of abundance shall overflow at its gates; the angel of religion shall be the guide over its steps of flashing adamant; while within, Justice, returned to the earth from her long exile in the skies, shall rear her serene and majestic front. And the future chiefs of the republic, destined to uphold the glories of a new era, unspotted by human blood, shall be "the first in peace, and the first in the hearts of their countrymen."—From *The True Grandeur of Nations*, by CHARLES SUMNER.

- 1-2. What can you say of the author of the above extract?
- 3-4. Explain clearly, as you would require from a class, the meaning of *true grandeur of humanity, temple of concord, portals, adamant, chiefs of the republic*.
- 5-6. What five questions would you ask in in order to bring out the meaning of the last sentence but one?
- 7-8. Same, of the last sentence?
9. Name five questions you would ask after the class have studied and read aloud the above selection, to determine how well they understood what the speaker intended his listeners to think and feel.
10. What sentiment is this extract calculated to impress upon the mind?

### THEORY AND PRACTICE

1. Give your plan for the organization of your school.
2. What are the objects of punishment? What are proper punishments? What are improper punishments?
3. What is your method of awakening a spirit of investigation among your pupils?
4. What important literary qualifications should the teacher possess?
5. What do you understand by *aptness to teach*?
6. When and how do you prepare for conducting your recitations?
7. Describe the personal habits of a model teacher.
8. Should pupils be kept after school hours for any purpose whatever? Give reasons for your answer.
9. Name and describe the faculties of the mind in the order of their development.
10. What virtues should the children be taught to cultivate, and what vices to shun? How may the teacher do this?

### ARITHMETIC.

*Note to the Examiner.* Simply the answers to these questions should not be deemed sufficient. The object is not to test alone the knowledge of the candidate, but also his ability to explain and illustrate to his class.

1. Express decimally 3/800, 2/5 of 1 per cent, 85%.
2. Find the prime factors of 168, 264 and 696. From these prime factors find the greatest common divisor and the least common multiple of the given numbers.
3. What are two-ninths of 28 bushels, 3 pecks, 7 quarts, 1 pint?
4. Required the cost of laying a pavement 5 1/2 rods long and 8 feet, 6 inches wide, at \$1.40 per square yard.
5. If 3 be added to both terms of the fraction 5/6, will the value be increased or diminished, and how much? Explain as you would to a class.
6. Multiply 24,234 by .346, and write the result in words.
7. A school-house is built at an expense of \$5,986, to be defrayed by a tax upon property valued at \$665,870. What rate upon \$1 of assessment will cover the cost?
8. Property worth \$6,000 is insured for 3/4 of its value, at 1/2 of 1 per cent. What will be the loss, including premium, in case of total destruction by fire?
9. Make and solve a problem illustrating the application of percentage to the finding of an agent's commission.
10. What is due to-day on a note given September 24, 1887, for \$138.50, interest at 5 per cent per annum?

### PHYSIOLOGY.

1. Define anatomy, physiology, hygiene, a tonic, a stimulant.
2. In what ways is the bony structure of the body of great value? How are the bones nourished?
3. In what manner are large muscles attached to the bones? Describe briefly the microscopic structure of muscular tissue.
4. Name, in a natural order, several organs of circulation. What is the value of the very large number of minute capillaries in the lungs?
5. How is the wear and tear of the body provided for? How are the joints lubricated? What are the lymphatics?
6. What great dangers in the use of narcotics and stimulants? Why is the general use of opiates undesirable?
7. Speak of the connection between the climate and occupation of the individual and the choice of food. Name some of the beneficial results from the use of the fruits and grain foods, in Iowa.
8. Why is the use of tobacco, in any form, by the young, so very injurious? Answer specifically as to the organs and functions affected.
9. How do you ventilate a school-room? What indications will often lead you to observe the necessity for better ventilation?
10. Outline a brief lesson for a class in third reader, on the composition, characteristics, general uses, and common effects of alcohol.

### U. S. HISTORY.

1. In what way was the name of John Ericsson connected with an event of the civil war? What has revived his name and memory during the past year?
2. Comment upon the relative position of the United States to-day among the great powers of the world. Wealth, resources, army, navy, institutions, manufactures, intelligence of the people.
3. Name some of the important inventions that have been made by Americans.
4. Name four distinguished generals who afterward became Presidents of the United States. Cite some important measure connected with the administration of each.
5. Give two reasons for the rapid growth of California. Tell what you can about Gen. Fremont in this connection.
6. Name three prominent centennial celebrations, and give the date of each. What State is called the Centennial State? Why so called?
7. Who were the first explorers of the Mississippi Valley? Give some account of one of these adventurers.
8. What two Iowa men, prominent in national history, have died very recently?
9. What people settled Acadia? What poem was founded on this bit of history, and by whom written?
10. Mention two prominent journalists, two historians, two prose writers, and two poets, whose names have been associated with U. S. history since 1800.

### GRAMMAR.

They advanced in two lines, quickening their pace as they closed toward the enemy. A more fearful spectacle was never witnessed than by those who beheld these heroes rushing to the arms of death. At the distance of twelve hundred yards the whole line of the enemy belched forth from thirty iron mouths a flood of smoke and flame, through which hissed the deadly balls. Their flight was marked by instant gaps in our ranks, by dead men and horses, by steeds flying wounded and riderless across the plain.

1. Select three principal and two subordinate clauses.
2. Select two nouns each of which is the object of a verb, and three nouns each of which is the object of a preposition.
3. Select three adverbial phrases and two adjective phrases, state what each modifies.
4. Parse *who*. Give syntax of *balls*.
5. Conjugate the verb *fly* in the progressive form of the indicative mode, present tense. Decline *which*.
6. Give the modifiers of *belched*. Select a verb used in the passive voice.
7. Read the above extract carefully, to get all the ideas. Then re-compose it, using *your own words* as far as possible.
8. The landscape which fills the traveler with rapture, is regarded with indifference by him who sees it every day from his window. Analyze.
9. What preliminary instruction should be given before technical grammar is taught?
10. Of what advantage is an accurate knowledge of the English language to the business man? Write an application for a position in a bank.