



## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

Teaching Pack

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ARCHIVES

Main Street, East Ardsley, Wakefield, WF3 2AP, UK

[info@britishonlinearchives.com](mailto:info@britishonlinearchives.com)

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## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

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### Introduction

Our primary source collection, *British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910*, charts over 50 years of British rule in southern Africa. It tracks the administration of the Cape colony from 1854 to the formation of the Union of South Africa in 1910. During the nineteenth century, the colony emerged as a commercial hub—the discovery of diamonds and gold in the 1860s rendered it probably the most important and prosperous British colony in Africa.

The collection explores a variety of themes and topics, such as the development of constitutional governance and colonial infrastructure, as well as the growth of key industries, such as mining and cotton production. It features records on Robben Island, the colony's education system, road and railway construction, and the failed 1895 Jameson Raid. The sources also provide valuable glimpses into African cultures and societies, including examples of resistance to colonialism.

The primary sources included within this teaching pack represent a tiny sample of the material in the collection. They touch upon the annexation of Basutoland in 1871, public health and racial discrimination, as well as education in the Cape colony. The activities contained within this teaching pack could easily take **around 40 minutes**, though the exact duration will depend on reading time and the breadth and depth of accompanying discussion.

### Learning Objectives

1. Understand the motivations behind the annexation of Basutoland and analyse this in relation to broader notions of British imperialism and colonial expansion.
2. Critically evaluate social, medical, racial, and legislative responses to leprosy in the nineteenth century.
3. Analyse how education in the Cape colony reflected the British empire's priorities, reinforced colonialist ideologies, and enforced cultural assimilation.

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### Historical Background and Context

The primary source collection that this teaching pack is based upon surveys British rule in the Cape of Good Hope colony from 1854 to 1910, however British rule in the colony began in 1806. Prior to this, the Cape colony had been established by the Dutch East India Company in 1652. Under the leadership of colonial administrator, Jan van Riebeeck, the colony served mainly as a layover/refreshment port for vessels travelling between Europe and Asia. The colony was the only settlement of the Dutch East India Company that did not serve as a trading post. It therefore attracted European settlers, particularly Dutch and German emigrants, as well as French Huguenots. These settlers, later known as Boers or Afrikaners, began farming and raising livestock, which brought them into direct conflict with the indigenous Khoisan peoples. This led to a series of wars, known as the Khoikhoi–Dutch Wars, from 1659 to 1660 and again from 1673 to 1677. Over time, the Khoisan peoples were displaced, decimated by disease, or subjected to enslavement.

After over a century of rule, the Dutch faced financial decline, leaving the area vulnerable to foreign powers. 1795 marked a pivotal moment in the history of the Cape colony, as it transitioned from Dutch to British control for the first time during the French Revolutionary Wars. The British wanted the Cape primarily because of its strategic location and its importance for maintaining control over vital maritime trade routes to India. This occupation was not universally welcomed—the Afrikaner farmers, or Boers, feared British interference in their way of life. In 1803, under the Treaty of Amiens, the colony was returned to the Dutch. Just three years later, however, during the Napoleonic Wars, the British reoccupied the colony and formally secured it in 1814 through the Treaty of Vienna. British rule introduced significant changes to the colony, many of which are documented within this collection.

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### SOURCE ONE

#### Source Intro

This source discusses the annexation of Basutoland (modern-day Lesotho) by the Cape colony in 1871. Basutoland was inhabited primarily by the Basotho people. At the time of the annexation it was ruled by King Moshoeshe I. The region had long been a contested area due to its location, fertile land, and the ongoing tensions between the indigenous population and European settlers from the Orange Free State. Between 1856 and 1868, Basutoland engaged in a conflict with the Orange Free State—the so-called Free State–Basotho Wars. On 29 August 1865, Moshoeshe I sought British protection in a letter to Sir Philip Wodehouse, the governor of the Cape. In 1868, the British formally declared Basutoland a protectorate. Three years later, in 1871, Basutoland was annexed to the Cape through Act No. 12 of the Parliament of the Cape of Good Hope.

This source (pp. 903–908) details a meeting of the Cape colony’s Committee on the Basutoland Annexation Bill (7 July 1871). J. H. Bowker, Commandant of the Armed and Mounted Police in Basutoland, argued for annexation. The document includes 85 questions that were put to Bowker by Mr Godlonton, chairman of the committee.

#### Source

“Report of The Select Committee on The Basutoland Annexation Bill”, 1871.

[Images 7–12.](#)

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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### COMMITTEE ON BASUTOLAND ANNEXATION BILL.

*Friday, 7th July, 1871.*

PRESENT :

Mr. GODLONTON (Chairman),

Mr. Hoole,  
Mr. Wood,  
Mr. De Roubaix,  
Dr. White,

Mr. Fleming,  
Mr. Chase,  
Mr. De Smidt,  
Mr. De Korte.

*J. H. Bowker, Esq., examined.*

1. *Chairman.*] You are Commandant of the Armed and Mounted Police, I believe, Mr. Bowker?—Yes. Mr.  
J. H. Bowker,  
July 7, 1871.

2. You have resided some time either in Basutoland or the borders of it?—Yes, since the country was taken over by Sir Philip Wodehouse in April, 1868, until the close of 1870.

3. And during that time you have had an opportunity of making yourself acquainted with that country and its inhabitants?—Yes; I was placed in charge there by Sir Philip Wodehouse, as his agent.

4. You are aware that a Bill has been presented to Parliament for the annexation of that country?—Yes.

5. Will you be good enough to give your opinion of the policy of taking over that country?—In my opinion it is necessary to take it over. From the geographical position of the country it must, sooner or later, be attached to the Cape Colony. There has been some talk of annexing it to Natal, which I think hardly possible. On the Natal side it is almost cut off by the Drakensberg mountains, while on the Colonial side it is an open road, leading to Aliwal and the

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Mr. J. H. Bowker. July 7, 1871. Native Reserve. I submit a map, compiled by the Free State surveyors at the time Sir Philip Wodehouse visited Basutoland, and which has had certain additions to it, made by one of my officers, showing the country as divided into four districts.

6. Could you give the Committee an idea of the extent of the country?—I have estimated its length as about two hundred miles, and its breadth about sixty miles, including the Drakensberg up to the watershed of St. John's River, which forms the boundary of Nomansland and Natal.

7. I find that in a dispatch from Sir Philip Wodehouse to the Home Government, dated 19th March, 1866, he states as follows:—"The country which they occupy is equal, if not superior, to any in this part of the world. Much of it is highly cultivated, and although some of the people are, as might be expected, addicted to cattle-stealing, still I have no doubt that, under proper guidance, they would speedily be brought to order, and induced to apply themselves industriously to the cultivation of their farms. Some of the chiefs do, in sincerity, regard the cattle-thefts committed by their people with much displeasure, and they would gladly aid in putting down a practice by which they are themselves frequently involved in trouble. They are, moreover, fully alive to the peril in which they will be placed, when broken up upon the death of Moshesh, of being destroyed in detail by the Free State." Do you agree with that opinion?—Yes.

8. As a matter of colonial policy, from your experience of the Colony, do you think it would be wise for the Colony to annex Basutoland?—Yes, I do.

9. And looking at the number of natives at Natal, do you think it would be unwise for the Colony to consent to Natal taking it over?—I think it would be a mistake to hand it over to Natal.

10. Can you give the Committee any idea of the population?—As near as I can judge, I should say about 65,000. Perhaps since we have been there a few more have come in, making it, say, about 70,000.

11. Do you think they might be easily governed by the Colony, or by the kind of Government which the Bill proposes to introduce?—I found them easy to govern. When I was there they all agreed to the regulations laid down, both chiefs and people.

12. Mr. Chase.] Do you not think that the independence of the Basutos prolonged the Kafir wars, the Kafirs being always led to expect assistance from Moshesh, though he never did assist them?—No, I do not think so. They are too widely separated by the Drakensberg mountains.

13. Mr. Fleming.] You say you think it would be a mistake to annex Basutoland to Natal: can you give your reasons?—My reason is, that I do not approve of the Natal policy for governing the natives. Our policy has been to break up the power of the Native chiefs. And I think Natal has quite natives enough on its hands already.

14. Chairman.] I find, Mr. Bowker, that, in a dispatch from Mr. Shepstone, the Secretary for Native Affairs at Natal, he writes to Sir Philip Wodehouse, as follows:—"Basutoland has always been felt to be the centre of all native political agitation. It is centrally situated between the warlike Cape Frontier Kafirs, and the powerful Zulus on our northern border, and is the medium of all interchange of ideas on important political questions between those people. The control of Basutoland would, therefore, place in the hands of the Government the key of all South African politics, so far as natives are concerned." Do you concur in this?—Certainly it is possible that, many years ago, Moshesh might have had some influence in that way, but I do not think so much as some people gave him credit for. While we were there, in 1868, they had no such influence.

15. Mr. Shepstone goes on to say:—"The control of the Basutos would imply the control of the Frontier Kafirs, and very much reduce, not only the probabilities, but the effects of any future collision between them and the Cape Colony." Do you concur with that opinion?—As I stated just now, at present they have so little influence, or are likely to have, that I do not think they would do much that way. They have lost all their power in the late war with the Free State, and are not likely to recover it again.

16. But are they not regarded as a very powerful and influential tribe among the natives?—I believe some years ago Moshesh was looked upon as a powerful chief; but, as I stated, their power is completely gone. They may have a reputation for power among those who know nothing of late events. They have had fighting enough, and all they wish

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for is a good Government and peace. My reason for stating this is, that during the late trouble, in consequence of Tsekelo's mission to England, a number of the Basutos came to me at different times, and asked me whether we intended withdrawing from the country, and, if so, if they would be allowed to accompany us.

