

CORNELL



ALUMNI MAGAZINE



SPECIAL ISSUE:

CELEBRATING A CENTURY AND A HALF

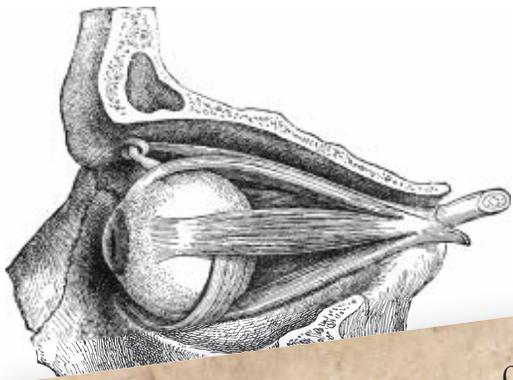
WHO'S THE BIG RED'S
GREATEST ATHLETE?

EZRA HOSTS A
CHARTER DAY DINNER

THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

HOT TRUCK: ODE TO THE 'PMP'

TEST YOURSELF WITH
AN 1800s ENTRANCE EXAM



COULD YOU

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

QUESTION PAPERS
USED AT THE

EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION 1891

GEOGRAPHY

What two rivers flow into the Caspian Sea?

Where does the Zambesi rise, in what direction does it flow, and into what does it empty?

PHYSIOLOGY & HYGIENE

Give a horizontal section of the right eye-ball, naming the principal parts. What nerve connects the eye with the brain? With what part of the brain is the connection? What is meant by *accommodation*, by *short-sighted*, by *long-sighted*?

Give antidotes for opium, arsenic, strychnine, carbolic acid, and caustic potash. How may vomiting be produced other than by the use of drugs?

Proper temperature for sleeping room? For sitting room? What should be the bed and bed clothing? How much sleep is necessary for the student?

Write your opinions of the use of alcohol and tobacco as related to health and give your reasons for the opinions.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Name the four leading explorers of America, after Columbus; and state the most important discoveries made by each.

What was the occasion of Huguenot immigration; and to what colonies did the Huguenots go?

Outline the life of Henry Clay.

FRENCH

Translate at sight: *Ceux qui n'ont pas vu la gloire de l'Empereur Napoléon dans les années 1810, 1811 et 1812 ne sauront jamais à quel degré de puissance peut monter un homme.*

GRECIAN & ROMAN HISTORY & ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY

Draw an outline of the Mediterranean sea. Locate upon its coasts: (1) Alexandria, (2) Massilia, (3) Syracuse, (4) Antioch, (5) Gades, (6) Argo, (7) Carthage.

Describe the constitution of Sparta.

What was the outcome of the Peloponnesian War?



HAVE PASSED?

Long before the SAT, many aspiring Cornellians sat for lengthy, comprehensive entrance exams that helped determine whether they'd be admitted to the University. Requirements and procedures evolved in the early decades, says University Archivist Elaine Engst, MA '72, with exams variously administered in Ithaca and in individual counties around New York State. In certain years, students graduating with a Regents diploma did not need to take an exam to be admitted to Cornell, though the tests were still required of those seeking scholarships. The exam for 1885–86 notes that the conditions for admission include that males be at least sixteen, females be at least seventeen, and all candidates be “of good moral character.” In addition to the general entrance exam, Engst says, specific programs of study often had their own admissions hurdles.

Here are some questions from the 1891 admission exam, whose sections included English, physiology, hygiene, American history, arithmetic, geometry, algebra, trigonometry, Latin, Greek, German, French, Grecian and Roman history, and geography (both current and ancient). How might you have fared?

Engst says she has never encountered an answer key to a Cornell entrance exam, but we've provided some answers—along with question papers from other years—at cornellalumnimagazine.com.

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA

Simplify:

$$\left[\frac{x^{\frac{5}{2}} y^{\frac{4}{3}}}{z^{\frac{-5}{4}}} \times \frac{z^4}{x^{-3} y^{\frac{-5}{3}}} \div \frac{y^{-2} \sqrt[4]{z}}{x^{\frac{-1}{2}}} \right]^{\frac{1}{5}}$$

Give the theory of the rule for finding the lowest common multiple of two polynomials.

ARITHMETIC

If Apollo's altar were a perfect cube 10 ft. on a side, what, to the nearest tenth of an inch, would be the dimensions of a new cubical altar containing twice as much stone?

HIGHER ALGEBRA

Sum the series 3.75, 3.5, 3.25 . . . to 16 terms, and derive the formula made use of.

Prove that, in an equation with real coefficients, imaginary roots occur in pairs, if at all.

LATIN & GREEK

Translate: *At etiam sunt qui dicant, Quirites, a me in exsilium eiectum esse Catilinam. Quod ego si verbo adsequi possem, istos ipsos eicerem, qui haec loquuntur.*

