

FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM OF TEACHER TRAINING

(Translation of 1962 Education Reform Document)

Conforming to Article 44 of Royal Ordinance No. 248 of July 30, 1962, teacher training is based on learning what the young teacher will have to actually teach, according to the methods that he will have to use. Reading this program ought, therefore, to be preceded by reading the programs of primary instruction (ministerial circular of July 15, 1962) to which this program constantly refers.

GARDENING, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, HAND CRAFTS:

The new program for the primary grades gives a large amount of time to learning agriculture and animal husbandry, which is natural in a country where more than 90% of the population lives off the land. All the schools have, or are asked to have shortly, a school garden. It is, therefore, essential that the student teachers receive a solid agricultural training. "Agriculture" is taken in its largest sense, including not only gardening and animal husbandry but also various, related activities (simple construction, irrigation, mechanics) and, generally, all the practical work that will help to improve rural life (constructing wells and latrines, rural roads, bridges, etc.).

This work ought to tend towards useful production and, progressively, the Center ought to have enough vegetables, fruits, and eggs to sell. **Such an experience has been realized** in the normal schools of Tasmania, for example, which have become prosperous agricultural enterprises. There is no reason that this cannot also be realized here.

Moreover, manual work will keep the student teachers in contact with the people whom they must educate; and better than any lesson, it will help them to understand their problems.

The work of gardening, animal husbandry, and hand crafts will be composed of short lessons (explanations of the work to be done) and the accomplishment of "projects."

Each student-teacher will have one or more projects to work on, partly under the direction of an instructor and partly in groups under the direction of a senior student-teacher.

The practical work of the four-year course of teacher training has been divided as follows:

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| First year: | Agriculture and animal husbandry
(10½ hours per week) |
| Second year: | "Rural Arts" (construction, woodwork, electricity, crafts, home economics, science projects), animal husbandry
(8½ hours per week) |
| Third year: | a. Practical work in primary schools
(school gardens, animal projects, latrines, simple construction, village improvement).
b. Methods of teaching practical work.
c. Practical application on the campus at NEC and in surrounding villages.
(7½ hours per week) |

Fourth year: Supervision and participation in the practical work of groups of first, second, and third year students (6 hours per week)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The aim of the physical education classes will be primarily to train the teachers in their future role as physical education teachers (see the programs for field sports and football for primary grades).

During their free time, the students will be encouraged to practice team sports, especially football.

DANCE AND MUSIC

In order to preserve cultural traditions, the student teachers will practice dancing and Lao singing (one hour in the third year and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the fourth) and, optionally, a Lao musical instrument (Khene, etc.).

"MOUVEMENT DE JEUNESSE" (5 hours per week)

According to the Royal Ordinance of July 30, 1962, each class at the NEC will be organized into a "student government."

The "mouvement de jeunesse" will follow the instructions of the ministerial circular No. 1487/ed of July 15, 1962. The "mouvement" is not a club for political disorder or a group for students' claims; it is an educational association. In order that its educational character will be maintained, the "mouvement," we repeat, must be based on the classroom (not on the year or the entire school).

In the "mouvement de jeunesse," the student-teachers throughout the four years will prepare themselves for their future task as youth leaders by participating in various activities of the movement (self-discipline, election of officers, organizing and improving school work, school correspondence, etc.).

Each grade will have a particular responsibility in the community:

First year:	General care of the school -- the hallways, stairs, common rooms, dining hall, washrooms, latrines (but the care of each classroom and dormitory will be done by the students who use them).
Second year:	Responsibility for the workshops, poultry houses and animal pens; the garden; small repair work.
Third year:	Care and improvement of the campus, planting trees and flowers; roads and small construction.
Fourth year:	Supervision and participation in the work of the teams of the first three years.

REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Each of the first three classes at NEC will follow and develop the program of a grade of elementary school:

- P-4 in the first year (19 hours per week)
- P-5 in the second year (18 hours per week)
- P-6 in the third year (13 hours per week)

Methods used will be those sanctioned by the Ministerial Circular of 15 July, 1962, (Centers of Interest and radio when the educational broadcasts have begun).

It should be emphasized that the programs ought to be enlarged upon but still remain fundamentally those of the second cycle of elementary school (see the documents attached to the above mentioned circular).

It is important, however, that the student-teachers receive a general cultural background beyond the elementary school course of study.

In the first, second, and third years, the courses related to general cultural background ought not to exceed one-third of the hours indicated above. In the fourth year, however, fifteen full hours will be reserved for the general cultural courses.

COMPLEMENTARY COURSES FOR GENERAL CULTURAL BACKGROUND

Examples of the Programs:

LAO

Oral expression (reports by the students, conferences, debates).
Good language, appropriate vocabulary, standardized spelling.
Reading and commentary on literature, concepts of the history of literature, prose, poetry, mores and customs of Laos.

FRENCH

1st and 2nd years:

grammar, grammatical explanations of texts, correction of letters, reports.

recitations (always poetry), popular songs (learn at least two songs a month, using for example the Clef des Chants) pronunciation (using the language lab).