17. Mr. Fleming.] Do you consider it the national wish to be under the dominion of England?—Yes. A few of the petty chiefs who subsisted by plundering the people and stealing from the Free State are opposed to it, but the bulk of the nation are in favour of it.

18. Are the paramount chiefs in favour of it?—Two of them, Letsea and Molapo, have always been so. The third, Masupa, who was a good deal guided by his younger brothers, is opposed to us.

19. Do you not think that Basutoland, if appended to this Colony, would open up a wide field for commercial operation?—Certainly.

20. Mr. De Smidt.] Where is the present flow of commerce whilst they are not annexed?—The trade is mostly from Aliwal North towards the Colony; and there is also a good deal of trade with the Free State.

21. Therefore, although they are not annexed, the influx of trade is towards the Colony, and also to the Free State?—Yes.

22. Mr. Hoole.] Do you think the trade would be increased if Basutoland were annexed?—Yes; traders could build stores. At present they are not sure, and are merely living in tents and small huts. They are settling as traders, not as farmers.

23. Mr. Chase.] Do they not grow very fine wheat to a large extent?—Yes. It is a splendid country for cultivation generally. I have never known fruit and other trees grow faster in any country.

24. Mr. De Smidt.] Do you not think, if annexation were carried out, there would be an influx of Europeans, or natives other than Basutos, settling among them?—We don't allow Europeans to settle there, except as traders. I have already found it necessary to turn off Free State farmers coming into the country with stock for the purpose of squatting.

25. But for your regulations and laws, emigration to that country and settlement would take place?—Yes, to a great extent.

26. Dr. White.] If Basutoland were annexed, would those laws and regulations still exist?—I hope so; but that would depend upon the Parliament.

27. Would you then consider that the country was more a country under British protection than an annexed country?—I consider it in the same position as parts of British Kaffraria or the Tambookie Reserve in Queen's Town and Wodehouse.

28. Mr. De Smidt.] In reply to the chairman's question about the dispatch quoted just now of Sir Philip Wodehouse, you stated that you fully agreed with him as to the policy of making the Basutos British subjects?—Yes, I fully agreed. It will become necessary, for both Basutoland and the Free State, to place the country under some settled form of government.

29. I will quote from the prorogation speech Sir Philip made in 1868:—"There remains still for final adjustment, one question of importance in its effect upon the native tribes,—that of the reception as British subjects of the tribe of the Basutos, which I sincerely hope may be accomplished, so as not only to secure their welfare, but to pave the way for other beneficial changes in due season on the northern bank of the Orange River. Speaking entirely on my own responsibility, giving expression only to my own opinions, I may say that I regard the measures which severed from their allegiance the European communities in those regions to have been founded in error; and that it will be a blessing for all if, with their general and hearty concurrence, they can be restored, in a general sense, to their former position. I should not wish to be regarded as an advocate of the actual union of any of them with the Colony of the Cape. This Colony is already large enough—probably too large—for the population by which it is likely for many years to be inhabited, and the extension of it beyond the Orange River would, it is to be feared, cause a renewal of those demands for disunion, whether under the name of Separation or Federation, which have done so much mischief, and which, I rejoice to see, dying out. What is to be hoped for, in my opinion, is the creation beyond the river of a large and well-organized Government, bound to this Colony only by a common allegiance, by the ties of kinship, by congenial laws, by just covenants, and by a common desire to extend the blessings

Mr.  
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Mr.  
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of christianity, peace, and civilization to all within their reach." Do you agree in that opinion with Sir Philip Wodehouse?—I have already stated that I think it desirable to annex Basutoland.

30. Mr. Wood.] How long have you known the Basutos?—I have been among them about three years.

31. Are you acquainted with their policy?—Yes; I am well acquainted with their manners, customs, and laws.

32. Did you know Moshesh?—Yes.

33. Was he a chief of influence?—He was a chief of great influence over his own people, and also, in former times, over neighbouring tribes; that is, before the permanent occupation of the country now known as the Free State.

34. Do you speak advisedly in saying that he lost his influence among other natives as long ago as the emigration into the Free State?—It dates from that. As the country now the Free State became permanently occupied by white people, he gradually lost his power, and it ended entirely with the last Free State war.

35. Are you familiar with the causes of that war?—Well, sir, both sides showed a very fair statement. It would be very difficult to find out which was in the right or the wrong. And there was no alternative but to fight it out.

36. During the war with the Free State and the Basutos, do you happen to know whether it was severe against the Basutos?—Yes; the Basutos lost nearly the whole of their stock—sheep and goats. They saved a few stock by driving them into the Drakensberg; they lost also a great number of wagons, which they have not replaced.

37. Was it in consequence of their misfortunes, do you happen to know, that they were led to apply to the British Government for protection?—Yes. I have no doubt they would never have applied if they had got the best of it; but when we took possession, their power was completely gone. In fact, I can give no better illustration of it than to say that baboons were living in the open flats, and the Basutos in the caves and mountains. They had changed places.

38. Was Moshesh living when you went into Basutoland in charge?—Yes.

39. Was he then exercising his powers as a chief over his people during his life?—After our occupation of the country

Mr.  
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he had very little authority over his people. They generally appealed to us.

40. But was it in any way legally taken from him?—At the time we took possession, at a general meeting held at Thaba Bosigo, when Sir Philip was there, Moshesh handed over the entire control of the country, government, and people to him. He said, "Take the country and do what you like with it; we are all dead,"—a common Kafir expression, meaning we are powerless.

41. What was the action of the Governor at that time with reference to Moshesh, as to the governing of the place and people?—I was placed in charge as High Commissioner's Agent.

42. Having been placed in authority, will you please to inform the Committee what were your instructions?—My instructions were simply to look after what was called the line of Thaba Bosigo; that is, the line laid down by the treaty of Thaba Bosigo, and report any aggression of the Free State people in crossing that line.

43. Had you officially to interfere at any time?—No; my instructions were to report anything that occurred.

44. Did the Free State people at any time attempt to cross the border for hostile purposes?—They never crossed it.

45. Supposing that any of the Basutos had entered the Free State while you were there in command, and had stolen stock from the Free State inhabitants, and that they had crossed the boundary for the purpose of recovering it, would you have interfered?—No; I should have reported it to the High Commissioner, and also sent a protest to the commander of the Free State patrol.

46. Supposing that Basutoland should be annexed to the Colony, or become a part of it, from your experience and knowledge of the boundary line between the Free State and Basutos (always bearing in mind that the Free State Government is no party to this annexation), if the Basutos were to make a raid upon the Free State inhabitants and take their stock, and the Free State people were to follow it into Basutoland, being British territory, in the event of a fight resulting, in the attempt to recover the stolen property, what would be the effect?—The case would be investigated by the authorities in Basutoland, who would make their report to

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the Governor. The Free State parties on the border, of course, would make their report to the President of the Free State.

47. Are you of opinion that such an act would prevent the two Governments from coming into collision?—I do not think there would be any fear of it. One side or the other would evidently be in the wrong, and they would be called to account for it. But from my experience and knowledge of the country and people I do not think there is the slightest chance of any such thing occurring.

48. Moshesh is dead, I believe?—Yes, he died about a year ago.

49. Are there any heirs to his chieftainship?—Letsea is recognized as the paramount chief.

50. Had Moshesh more than one son?—There are three sons, Letsea, Molappo, and Mosupa.

51. Are they in any way recognized as authorities among the tribe, or any part of the tribe?—The country is divided. Letsea has the district marked in the map as Thabo Bosigo; Molappo has that of Lerebi; and Mosupa has the Berea district. The whole of these districts border on the Free State.

52. Are these chiefs governing according to English or native law?—They are governing according to the rules laid down by Sir Philip for the guidance of the magistrates and chiefs.

53. Since you have been there, Mr. Bowker, what number of Police have you had with you?—About the time of the Aliwal Convention I had about one hundred; but at present it is much less, I reduced it twelve months ago to thirty-six.

54. What would be the cost of these thirty-six to the Colony?—It would be according to the rank the men hold; but I think a much smaller force than that would do for the country.

55. But can you give the Committee an idea how much these thirty-six men cost?—I suppose the British establishment there would cost somewhere about £3,000 a year.

56. Would that be as large a force as you conceive necessary for the Government there under ordinary circumstances?—It is more than is necessary.

57. What number of magistrates, or other Government officers, have you there?—There are five; four appointed and one acting.

58. Do you know the cost of these officers?—I believe the pay of the magistrates is to be £400. One of them, the High Commissioner's Agent, is to receive £800 a year, as Chief Magistrate.

59. Are there no other officers on pay?—Not when I left.

60. From your experience, is it likely that more aid will be required?—I do not think so. They will, of course, require constables to assist them, but it has not been decided what number. They will be mostly natives, at a much lower pay than the Mounted Police.

61. You do not allow the magistrates clerks?—There was one clerk, but he had left the service.

62. From your experience of the people, the country, and the Government, can you give this Committee anything like an estimate of what the annual expense would be, assuming that things go on, as at present, peacefully?—It would be rather difficult to answer that for the present; so little has been done towards carrying out the judicial arrangements.

63. Then, do I understand you to say you are not in a position to answer that question?—I really am not.

64. Dr. White.] Can you state what expense will be necessary for the constables?—I should say four constables for each magistrate, at £20 a year. Somewhere about £320 altogether.

65. Upon the present establishment, then, the expense, you say, is £3,000 for the police, £2,400 for the civil magistrates, and £320 for constables; that is altogether £5,720. Can you state what is the revenue?—The last year's revenue, which was but a beginning, was about £5,000. But I expect there will be a considerable increase this year.

