

HCO POLICY LETTER OF 16 MARCH AD 15
(Reissued on 13 September 1967)
Remimeo
Academies Students
Saint Hill Courses
Tech Secs Hat
Qual Secs Hat
Dir of Exams Hat
Student Examiners Hat
Dir of Review Hat
Cramming Officers Hat
Supervisors Hat

TRAINING DEPT - DIV IV
DEPT OF EXAMS - DIV V

All student examiners are to be star checked on this.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON STUDY - EXAMINATIONS

Progress in study can be inhibited through the usage of a poor system of examination. By asking of questions irrelevant to the material covered and by failing to ensure that the student is fully aware of exactly what question is flunked, the student can be given sufficient losses to slow down his rate of learning and to cause ARC breaks.

A misunderstanding comes about in the first instance purely on the basis that the student understood that he was studying a given subject. An irrelevant question asked by an examiner indicates to the student that such an understanding was false or that no basic agreement existed on the subject in the first place. An example of this would be to ask a student of a French language course to give the main historic dates and their significance to Eighteenth Century France. The original understanding was that the student was learning to speak and read French, not to learn the history of France.

In Scientology an example of an irrelevant question would be to ask the student to give the distribution of a bulletin. The understanding of the student is that he is there to learn Scientology, its theory and application, not to learn the internal administration of organizational communication lines. A further example would be to ask a Level II student a question concerning data and material covered in Level IV.

Frequently enough a Supervisor has to cope with a student who has come into Scientology to study the law of Karma or to study sociology or some other previous misconception without adding to the difficulties by asking irrelevant questions. Knowing what we now know about study we can handle earlier misconceptions, but a Supervisor must never ask a question of a student which is irrelevant to the subject or level. We must ourselves be careful not to add to student confusion. Therefore, any Supervisor tendency to ask irrelevant questions must be firmly restrained.

In the second instance of the unknown question, a student can be given a verbal question on which he is flunked. In most cases the student will not be able to remember the question asked as he would not have flunked it in the first case if he had not already failed to understand the material covered by the question. Failure to remember the question asked or a Supervisor's refusal to give him the question asked reacts upon the student as an unanswered question, and therefore an incompleting communication cycle, but also as an unknown question.

The student will ARC break. You can easily demonstrate this by mumbling a question which is not clear enough to be understood and then insist upon an answer. You will soon enough have a very upset person on your hands.

This is what happens when a student is asked a question, flunked, and then not given to clearly understand the question asked. Therefore Ron now requires that any examiner must always write down verbal questions asked before asking them, and when a student flunks, hand him the written question which he flunked. The student will then be able to know what he didn't know and be able to look up the material and clear up what it was that he had not understood. Further, this will enable him to complete the communication cycle.

If tape examinations are addressed to a class as a whole, these questions must be posted and the examination papers returned to the student. The student can then see what it was that he missed and what question was missed.

Many people have had experience of such poor systems of examination which failed to follow the above. It is common practice in universities not only not to give students the questions asked, but also never to return examination papers. Most frequently all the university student is given is a grade. If that grade is not 100%, then the student never knows what it was he didn't know and so can not look it up to know it. This leaves him in the uncertain condition of insecurity about his data on a particular subject. And if the student flunks the subject and has to re-take it, he cannot comfortably study the subject because the whole of the subject has now become a complete mystery to him. Thus, the subject is set up as an ARC Break.

Universities probably do this to be sure that their examinations do not get out to students, but then one can only state that this is laziness or lack of ability on the part of professors to think of different questions, or perhaps even a professor's own lack of understanding of his subject sufficient to enable him to be able to think of enough questions to ask. It also could be that there is a complete lack of worthwhile material in more primitive subjects than Scientology on which to ask questions, in which case it should never have been part of the curriculum. (Freudians mainly examine on the dates of Freud's papers for their qualification of psychiatrists!)

The administration of a proper system of examination is quite simple:-

1. Tape examinations or examination questions given verbally to the class as a whole must be written down before being asked and must be posted on a bulletin board afterwards and all examination papers must be returned to the students.
2. Verbal questions asked of individual students must be noted down in a book like an invoice book with tear-out sheets and a piece of carbon paper. Such books are easily procured from stationers as they are used in most stores. The student is given the yellow copy of the questions with the flunked question plainly marked. The white copy is placed in the examiner's folder for the bulletin, tape or material.

In this fashion we will be able to collect good questions to be asked; to notice fundamental areas of mis-understanding individual students have; and to note any areas of mis-understanding which are broadly mis-understood. We can, therefore, see where the individual student needs help and see where it is necessary to elaborate more fully on certain technical data in order to make it more broadly comprehensible.

Supervisors and examiners doing this will then be contributing to the more rapid progress of individual students and to students in general.

The same principles apply to the Department of Examinations and any other student examinations given.

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The Guardian W/W

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For L. RON HUBBARD
Founder