

## VAN DIEMENS LAND CONVICT DEPARTMENT

Revised Scale of Task Work adapted to the Capacity of the Several Classes of Female Convicts & proportioned for the various Seasons of the Year.

### *General Observations*

Task Work is to be introduced amongst the Female Convicts at each Establishment but to prevent the active, the intelligent and the healthy being placed in a better position than the weak the ignorant and the sickly, and to diminish as far as possible the inequalities produced by these and other causes, a careful system of Classification must be adopted to proportion the Task to the powers physical or mental of the Class, so that each individual of a Class will be subjected to the same amount of toil.

It is of vital importance that this classification should be made with the utmost care, attention and impartiality, therefore the Visiting Magistrate, Superintendent and Medical Officer will personally inspect each convict at the Establishment and according to the principles herein defined arrange the whole in their Classes.

The Classification here exhibited is intended to provide for the capacity of convicts of almost every descriptions viz:

The First Class, comprising able bodied Women accustomed to the description of labour which they are employed.

The Second Class, Women able bodied but who have not been accustomed tot the employment assigned to them or such as may be acquainted with the labour but not able bodied.

The Third Class, those who may be unacquainted with the work at which they are employed and likewise disabled from physical or mental causes.

The Visiting Magistrate, Superintendent and Medical Officer may at any time remove a convict from one class to another and on the day of each monthly inspection and if necessary to revise the Classification of the Women at the Establishment.

Convicts employed on Barrack Duties are to be allowed the average credit earned by the best behaved and most industrious women of the Establishment.

Prisoners employed at such description of work for which it may be practicable to define any specific scale are to have their intelligence capacity and industry together with prompt and faithful discharge of their duties taken into consideration in determining the amount of Task to be placed to their credit and it is to be understood by the Officers in charge of Establishments that the Tasks have been so regulated as to admit of the convicts (by exertion) performing  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  days work within the hours of

labour here prescribed during no part of which they are upon any account to remain idle, unless by the special directions of the Medical Officer.

Any convict who may misconduct herself in such a manner as to render it necessary for her to be punished by a Magistrate will in addition to the sentence passed on her render herself liable to be excluded from the privilege of Task Work during such period as the Magistrate may recommend.

Women who do not attend school regularly will not be allowed the privilege of Task Work.

Well behaved and zealous School monitors will be credited the whole period they are actually employed in the schools in addition to whatever they may acquire by hard labour during the day.

A voluntary Sunday School will be established and five percent of the best behaved women who attend regularly and are not monitors in the day school will at the end of each month, on the recommendation of the Religious Instructor be allowed credit for the period they actually attended the Sunday School in the same way as the monitors in the Day School.

Hitherto Convicts have been required to serve a definite number of days in the Establishments, but under the System of Task Work these days will now be measured by conduct and work according to the Scheme laid down in scales No.1 2 8 3.

Each woman is to be informed every Saturday evening how her account stands.

In crediting the amount of work performed and in carrying out the detail of the plan, the utmost exactness and impartiality must be used. The Superintendent is strictly enjoined to inquire with the greatest care into any complaint a Convict may make on this subject, and will be held responsible for strict justice being done, he will report specially to the Comptroller General any case in which he discovers that a wilful injustice has been attempted by an Officer in the actual measurement of work and it is of the greatest importance the Convicts should be convinced of the perfect equity of all arrangements on this point. The Lieutenant Governor will immediately dismiss from the service any Officer who does not impartially and to the utmost of his ability carry out the detail of the principle herein described.