66. What are the sources of your revenue?—Chiefly hut-tax and traders' licences.

67. Are these magistrates provided with residences and public offices?—The only one who is provided with a residence is the agent of the High Commissioner. But I think the others will require offices.

68. Mr. Wood.] Since you have been there, have you

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Mr. J. H. Bowker. July 7, 1871. had any criminal cases?—We have had many cases of theft among themselves; but few or no cases of theft against the Free State.

69. Have you had any serious cases of a criminal nature since you have been there?—We have had no cases of murder, but some serious cases of theft.

70. How do you punish such cases?—Generally by fines.

71. What would be done in case of murder?—The rule laid down was, that the case was to be tried by three of the magistrates, and then referred to the High Commissioner for his decision.

72. You say serious cases of theft are punished by fines; but suppose the parties have nothing?—They are flogged. But there have been few such cases.

73. You have no prisons?—No.

74. Suppose that country were annexed as British territory, would you recommend the present system to continue?—Yes.

75. *Chairman.*] Have you any idea that the annexation of Basutoland to the Colony would lead to difficult complications with the Free State Government?—I think they are more likely to occur if the country is not annexed. The Free State would be glad to see it carried out.

76. Has not Basutoland been regarded as the granary of the surrounding country?—Yes; and it is likely to continue so. We have often purchased Kafir corn and mealies there at half-a-crown the muid.

77. Is it your opinion that Basutoland would, in the event of annexation, be a self-supporting country; and that such annexation would entail no additional expense on the Colony?—I think it would pay itself, because there is one item of expense in Dr. White's calculation, namely the Mounted Police, which might almost be struck out, as the greater part of the men now stationed in Basutoland might be withdrawn on the appointment of the constables.

78. Do you think, then, that it would be a source of revenue rather than of expense?—I think there would be a surplus.

79. Have the Basutos made any approach towards civilized habits; and, if so, will you state in what respect?—Many of the Basutos that are under the influence of the missionaries there have built very good houses, wear Euro-

pean clothing, and are cultivators of the soil, not altogether a pastoral people; in many cases they have adopted European customs. They are well provided for in the way of schools and chapels.

80. Mr. *De Korte.*] You say the Mounted Police Force could be almost entirely withdrawn; do you think that life and property could be protected in Basutoland with a population of 65,000 or 70,000 by a constabulary of sixteen men?—I think so. Of course, in the event of any disturbance, should it be found necessary, the aid of the Mounted Police could be called in for the time.

81. Mr. *De Smidt.*] Do you think that if the present chiefs recover from the reveres of the late war, they would be as submissive as Moshesh was when he resigned his power to Sir Philip Wodehouse?—They would be under the necessity of being so, because the common people are now all on our side. They would not be able to get up a disturbance.

82. The present expense is paid, not from the Colony, but from the High Commissioner?—Yes, except the Mounted Police.

83. Considering that the expenses at present incurred are paid, not by the Colony, but from other sources, as you have stated the advantages which the Colony now derives, what would be the advantage of taking it over, the Colony having to bear all these expenses?—I have already stated that the revenue of the country would meet all the expense, even at present, and leave a surplus, striking out, of course, the Mounted Police.

84. Mr. *Wood.*] Can you inform this Committee whether, in the event of the Parliament refusing to annex Basutoland, the Government would give up their protection now granted to the Basutos?—In good faith we could not.

85. Mr. *Hoole.*] But they would annex it to Natal in the event of our not taking it over?—The Basutos themselves do not wish to be annexed to Natal.

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### Questions for Discussion

1. What were the motivations behind the proposed annexation of Basutoland in 1871?
2. What does this source reveal about British imperial ideology in the late nineteenth century? How were Bowker's arguments shaped by Britain's civilising mission and colonial power/racial dynamics? Critically evaluate the notions presented by Bowker.
3. How does the annexation of Basutoland and the motivations behind it compare to those in other colonial contexts?

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

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### SOURCE TWO

#### Source Intro

*British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910*, contains a wide variety of reports on the use and management of Robben Island under British rule. Robben Island is situated in Table Bay, just north of Cape Town. Since 1488, the island has been used for a variety of purposes, from a site of isolation and imprisonment to a military base and, more recently, a popular tourist destination. For the British, the island became a convenient location to confine those they deemed unfit for society. The period 1806–1910 saw the island transformed from a site of confinement for political prisoners (as it had been utilised by the Dutch) to something more like a medical institution, primarily serving as a leper colony, lunatic asylum, and quarantine station. Initially, the British colonial authorities designated Robben Island as a leper colony in the 1840s. By the 1850s, it was firmly established as a place of isolation for people suffering from leprosy. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the island also functioned as a “lunatic asylum” for those suffering with mental illnesses. At times, the island was also used as a quarantine station for ships arriving at the Cape during outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as smallpox and bubonic plague.

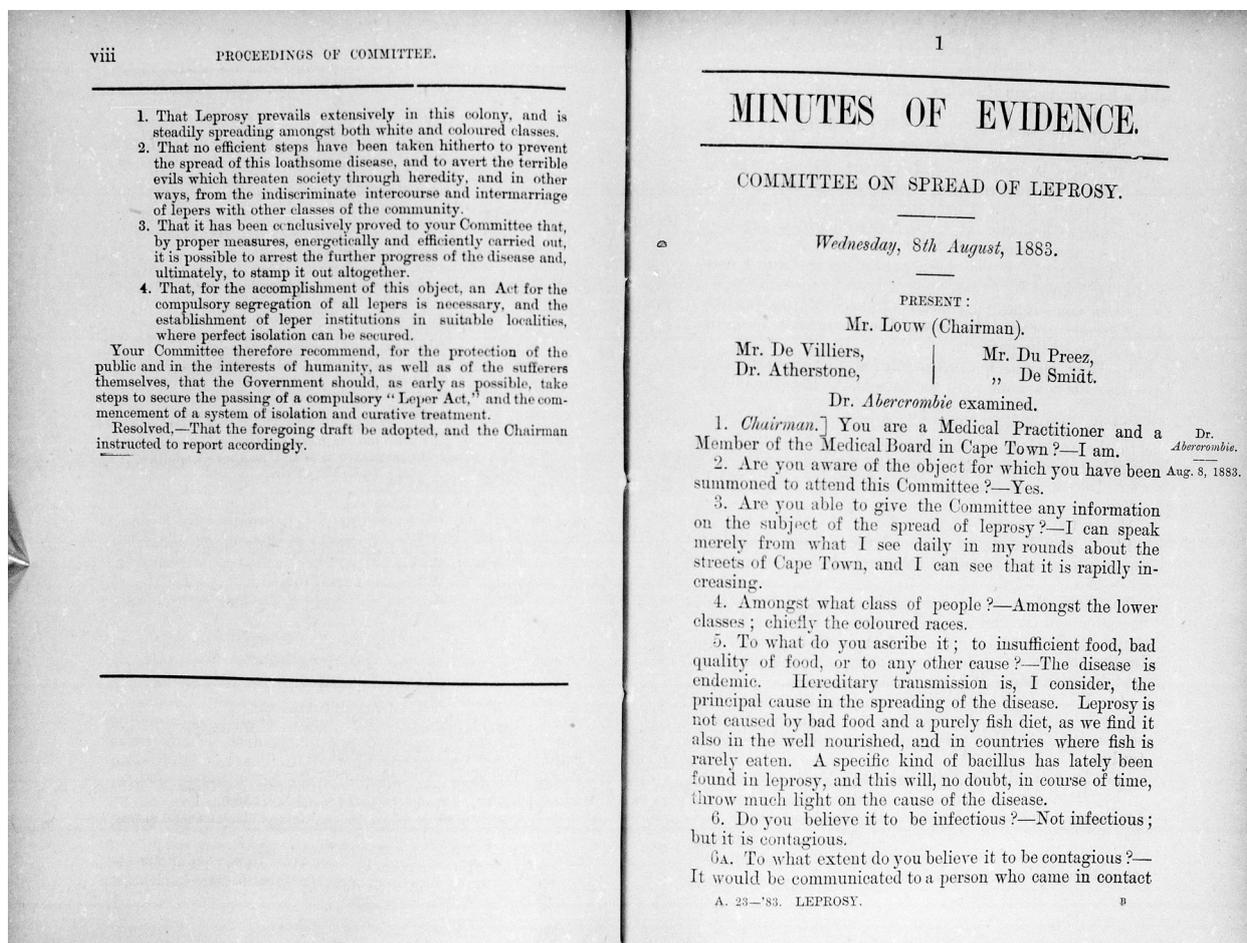
This source is a report from 1883 regarding the spread of leprosy and the use of Robben Island. This extract contains minutes outlining evidence taken by a Select Committee between 8 and 22 August 1883. Various medical practitioners attended, such as Dr Abecrombie, Dr Biciard, Dr H. Ebden, Dr Landsberg, and Dr Parsons.

#### Source

“Report of The Select Committee on The Spread of Leprosy”, 1883.

[Images 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, and 15.](#)

# British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910



1. That Leprosy prevails extensively in this colony, and is steadily spreading amongst both white and coloured classes.
2. That no efficient steps have been taken hitherto to prevent the spread of this loathsome disease, and to avert the terrible evils which threaten society through heredity, and in other ways, from the indiscriminate intercourse and intermarriage of lepers with other classes of the community.
3. That it has been conclusively proved to your Committee that, by proper measures, energetically and efficiently carried out, it is possible to arrest the further progress of the disease and, ultimately, to stamp it out altogether.
4. That, for the accomplishment of this object, an Act for the compulsory segregation of all lepers is necessary, and the establishment of leper institutions in suitable localities, where perfect isolation can be secured.