3rd year

grammar, etc. (1 hour)

introduction to some characteristic works of the 19th and 20th centuries: reading and commentary on poems (examples: le Lac de Lamartine, les Pauvres et Villequier de Hugo, Chansons de Musset, l'Horloge, Correspondances de Baudelaire, Chanson Triste, Ecoutez la Chanson Douce., de Verlaine, Chansons populaires). Recitation. (From Miserables, Lettres de Mon Moulin, theater - Labiche, Courteline, Pagnol). (2 hours)

4th Year

Same program, but with the following authors: Contes de Perrault, le Cid, Berenice, le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, l'Avare, le Medecin Malgre Lui, La Fontaine, Zadig, Montesquieu, Rousseau, La Marseillaise

Encourage the students to read simple, amusing works (Simenon, Ayme, newspapers, magazines).

MATH

For the first three years, the previous program will be followed, with some variations (begin fractions in the second year, delete astronomy in the second year) and considerably less intense.

It's essentially a matter of giving the student teachers an idea of geometry and of algebra, that they will know that these exist and what they are like. From a practical point of view, it is sufficient that the students handle the arithmetic of areas, fractions, simple square roots, equations of the first degree, and that they easily read a graph.

4th year: initiation to mathematics (taking as a pattern l'Histoire des Mathematiques by M. Boll, "que sais-je").

SCIENCE

1st year

Zoology, Classification description; botany, organs of plants, classification.

2nd year

Geology: formation of the earth, eruption, erosion, sedimentation, principal minerals, mineral map of Laos.

History of the earth, fossils.

Physics, chemistry: development of the program of Grade 5: concepts of practical mechanics (pulley, lever, wheel), gravity, the three states of mater, concepts of electricity and optics (simplified program of the third and fourth years).

Concepts of chemistry, metalloids, metals, acids and "bases"; organic chemistry.

3rd year

Anatomy and physiology (present programs simplified).

4th year

The present view of the world, the universe (concepts of astronomy), the atom, life.

CIVICS

2nd year (1 hour)

Man and society, the rights and responsibilities of the citizen; the rural community, the urban community; concepts of sociology, different types of government.

3rd year (1 hour)

Laos society, the nation, the King, the legislature, elections, the government, the administration.

4th year (3 hours)

Economic and social problems of Laos;

Laos and the Modern world.

Current events, reading the newspaper.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The number of hours of academic study decreases from the first to the fourth year in order to augment the numbers of hours of professional training:

6 hours in the first year

9 hours in the second year

10 hours in the third year

14½ hours in the fourth year

Professional training is taken in its largest sense and includes:

- a. Professional practice.
- b. Lessons of the corresponding grades (P-4 in the first year, P-5 in the second, P-6 in the third, and P-1 to P-6 in the fourth) done with the students, but under the conditions and at the level of an elementary class (model lessons by the teacher and practice lessons by the students). Emphasis in the second year will be on language methods and observation (Centers of Interest) and in the third year on science, history, geography, etc.

The hours are as follows:

2 hours in the first year.

5 hours in the second year.

6 hours in the third year.

5 hours in the fourth year.

- c. Demonstration school, practice teaching (5 hours in the 4th year)
- d. Physical education (2 hours per week - see page 2)
- e. Dance and music (1 hour in the third year and 1½ hours in the fourth year - see page 2)

- f. Drawing, especially at the blackboard (1 hour in the first and second years)
- g. Pedagogy (See following section)

PEDAGOGY

1st year
(1 hour
per week)

Note letter No. 1082/ED from the Minister of Education (May 24, 1962):

economic, social, and cultural situation of Laos; the necessity of education for the development of the country; the necessity of a practical education (hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry); the necessity of conserving the "soul" of the country (Buddhism, courtesy, music); the necessity of awakening communal and national feelings; the necessity of literacy: a people who do not know how to read cannot be free; the basic role of the elementary school teacher in the improvement of Laos.

- an overview of the new program and methods of primary teaching (productive manual work, centers of interest, "mouvement de jeunesse," radio).
- detailed study of the program for Grade 4; lay stress on the unity of the different subjects; psychology of the Laotian child from 9 to 10 years old.

2nd year
(1 hour
per week)

- education for life; detailed study of the methods of the centers of interest; teaching ought to be centered on the child, his life, his surroundings; concepts of psychology.
- detailed study of the program for Grade 5; psychology of the Laotian child from 10 to 11 years.

3rd year
(2 hours
per week)

- traditional education of the Far East and modern education of the western type; synthesis;
- education of ethnic groups
- detailed study of the program for Grade 6; psychology of the child at the age of puberty.

4th year
(2 hours
per week)

- study of the reform of education in Laos; structure of the instruction passing from the first to the second cycle; passing from the primary to the secondary level and to technical education.
- administration of the school; hierarchy of the Ministry of Education and of Primary Instruction.
- education of adults and of the community.
- Review of the program from P-1 to P-6; psychology of Laotian children from 6 to 12 years.

ENGLISH

Two hours in the second, third, and fourth years.