

PHO BANG. Second highest degree granted in the civil service examination in traditional Vietnam. The degree, meaning "sub-ordinate list," was awarded to candidates who had passed the metropolitan exam (thi hoi) but whose performance did not merit permission to compete for the highest degree (tien si) in the palace examination (thi dinh). Pho bang graduates were eligible for employment as officials, normally at the provincial or prefectural level. (See Civil Service Examinations; Tien Si)