Your Committee therefore recommend, for the protection of the public and in the interests of humanity, as well as of the sufferers themselves, that the Government should, as early as possible, take steps to secure the passing of a compulsory "Leprosy Act," and the commencement of a system of isolation and curative treatment.

Resolved,—That the foregoing draft be adopted, and the Chairman instructed to report accordingly.

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

### COMMITTEE ON SPREAD OF LEPROSY.

Wednesday, 8th August, 1883.

PRESENT :

Mr. LOUW (Chairman).

Mr. De Villiers,  
Dr. Atherstone,

Mr. Du Preez,  
„ De Smidt.

Dr. Abercrombie examined.

1. *Chairman.*] You are a Medical Practitioner and a Member of the Medical Board in Cape Town?—I am. Dr. Abercrombie.
2. Are you aware of the object for which you have been summoned to attend this Committee?—Yes. Aug. 8, 1883.
3. Are you able to give the Committee any information on the subject of the spread of leprosy?—I can speak merely from what I see daily in my rounds about the streets of Cape Town, and I can see that it is rapidly increasing.
4. Amongst what class of people?—Amongst the lower classes; chiefly the coloured races.
5. To what do you ascribe it; to insufficient food, bad quality of food, or to any other cause?—The disease is endemic. Hereditary transmission is, I consider, the principal cause in the spreading of the disease. Leprosy is not caused by bad food and a purely fish diet, as we find it also in the well nourished, and in countries where fish is rarely eaten. A specific kind of bacillus has lately been found in leprosy, and this will, no doubt, in course of time, throw much light on the cause of the disease.
6. Do you believe it to be infectious?—Not infectious; but it is contagious.
- 6A. To what extent do you believe it to be contagious?—It would be communicated to a person who came in contact

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

2 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE	SELECT COMMITTEE ON SPREAD OF LEPROSY. 3
<p>Dr. Abercrombie. Aug. 8, 1883.</p> <p>with a leprous person if he had a sore or an abrasion. For instance, if he were to touch a leprous person with a sore finger; use the same knife or fork; or drink out of the same glass.</p> <p>7. Would it be communicated to a person sleeping in the same bed?—I should not like to sleep in the same bed as a leper; I think it might be catching then. During my experience as a doctor in Cape Town, leprosy has been greatly on the increase.</p> <p>8. How long have you been practising in Cape Town?—Twelve years.</p> <p>9. Can you suggest any means of checking the spread of this disease?—The only means I can suggest is entire segregation of the patients.</p> <p>10. They should not be permitted to return to their friends as is now done with the patients at Robben Island?—No.</p> <p>11. [Dr. Atherstone.] Have you formed any definite idea as to the pathology of this disease?—It is hereditary and dependent upon some vitiated state of the blood.</p> <p>12. Do you know any cases of hereditary transmission?—Yes.</p> <p>13. In Cape Town?—Yes.</p> <p>14. Do you know any cases of the disease making its appearance before the person has reached the age of five or six?—No.</p> <p>15. How, then, can you say it is hereditary?—Because the parents of the children were lepers. The disease never shows itself, either in male or female, at that early age. In that respect it differs from other diseases, especially syphilis, with which it is sometimes associated.</p> <p>16. Which form of the disease do you allude to as hereditary?—Both the tubercular and anaesthetic. It never shows itself in the very young; never till eleven or twelve.</p> <p>17. Do you think it is contagious?—Yes.</p> <p>18. Have you not known cases where a man and wife, one being a leper, have lived together, and the other party has not taken the disease?—Yes. There may be cases in which a wife would not catch it from a leprous husband, even though she slept with him.</p>	<p>Dr. Abercrombie. Aug. 8, 1883.</p> <p>19. How do you reconcile that with your belief in its being contagious?—I think the same law holds good with leprosy or with other contagious diseases; much depending upon constitution. You will find persons who have never been vaccinated come in contact with small-pox patients, without taking the disease. One constitution is more susceptible to taking a contagious disease than another—idiosyncrasy of constitution.</p> <p>20. Do you consider it a specific disease?—Yes; it is a disease <i>sui generis</i>.</p> <p>21. Mr. De Smidt.] What is the primary cause of the disease?—I can't account for its origin. It is undoubtedly dependent upon a kind of bacillus, as in consumption.</p> <p>22. Dr. Atherstone.] Do you know whether any experiments have been made with these germs. Whether the bacilli have been submitted to microscopic examination?—Yes, as recently as June 12th this year, a discussion took place in the Medical Chirurgical Society, regarding the bacillus.</p> <p>23. Mr. De Smidt.] I have heard it stated that a good deal of leprosy has been caused by syphilis; do you think that is the case?—Syphilis is a separate disease, distinct from leprosy.</p> <p>24. Could leprosy be caused by it?—No.</p> <p>25. Chairman.] Can you suggest any means by which the spread of the disease may be prevented?—I can only suggest that there should be an Act of Parliament passed, to prevent lepers from leaving the institution in which they are placed. At present, they are permitted to return to their friends when they please, and thus the disease is spread.</p> <p>Dr. Parsons examined.</p> <p>26. Chairman.] You are at present Surgeon-Superintendent of the New Somerset Hospital?—I am.</p> <p>27. I believe you were for some time at Robben Island?—I was there for two years and a half.</p> <p>28. During the time you were on the Island did you gather any information likely to be of use to this Committee?—I fear not. The only interest I took in the lepers was a general interest. They were not in my</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dr. Parsons.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">B 2</p>

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

8 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE	SELECT COMMITTEE ON SPREAD OF LEPROSY. 9
<p>Dr. <i>Biciard</i>, Aug. 10, 1883. 64. Do you believe it to be contagious?—I don't believe it is, but when the ulcerated stage arises, those people living together in the most dirty state are more susceptible of contagion.</p>	<p>Dr. <i>Dieoord</i>, Aug. 10, 1883. such thing as wearing another's clothes?—I think in the last stages it might.</p>
<p>65. Dr. <i>Atherstone</i>.] Cannot you compel them to wash themselves?—I am speaking of those on the mainland. They live in such a state. Leprosy is a disease of the skin. If you do not keep the skin clean you cannot expect anything but that it will get worse. When I was three or four years here I impressed upon the Government the necessity of having a lavatory. There is the old leper kitchen for the purpose, because I had the leper kitchen thrown into the general kitchen, and so saved the Government £250 every year.</p>	<p>73. Dr. <i>Atherstone</i>.] In the first stage of tubercular form you think not?—Yes.</p>
<p>66. <i>Chairman</i>.] Have you, during your experience on the mainland, come across many cases of leprosy?—Here and there at Malmesbury.</p>	<p>74. And in the ulcerative stage it is contagious?—Yes. I would mention a case where a man named E. got leprosy from using the flute that had been used by a leper, and, thirty years after a son born after the father had contracted leprosy, was also attacked. The father was dead before the son contracted leprosy.</p>
<p>67. You practised at Malmesbury for many years?—Yes.</p>	<p>75. Mr. <i>De Villiers</i>.] Don't you think, from what we have heard, that it can be conveyed from one person to another, that it is very desirable, especially with the lower classes, that they should be isolated?—They ought to be isolated. That is the only thing that will have any effect upon it.</p>
<p>68. Do you think during your stay upon the mainland, from your recollection, it has been spreading or not?—Yes; especially in Saldanha Bay.</p>	<p>76. Do you think that syphilis in its secondary stages is afterwards transformed into leprosy?—No, I don't think so.</p>
<p>69. Not only spreading among the lower classes, but do you think you are justified in saying some respectable families are infected by it?—Yes. I say, in the later stages it is contagious.</p>	<p>77. In cases where there is a predisposition to leprosy, is that likely to develop it?—I think so.</p>
<p>70. You don't believe it is infectious?—Leprosy, by itself, no. In the cases I have here you will find syphilis as well.</p>	<p>78. Mr. <i>De Smidt</i>.] What is the primary cause of leprosy?—That is very difficult to say, but I think bad living. They eat rotten fish in some instances, and then they never clean themselves, never wash the skin, and they are very much predisposed to diseases of the skin, and it may be to leprosy, as well as to any other disease of the skin.</p>
<p>71. Mr. <i>De Villiers</i>.] In my district it has been clearly proved that it is contagious. As, for instance, one case I will tell you, of where a farmer's son playing with another lad, a leper, and it being a rainy day, and the farmer's son thinly clad, got the overcoat of this leper boy, and covered himself with it. He never came in contact with the boy again, but within seven years he got leprosy. Do you believe it could be got simply by making use of the clothes of one another?—I don't think so. It might have been in the family.</p>	<p>79. Cannot leprosy be occasioned by the reasons you state. If a man is in sound health you state he cannot become a leper without contagion—without coming into contact with another leper—yet he is predisposed to it by his dirty habits?—I think on the mainland, especially amongst the coloured classes, whose families never contracted leprosy, yet it breaks out from uncleanness and bad food.</p>
<p>72. There was nothing of the kind in the whole family as far as we could trace it. Could it break out from any</p>	<p>80. This occurs amongst fishermen?—Greatly amongst fishermen.</p>
	<p>81. If there is this state of things, do you know there is a good deal of syphilis among these people, and may not syphilis be, if not the main, the collateral cause of leprosy breaking out?—No; I don't think so.</p>
	<p>82. What do you propose with regard to isolation; do</p>

