

After the Second World War the Admiralty announced the resumption of Dockyard Promotion examinations for Draughtsmen and Inspector grades. The first Draughtsmen's examination was held in 1947 and then every two years thereafter; the first for Inspector of Trades was in 1950, again at two year intervals. The only Foreman of Trades examination was held in 1950, and subsequently promotion from Inspector grade was by selective interview.

The Civil Service Commission Examination for Admiralty Draughtsmen (Constructive) consisted of five subject papers: MATHEMATICS (200 marks) MECHANICS (200) SHIP CONSTRUCTION (400) SHIP CALCULATIONS & LAYING OFF (400) and DRAWING (200). The successful candidates for Draughtsman grade depended on the number of vacancies, provided the pass mark was attained.

The Inspectors' examination subjects were - TECHNICAL PAPER 1 (350), TECHNICAL PAPER 2 (350) and ARITHMETIC (200), followed by an interview (200 marks) for all examinees who qualified. The aggregate pass mark for the written papers was 50%, for both examinations, and 40% pass mark for the interview. The final lists for Inspectors consisted of: List 1 - Successful candidate (depending on number of vacancies); List 2 - qualified but unsuccessful candidate; List 3 - candidate who failed at interview marks; List 4 - candidates who qualified at the written examination but were not called for interview; and List 5 - candidates who failed at the written examination.

Although a number of people attended the Municipal College to study for the Ordinary and Higher National Certificates in Naval Construction - consisting of Mathematics, Naval Architecture and Ship Building Science (for Constructive persuasions) - when the promotion examinations were announced the majority undertook to study (lug up) at home.

Inevitably a personal programme for studying was drawn up in preparation for the examination. The text books used by the Constructive candidates were the following:-

R N NEWTON's - "Practical Construction of Warships"
ATTWOOD & PENGELLY's - "Theoretical Naval Architecture"
ATTWOOD & COOPER's - "Text Book of Laying Off" or "The Geometry Of Shipbuilding";
ADMIRALTY EXAMPLES IN APPLIED MECHANICS (BR 570);
MORLEY & INCHLEY's - "Applied Mechanics";
WALLING & HILL's - "Nautical Mathematics".

One such programme for studying for the Constructive Draughtsman's examination consisted of learning an item of one or two subjects each evening. For Ship Construction a list of some thirty questions most likely to be asked was drawn up. For Ships Calculations about fifty formulae and rules and their application and use was studied, together with fifteen examples of Laying Off. Often the drawing paper involved a particular laying off procedure. In mathematics and mechanics the selection of questions from past papers was a good guide plus the application of various laws. The use of a slide rule and /or logarithm tables was permissible when answering questions in ship calculations, mathematics and mechanics.

By the time the examination was due hopefully the studying undertaken resulted in a successful outcome!