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

12	MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE	13			
<p>Dr. <i>Bicaard</i>. 109. I mean as regards lotions, baths, and washes?—I Aug. 10, 1883. have no sanitary means. I use carbolic lotion.</p>	<p>110. You have never tried blue-gum washes?—No.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, 15th August, 1883.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESENT:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"><tr><td style="text-align: center;">Mr. T. Louw (Chairman).</td></tr><tr><td>Dr. Atherstone,   Mr. Du Preez,</td></tr><tr><td>Mr. M. de Villiers,   „ De Smidt.</td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. <i>Landsberg</i> examined.</p> <p>Dr. <i>Landsberg</i>. 111. <i>Chairman</i>.] You are a medical man practising in Aug. 15, 1883. Cape Town?—Yes.</p> <p>112. You are aware of the object for which you were called here?—I suppose to give evidence with regard to the spread of leprosy.</p> <p>113. During your experience in Cape Town, have you met with many cases of that disease?—I have seen many cases, and being medical officer in charge of the old Somerset Hospital, where the female lepers are kept, I see them daily. We have not many cases. I think about eight.</p> <p>114. During the time you have been in Cape Town, have you had much country practice?—I have never been out of Cape Town, or rather the Cape district.</p> <p>115. During the time you have been in Cape Town, do you think leprosy has been on the increase?—I think it is on the increase.</p> <p>116. Mr. <i>De Villiers</i>.] That is in town?—Yes.</p> <p>117. <i>Chairman</i>.] What do you think has caused the increase?—I think it is by being transmitted from parent to offspring. The disease seems to be hereditary, for though the child is not born with it, it may soon develop it.</p> <p>118. Is there any other way in which you think you can account for the increase?—I think that is the principal cause, but there may be other causes, such as dirt and other surroundings. In certain parts of the country the</p>	Mr. T. Louw (Chairman).	Dr. Atherstone,   Mr. Du Preez,	Mr. M. de Villiers,   „ De Smidt.	<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT COMMITTEE ON SPREAD OF LEPROSY.</p> <p>people live principally on fish; that may be a cause. I <sup>Dr. <i>Landsberg</i></sup> have no personal experience of that being the cause of it. Aug. 15, 1883. The principal cause of it in Cape Town is hereditary transmission.</p> <p>119. Do you not hold leprosy to be contagious?—I don't think it is, but there are several cases which shake one's confidence. For instance, there is the case of a man who cohabited with a leprous woman, and afterwards died a leper. There have been cases here of Europeans having come here and contracted leprosy afterwards. Whether it was caused by local circumstances I cannot say; the majority of opinion is against its being contagious.</p> <p>120. Infectious you don't think it is?—No.</p> <p>121. Do you think that it would not be contagious even in extreme cases, say leprosy in its last stage, if one came into contact with the patient and shook hands, or drank out of the same cup?—I should not like to give a decided opinion. As I said before, there are such suspicious cases recorded, that one begins to doubt. I have not had sufficient experience to speak definitely and positively.</p> <p>122. Do you think it advisable that under present circumstances some means should be adopted to segregate lepers?—I think the law of isolation should be put in force. It is the only way to exterminate the disease.</p> <p>123. Dr. <i>Atherstone</i>.] You have said you believe it is not contagious, but principally due to heredity and intermarriage?—Yes.</p> <p>124. It is hereditary?—Yes.</p> <p>125. Have you any proof of the disease being hereditary?—I have seen young children develop leprosy at a very early age.</p> <p>126. At what age?—I have seen a case of leprosy at four years old.</p> <p>127. From leprous parents?—From leprous parents.</p> <p>128. Of what form were these cases?—They were of tubercular form.</p> <p>129. Not in the ulcerated stage?—No.</p> <p>130. What is the form most common?—The tubercular and anaesthetic form.</p> <p>131. But which is the more common?—I think the tubercular form, but they are nearly equally frequent.</p>
Mr. T. Louw (Chairman).					
Dr. Atherstone,   Mr. Du Preez,					
Mr. M. de Villiers,   „ De Smidt.					

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

14 MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE	SELECT COMMITTEE ON SPREAD OF LEPROSY. 15
<p><i>Dr. Landsberg.</i> 132. In these cases, will you tell us what the earlier symptoms are?—They are the discolouration and swelling of the skin of the face. The eyebrows, ears, and fingers enlarge and swell, and the skin becomes shining, afterwards cracks and suppurates. The voice becomes affected, the nasal and air passages are also affected, and the patient dies from disease of the chest, diarrhoea or exhaustion.</p> <p>133. In these cases are the hands and feet affected?—Not as a rule. Where the hands are affected, a swelling takes place about the joints; then bullae form, which suppurate and discharge. Ulcers very often form at the soles of the feet and on the hands.</p> <p>134. Is that in the tubercular form?—No; it is in the anæsthetic form.</p> <p>135. In the tubercular?—The tubercular is what I gave you just now.</p> <p>136. We will go on to the anæsthetic form.—I am going on to the anæsthetic. Ulcers form, a deposit takes place underneath the nails, and are raised, the joints of the fingers and toes become swollen, lose their feeling, die, and drop off. The skin contracts and very often the nails are retained.</p> <p>137. Have you ever taken particular notice of these cases in the Hospital, where do they come from?—They mostly come from Caledon, Malmesbury, and Bot River.</p> <p>138. These are chiefly on the coast?—Yes, people live there mostly for fishing purposes.</p> <p>139. Then they live on a fish diet?—Yes, mostly.</p> <p>140. Are these people very poor?—Very poor.</p> <p>141. Is leprosy more common in the male than in the female sex?—I think it is about equal.</p> <p>142. But you have only eight females at the Hospital and there are nearly forty males on the Island?—We have very great difficulty in getting the females into the Hospital; they will not come, and we have no law to compel them.</p> <p>143. Why did you remove these female lepers from Robben Island?—We removed them to the Hospital because we found that young lepers were born there. It was to prevent the perpetuation of the disease by the intermixture of the sexes. I believe the separation was made before Dr. Biccard's time.</p>	<p>144. What is death usually due from?—Either diarrhoea or disease of the lungs.</p> <p>145. Have you any idea as to the cause?—From my experience, when lepers come into the Hospital they have been, as a rule, badly fed. After admission they get comforts—warmth, good food, and proper clothing—and then the disease becomes stationary for a time, and does not progress until they have been some time in Hospital. A liberal supply of fatty food tends to keep the disease in check. They have been generally accustomed to a diet deficient in oleaginous and fatty principles.</p> <p>146. Principally fish, you think?—These lepers come from the coast where they would mostly have a fish diet.</p> <p>147. Do you think the moral qualities of the lepers are below the standard?—Yes, decidedly.</p> <p>148. As well as their physical status?—As well as their physical status.</p> <p>149. I understood you had twenty years' experience of lepers in the hospital?—I have been twenty years on the medical board, and ten years in charge of the hospital.</p> <p>150. Have you noticed the effect of the disease on mixed races. Are those affected mostly half-breeds or pure races?—I think they are mostly half-breeds. With regard to the disease being hereditary, I know of a case of a woman in town, whom I attended for a suspicious ulceration at the ball of the foot, which looked very much like leprosy. She is no leper, but her son has leprosy fully developed.</p> <p>151. Was this sore on the woman's foot syphilitic?—No, it commenced with a large bleb, the skin ulcerated; there was very little discharge, the sore eventually healed. It looked to me a suspicious case.</p> <p>152. Previous to the blebs forming on the fingers, do you not notice insensitiveness of the skin?—Yes, insensitiveness of the skin first, and then discoloration takes place in large patches.</p> <p>153. The only thing you would suggest is isolation and good diet?—Yes, but it must be complete isolation, and to eradicate the disease it must be perfect isolation, to keep the two sexes apart.</p> <p>154. <i>Chairman.</i>] Do you think that cross nationalities</p>

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

Dr. H. Ebdon. 198. From the experience you have had in this colony Aug. 22, 1883. is the disease identical?—Yes.

199. Is leprosy spreading here?—Yes. I have been here, consecutively, now close upon twenty-two years, and during that time I have seen a great deal of leprosy. I am quite sure it is on the increase.

200. Are you aware that the Government is taking any measures for preventing the spread of this disease?—The Government has an asylum at Robben Island for male lepers, and have quarters at the Old Somerset Hospital for female lepers. It cannot do more. We have not the power to detain them. We try to get them to remain, but the women, particularly, will not; they get tired of hospital discipline, and Dr. Landsberg has the greatest trouble in persuading them to remain there. The men at the island are not so ready to leave, their quarters are comfortable, they are well fed and well cared for, and are content to remain. I think there are 40 lepers there altogether.

201. In your opinion what do you think; is the disease contagious or infectious?—I think that, under certain circumstances, it is contagious, and the fact of there being at the present moment on the island five Europeans, each one of whom declares he never knew, heard, or saw anything of the disease before coming here, would seem to indicate that it is contagious. There are some very suspicious cases. I know a case, in town, of a married woman. The husband was married before and had a family of healthy children. The first family were all healthy. After the death of his wife, he cohabited with a coloured woman who subsequently died a confirmed leper. He showed symptoms of leprosy shortly after her death, and also died a confirmed leper.

202. In what class of localities and under what circumstances do you think the disease most prevalent?—I think it is more common in the neighbourhood of Calvinia, Clanwilliam, and Namaqualand, amongst the Hottentots. It is, however, in existence all over the country. I believe, both in Clanwilliam and Calvinia, there are not a few European families suffering from leprosy. I know one instance where a member of a healthy family was nursed by a fine looking Hottentot woman; she afterwards showed symp-

toms of leprosy, and the child she nursed became a confirmed leper. Dr. H. Ebdon. Aug. 22, 1883.

203. Do you know any cases of hereditary transmission?—Yes, many. There are children on the island that have shown symptoms at a very early age indeed.

204. Are you aware that there is no law in force at present that prevents lepers from leaving Robben Island?—I am sure there is none. The Medical Board has strongly urged the Executive Government to try and get such a law introduced into Parliament. Many years since, a suggestion was made, that a definite law of segregation should be enforced. I am quite alive to the great expense it would involve in the building of two large prison hospitals.

205. When we were on the island we noticed that all the women were removed?—We did so more than ten years ago, as we found it was impossible to prevent their being impregnated, because, on the island, leper women were the only women there. A female leper in Cape Town is not the object of attraction that she is on the island.

206. Are lepers at Robben Island separated from the other patients?—Yes; they have a separate part of the island. They are allowed much liberty. They are quite separate from the other patients.

207. Do you think that compulsory isolation would be desirable and would prevent the spread of the disease?—I don't think that anything short of compulsory isolation will ever prevent the spread of the disease. We don't know what exact measures were adopted in Europe, but there is clear evidence that leprosy existed in the United Kingdom 300 years ago. There is a good deal of leprosy in Sweden, Norway, Holland, and in Finland now.

208. What steps would you advise to prevent the spread of leprosy?—I would certainly advise the establishment of two large prison hospitals. In one I would place the men and the other the women, and I would compel every leper to go into isolation, to stop the breeding of any more leprosy children.

209. Dr. Atherstone.] Are any curative means adopted on the island?—Different remedies have been adopted at different times. I don't know positively whether Dr. Biecard has adopted the Blue Gum treatment. Dr. Stevenson,

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

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### Questions for Discussion

1. What solutions did the committee propose for controlling the spread of leprosy?
2. To what extent were public health measures used as a means of exerting colonial control? Critically evaluate the racial, class, and gender prejudices that are evident within this extract.
3. How far did racist and colonialist/imperialist thinking shape the handling of leprosy in southern Africa? How did this compare to other colonial public health initiatives across the British empire?

## British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

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### SOURCE THREE

#### Source Intro

Those wishing to enter the Cape colony's civil service were assessed via an intense examination. The first three sources presented below detail the examination papers for the Public Service Certificate for July 1861. You will be able to see the various questions on literature, language, and science that candidates were required to attempt. The second two sources display the syllabus for the Public Service Certificate for 1862.

#### Source

"Report of The Board of Public Examiners of Literature and Science", 1862.

[Images 6–8 and 26–27.](#)

# British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910

## ANNEXURES.

### I. EXAMINATION PAPERS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE CERTIFICATE.—JULY, 1861.

#### LITERATURE.

*Tuesday, 2nd July.—Morning, ½-past 9 to ¼-past 12.*

##### RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE CONSTITUTION (Creasy):

I.—Give some account of the Anglo-Saxon *townships*; their constitution, privileges, duties, and government.

II.—What important alteration did William I. introduce into the feudal system, when introducing it into England, and what great evil did this alteration prevent?

III.—What Anglo-Saxon tribunals did he retain, and how did this act as a check on the independent power of the nobles?

IV.—What was the office of *Bailiff* in towns under the Anglo-Norman rule; and by what process did the privileges of boroughs thence arise?

V.—On what occasion was the charter of Henry I. granted; and what important provisions did it contain?

VI.—Enumerate by name the four classes for whose rights Magna Charta provided; and give the date of Magna Charta,—day, month, year A.D.

VII.—Quote, as nearly as you can, in the original Latin, the two articles of Magna Charta, in Henry III's version, by which the liberty of the subject in person and property is secured; and underline the words which, not having been in John's charter, were added to that of Henry III.

VIII.—Give briefly the five great principles of the English Constitution, which are established by the Great Charter.

IX.—Show how, out of the principles established by Magna Charta, the House of Commons arose; and how the development of the representative system was aided, by practices already familiar in the Church, and in the ancient Norman Government.

X.—When was the Habeas Corpus Act passed? With whom rests the power of suspending it? And under what plea, practically speaking, has it been customary to suspend it?

*Tuesday, 2nd July.—Afternoon, 1 to 4.*

##### LATIN (Cæsar de B. G., Lib. III.):

I.—Quum dies hibernorum complures *transissent*, frumentumque eo comportari *jussisset*, subito per exploratores certior factus est, ex ea parte vici, quam Gallis *concesserat*, omnes noctu discessisse, montesque, qui *impenderent*, a maxima multitudine Sedunorum et Veragrorum teneri.—Cæsar, B. G., Lib. III, chap. II.

II.—Erant ejusmodi fere *situs* oppidorum, ut posita in extremis *lingulis* promontoriisque, neque *pedibus* aditum haberent, quum ex alto se *aestus* incitavisset, quod bis accidit semper horarum XII spatio, neque navibus, quod rursus minuente aestu naves in vadis afflicterentur. Ita utraque *re* oppidorum oppugnatio impediatur, ac si quando magnitudine operis forte superati, extruso *mari* aggere ac *molibus*, atque his ferme oppidi *moenibus* adaequatis, suis fortunis desperare coelegant; magno numero navium appulso, cujus rei summam facultatem habebant, sua deportabant omnia, seque in proxima oppida recipiebant: ibi se rursus *lisdem* opportunitatibus loci defendebant. Haec eo facilius magnam partem *aestatis* faciebant, quod nostrae naves tempestatibus detinebantur; summaque erat vasto atque aperto mari, magnis aestibus, raris ac prope nullis portibus, difficultas navigandi.—Cæsar, B. G., Lib. III, chap. XII.

##### Questions in extract I:—

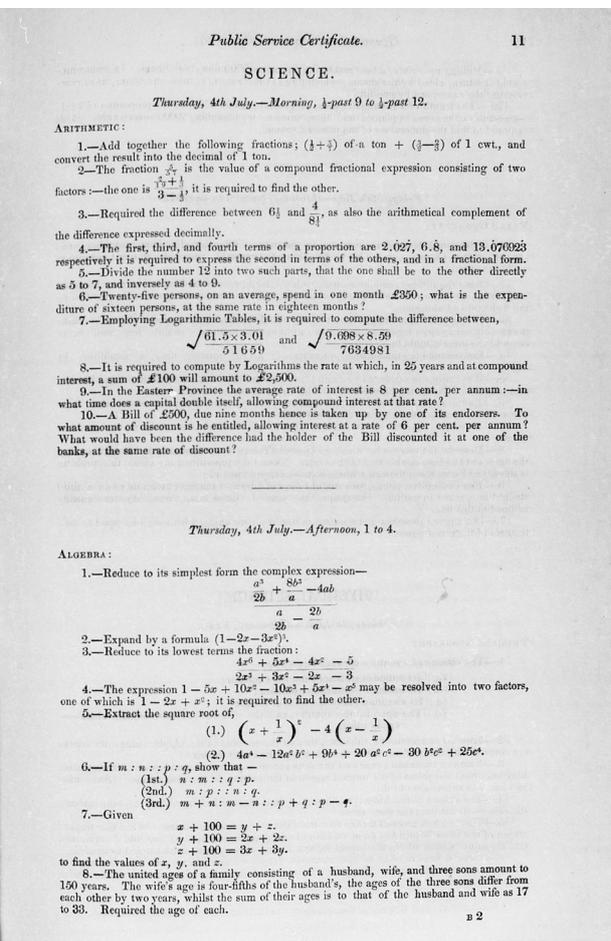
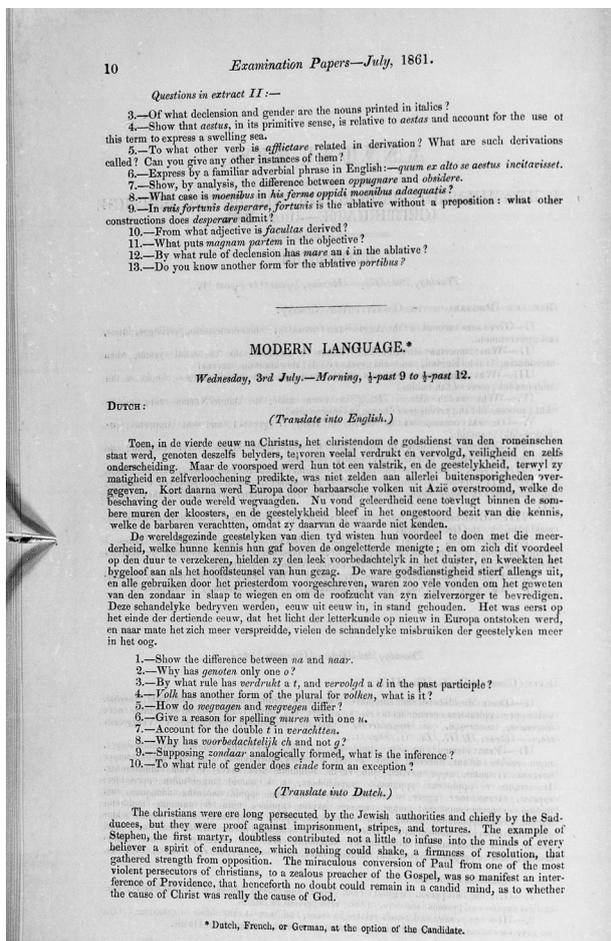
1.—Give the first person singular of the present and perfect tenses of the indicative, and the first supine and present infinitive, of the verbs printed in italics.

2.—How are *pendoe* and *pendo* related in sense, and how do they differ in grammar? Can you give an instance of the same relation between two verbs in English or Dutch.

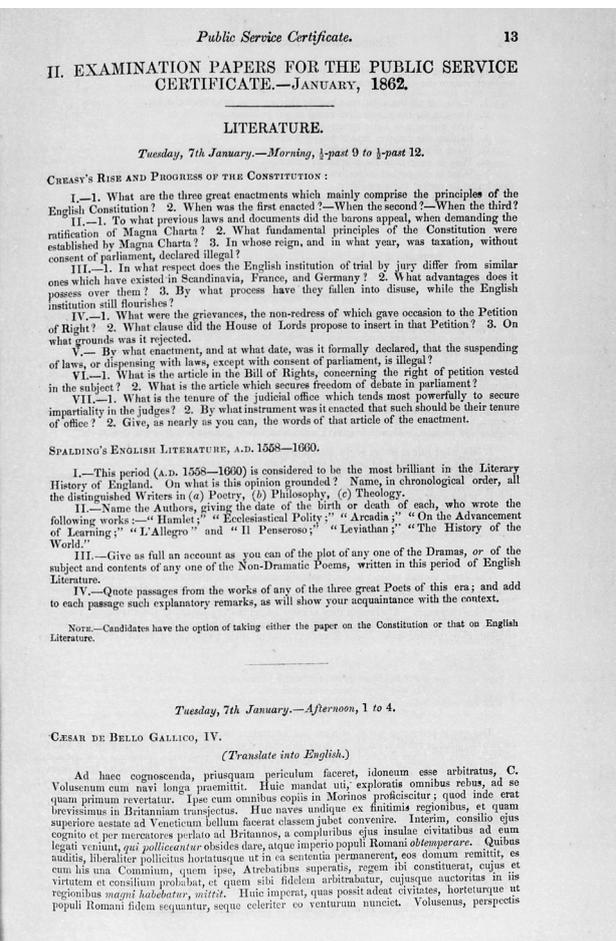
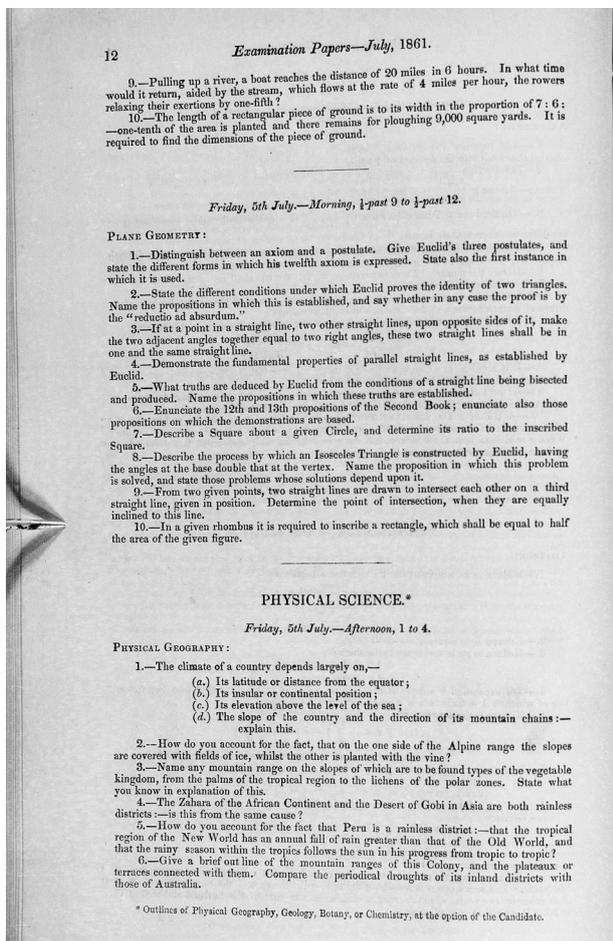
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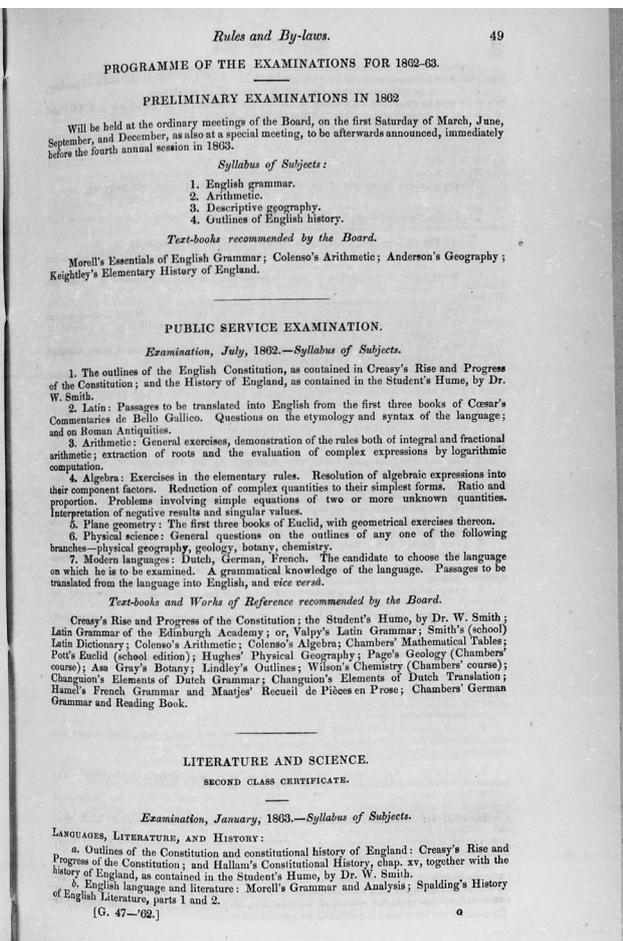
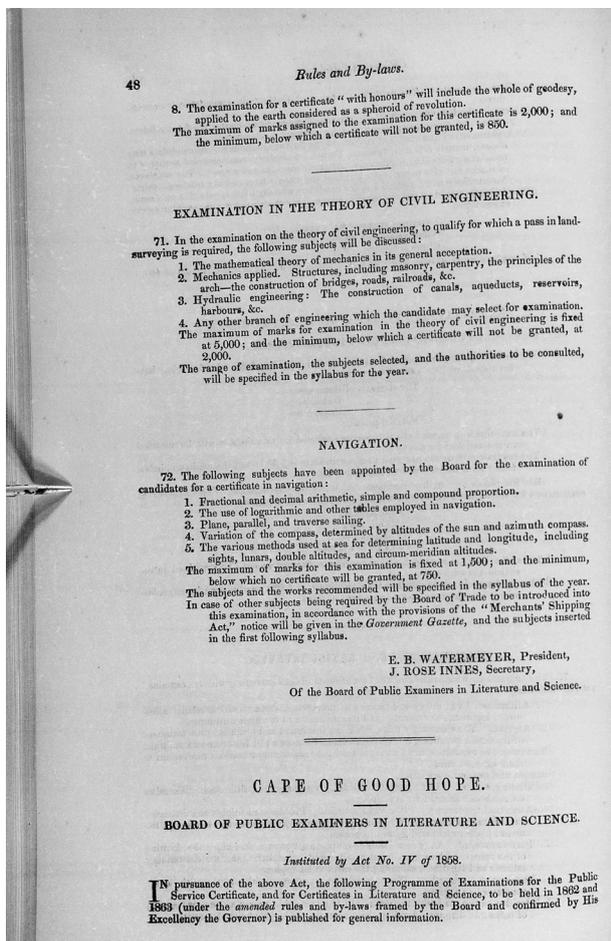
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# British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910



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*Rules and By-laws.*

Original composition, on questions arising out of the works selected for examination. Style. The papers on literature given in by each candidate. The candidate to name the language in c. Modern languages: Dutch, German, French. Passages in the language named to be translated into English, which he is to be examined. Passages in the language named to be translated into English, and vice versa. Questions on the grammar of the language. 2. Xenophon 4. Greek and Latin Classics and history: Greek, 1. Sophocles—Antigone; 2. Xenophon —Memorabilia, Books 3 and 4. Latin, 1. Horace—Odes, Books 1 and 2; 2. Livy, Book 21. Greek history: From the commencement of the Thirty Years' truce between Athens and Sparta, B.C. 445, to the end of the Peloponnesian war, B.C. 404. Roman history: From the destruction of Carthage to the death of Augustus. The examination to consist of questions in Grammar, History, Classical Geography, Mythology, and Antiquities: passages both in Greek and Latin to be translated into English, and one English passage to be rendered into Latin. e. Elements of Logic: Morell's Hand-book of Logic.

*Text-books and works of Reference recommended to Candidates by the Board.*

**LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, AND HISTORY:**

Constitution and constitutional history of England: Cressy's Rise and Progress of the Constitution; Hallam's Constitutional History of England, and the Student's Home, by Dr. W. Smith. English language and literature: Morell's English Grammar; Morell's Analysis of Sentences; Spalding's History of English Literature; Richardson's Dictionary. Modern languages: Changuiou's Elements of Dutch Grammar; Changuiou's Elements of Translation; Hamel's French Grammar; Maaij's Recueil de Pièces en Prose; German Grammar (Chambers' course); German Reading Book (Chambers' course). Greek and Latin Classics and history: Madvig's Latin Grammar; Dr. Jelf's Greek Grammar; Schmitz's History of Greece; Schmitz's History of Rome; Smith's Latin Dictionary; Smith's Dictionary of Antiquities; Smith's Classical Geography; Scott and Liddell's Lexicon.

**MATHEMATICS:**

1. Arithmetic. The theory of the decimal system of arithmetic. Fractions and decimals. Ratio and proportion. The extraction of roots and the computation of complex expressions by logarithms. 2. Algebra: The fundamental rules of arithmetical algebra. The treatment of fractional quantities. Involution and evolution. The theory of exponents. Ratio and proportion. The progressions. The binomial theorem, as demonstrated by Euler, and its application to developments. Simple and quadratic equations; their roots, elimination, problems, and questions involving equations of the first and second degree. Interest and annuities: Problems solved by logarithmic computation. 3. Plane geometry: The 2nd, 4th, and 6th books of Euclid. Exercises on the three books. 4. Analytical trigonometry, plane and spherical: The formulae. The solution of plane triangles, including the areas of rectilinear figures. Spherical triangles and triangular areas. Spherical excess. 5. Analytical co-ordinate geometry: First principles. Discussion of the equation of the straight line. The equation of the circle. Conic sections: The geometrical discussions of the three sections, based on the ratio which, in each curve, the distance of any point from the focus bears to that from the directrix. The properties of the three curves to be established are: Parabola: Rectangular and polar co-ordinates, tangent and normal. Ellipse: Ditto ditto ditto. Hyperbola: Ditto ditto and asymptotes.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE:**

*Fixed Subject:* Physical geography: The chief currents of the ocean and atmosphere, their causes and influences. The distribution of heat as indicated by isothermal lines. *Optional,—any one of the following:* 1. Chemistry: Aggregation, crystallization, affinity, and definite equivalents. The substances which are permanently gaseous. The atmosphere. 2. Light, heat, and electricity. Light: The physical theories of light; the fundamental hypothesis of each; reflection, ordinary refraction, and polarization. The analysis of the spectrum. Heat: Its sources, modes of action, and effects; expansion, convection, conduction, and radiation; liquefaction, steam, combustion; latent heat. Electricity: Distinction into positive and negative; the phenomena of excitation and induction; electric light and heat; atmospheric electricity. 3. Botany: Physiological and systematic—the former to include a knowledge of the anatomy, chemistry, and morphology of plants; the latter to embrace the outlines of the Linnean system, together with a correct knowledge of the principles on which natural orders are established, according to the system of De Candolle. Specimens for description among the

following orders: Cruciferae, Polygalaceae, Oxalidæ, Leguminosæ, Rosaceæ, Compositæ, Ericaceæ, Solanaceæ, Labiatae, Proteaceæ, Urticaceæ, Euphorbiaceæ, Orchidaceæ, Ameryllidæ, Gramineæ, Filices. Candidates will be expected to assign to each plant named in the paper its proper natural order, and to give a short description of the properties of the order, as well as of those marks which distinguish it from allied or similar orders. 4. Natural history: The structure of animals, as the basis of scientific classification, and more especially of the natural orders. Examination in the chief genera comprehended under the following orders: Bimana, Quadramana, Carnivora, Ruminantia, Accipitres, Gallinae, Passerinae, Sauria, Ophidia, Batrachia, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera. The examination will not embrace the anatomy, physiology, or the habits of animals, except where these are directly connected with those characteristics of structure which are employed in natural systems of classification. One of the above optional subjects in physical science to be selected for examination by each of the candidates.

*Text-books and Works of Reference recommended to Candidates by the Board.*

**MATHEMATICS:**

Coleso's Arithmetic (text-book); De Morgan's and Sang's; De Morgan's Connection of Number and Magnitude. Colerso's Algebra (college edition—text-book); Peacock's; vol. 1, Young's, Bell's (Chambers' course). Analytical geometry: Text-book, Pott's Euclid (college edition); Lardner's, Playfair's, Bell's. Plane geometry: Text-book, Wand's (published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge); Lardner's Algebraic Geometry, Young's. Double Algebra; the Treatises of the D. U. K. Society. Conic sections: Text-book, Hymers' Conic Sections; Todhunter's Conic Sections. PHYSICAL SCIENCE: Somerville's Physical Geography (text-book); Ansted's Geographical Manual (published by Parker & Son); Maury's Geography of the Sea; Hughes' Physical Geography. Chemistry: Text book, Wilson's (Chambers' course), Gregory's. Light: Text-book, Griffin's Optics, Potter's, Brewster's. Heat: Text-book, Thomson on Heat; Treatise of the D. U. K. Society; Cabinet Cyclopaedia. Electricity: Baine's Electricity (Chambers' course—text-book); Treatise of the D. U. K. Society; Cabinet Cyclopaedia. Botany: Text-book, Asa Gray's; Lindley's (school edition). General works of reference: Somerville's Connection of the Physical Sciences; Whewell's Bridgewater Treatise; Marcet's Conversations on Land and Water; Arnot's Physics (American edition); Young's Lectures.

**LITERATURE AND SCIENCE.**

**FIRST-CLASS CERTIFICATE.**

*Examination, January, 1863.—Syllabus of Subjects.*

**LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, AND HISTORY:**

a. The Constitution and constitutional history of England:—Hallam's Constitutional History to the death of George II. Modern History: Motley's Rise of the Dutch Republic to the death of William the Silent. b. English language and literature.—Language: First book of Milton's Paradise Lost, the paper to include passages for critical analysis. Literature: Spalding's History of English Literature. Original composition on questions arising out of the works selected for examination. Style. The papers on literature given in by each candidate. c. Modern languages: Dutch, German, French. The candidate to select the language on which he is to be examined. Passages for translation into English, and from English into the language chosen. A critical analysis of the passages selected. General questions on grammar. The works from which passages will be taken are—Dutch: Van Kampen's Bloemlezing der Nederlandsche Proza Schryvers. German: Schiller's Don Carlos. French: Racine's Athalie. 4. GREEK AND LATIN CLASSICS, AND HISTORY: Greek. Poetry: Homer, Iliad, Books 1 to XII inclusive; Sophocles, Oedipus Tyrannus and Oedipus Coloneus. Prose: Herodotus, Books 1 to IV inclusive; Plato, Republic; Demosthenes, De Corona, Eschines contra Ctesiphontem; Thucydides, Books 1 and II.

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### Questions for Discussion

1. What subjects and skillsets were prioritised in these public service examination papers?
2. What does this curriculum tell us about the relationship between education, governance, and imperial priorities? How did the emphasis on classical education, such as the study of Latin, create a divide between the educated elite and the broader population?
3. What can the implementation of Western education in British colonies tell us about their colonial priorities more generally? You may wish to reflect on power dynamics, cultural assimilation, linguistic practices, and traditional knowledge systems.

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### Questions for General Discussion

The following questions are designed to prompt a wider discussion on the events, issues, and themes highlighted in the sources.

1. What do the sources in this teaching pack tell you about Britain’s imperial mindset, particularly in relation to the ideology of the “White Man’s Burden”?
2. Can you identify any parallels between Britain’s methods of control over the Cape colony, as presented in these sources, and modern approaches? Consider contemporary examples of racial discrimination, particularly in education and public health.
3. How did British cultural, legal, and religious policies impact the social structure of the Cape colony?

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## About British Online Archives (BOA)

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British Online Archives (BOA) is one of the UK's leading academic publishers and online repositories. Hosting over six million records, carefully sourced from private and public archives, such as The National Archives (UK) and British Library, our primary source collections cover over 500 years of world history.

They boast extensive documentation from across the globe, providing invaluable source material for students and researchers working within a range of scholarly disciplines, including history, politics, sociology, and international relations. Our unique digital collections offer insights into global historical events and trends, typically through a British lens. They serve to broaden our understanding of history, and help us to make sense of contemporary social, cultural, economic, and political landscapes.

### Related Collections:

BOA's primary source collections are organised thematically so as to enhance user experience and boost discoverability. Via careful reflection on our archival holdings, and in dialogue with scholars, we have grouped our collections under eleven key historical themes.

*British Colonial Rule in the Cape of Good Hope and Basutoland, 1854–1910*, falls under the broad theme of “Colonialism and Empire”.

You can explore related collections, such as *British Mercantile Trade Statistics, 1662–1809*, and *Apartheid Through the Eyes of South African Political Parties, 1948-1994*, by scanning the QR code.



## The Collection Development Process and its Benefits

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At British Online Archives (BOA), our skilled team takes great care in curating and publishing our primary source collections. It is a process that yields high-quality products, as well as **substantial benefits for all involved: BOA, our archival partners, and, ultimately, our users.** Here is a brief outline of the key steps.

Based on a proposal from a member of BOA's content team (all of whom have a background in historical scholarship), **we collaborate with staff at the relevant archives, libraries, and heritage institutions**, as well as with external academics and heritage experts, to shape the collection and produce a full item listing. The next step is equally important: **the comprehensive conservation of the physical documents.** Typically, this is carried out by professional conservators at the archives themselves, but it is funded by BOA. This crucial process **ensures that the documents remain in excellent condition for use by other researchers for years to come.**

Following conservation, the documents are digitised to the highest standards, either by BOA's expert digitisation team, the archives' in-house digitisers, or by a specialist contractor. In every case, **the digitisation costs are borne directly by BOA.** Scans are then reviewed, organised, tagged, and marketed by BOA's relevant specialist teams, a process that is **verified by collection-specific editorial boards composed of scholars and heritage experts.** They likewise contribute key supplementary materials, such as contextual essays, which complement articles produced by members of our team, as well as our innovative **source-based teaching packs.**

Prior to publication, each document undergoes **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)**, meaning that you can search for words or phrases contained within images. Our published collections **employ the [Universal Viewer \(UV\)](#).** Significantly, this offers the **"deep zoom" feature**, allowing users to examine details in a document without lowering the quality of the image. Collections that contain handwritten script also benefit from **Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR)** software. This delivers a significant increase in usability and search term accuracy.

Finally, we should highlight that the digitised images that each institution has contributed to the curation process **are made available to them for free and in perpetuity**, ensuring that they have a high-quality digital copy of the material to use as they see fit. Our archival partners likewise **receive royalties from any sales that we make**, providing a revenue stream that is welcomed, particularly by smaller archives, libraries, and heritage institutions.

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