Signed J S Hampton  
Comptroller General  
16<sup>th</sup> May 1849

Refce No.	Description of Labour Effectives	10 Hours Nov <sup>r</sup> , Dec <sup>r</sup> , Jany & Feby			9¼ Hours March, Ap <sup>l</sup> , Sep <sup>r</sup> & Oct <sup>r</sup>			8¾ Hours May & August			7¼ Hours June & July		
		Maximum 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Medium 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Minimum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Maximum 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Medium 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Minimum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Maximum 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Medium 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Minimum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Maximum 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	Medium 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	Minimum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
	<b>Family Clothing</b>												
1.	Caps Ladies Night	6/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
2.	Cases Pillow	3	2 4/16	1 8/16	2 12/16	2 1/16	1 6/16	2 7/16	1 14/16	1 4/16	2 2/16	1 10/16	1 2/16
3.	Collors Gents	3	2 4/16	1 8/16	2 12/16	2 1/16	1 6/16	2 7/16	1 14/16	1 4/16	2 2/16	1 10/16	1 2/16
4.	Collors Ladies Muslin	3	2 4/16	1 8/16	2 12/16	2 1/16	1 6/16	2 7/16	1 14/16	1 4/16	2 2/16	1 10/16	1 2/16
5.	Cuffs Ladies Pairs	4	3	2	3 11/16	2 12/16	1 14/16	3 5/16	2 8/16	1 10/16	2 14/16	2 3/16	1 1/16
6.	Caps Infants Trimmed	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
7.	Drawers Childrens	2	1 8/16	1	1 13/16	1 6/16	14/16	1 10/16	1 4/16	13/16	1 7/16	1 2/16	12/16
8.	Flannels Infants	1 8/16	1 2/16	12/16	1 6/16	1	10/16	1 4/16	15/16	10/16	1 2/16	13/16	9/16
9.	Frocks Duck	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
10.	Frocks Infants	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
11.	Gowns Night Infants	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
12.	Shifts Ladies	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
13.	Handkerchiefs hemmed	8	6	4	7 6/16	5 8/16	3 11/16	6 10/16	5	3 5/16	5 12/16	4 6/16	2 14/16
14.	Petticoates Ladies with border	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
15.	Petticoates Infants	1 8/16	1 12/16	12/16	1 6/16	1	11/16	1 4/16	15/16	10/16	1 2/16	13/16	9/16
16.	Pinbefores Infants	2	1 8/16	1	1 13/16	1 6/16	14/16	1 10/16	1 7/16	13/16	1 7/16	1 2/16	12/16
17.	Pinbefores Boys	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
18.	Petticoates Ladies Iain	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
19.	Shirts Boys with Collors	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
20.	Shirts Gents Full bosom	5/16	4/16	3/16	5/16	4/16	3/16	4/16	3/16	2/16	4/16	3/16	2/16
21.	Shirts Ladies Habit	4	3	2	3 4/16	2 12/16	14/16	3 5/16	2 8/16	1 10/16	2 14/16	2 3/16	1 7/16
22.	Shirts Infants	2	1 8/16	1	1 10/16	1 6/16	14/16	1 10/16	1 4/16	13/16	1 7/16	1 2/16	12/16
23.	Sheets Pairs	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
24.	Stays Ladies Plain	5/16			5/16			4/16			3/16		
25.	Wrappers Plain	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
26.	Caps Infants Plain	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
27.	Night Shifts Ladies	8/16	6/16	4/16	7/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	5/16	3/16	6/16	4/16	3/16
28.	Surplices	4/16			4/16			3/16			2/16		
	<b>Slop Clothing</b>												
29.	Shirts Slop	12/16	9/16	6/16	11/16	8/16	6/16	10/16	7/16	5/16	9/16	6/16	4/16
30.	Shirts Night	12/16	9/16	6/16	11/16	8/16	6/16	10/16	7/16	5/16	9/16	6/16	4/16
31.	Trowsers Boys	1 8/16	1 2/16	12/16	1 6/16	1	11/16	1 4/16	15/16	10/16	1 2/16	13/16	9/16
32.	Trowsers Mens	1	12/16	8/16	14/16	11/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	9/16	6/16
33.	Waiscoats Boys	2	1 8/16	1	1 13/16	1 6/16	14/16	1 10/16	1 4/16	13/16	1 7/16	1 2/16	12/16
34.	Waiscoates Mens	1 8/16	1 2/16	12/16	1 6/16	1	11/16	1 4/16	15/16	10/16	1 2/16	13/16	9/16
35.	Knitting Long Stockings	14/16	10/16	7/16	13/16	10/16	7/16	12/16	8/16	6/16	10/16	8/16	5/16
36.	Family Clothing	42	31 8/16	21	38 12/16	29 1/16	19 6/16	34 12/16	26 1/16	17 6/16	30 8/16	22 14/16	15/16
37.	Blankets	8	6	4	7 1/16	5 9/16	3 11/16	6 10/16	5	3 5/16	5 12/16	4 5/16	2 14/16
38.	Laundry or making up				3 ½ Dozen of Ordinary Clothing								
39.	Palliasses	22	16 8/16	11	30 6/16	15 4/16	10 3/16	18 2/16	13 9/16	9 1/16	15 15/16	12	8
40.	Rugs	10	7 8/16	5	9 4/16	6 15/16	4 10/16	8 4/16	6 3/16	4 2/16	7 4/16	5 7/16	3 10/16

41.		Sheets	16	12	8	14 12/16	11 2/16	7 6/16	13 3/16	9 14/16	6 10/16	11 8/16	8 11/16	5 12/16
		<b>General Work</b>												
42.		Carding Fine Yarn	8 oz	6	3	7	5 4/16	3 8/16	6	4 8/16	3	5	3 12/16	2 8/16
43.		Carding Spinning Yarn	5 oz	3 12/16		4 8/16	3 8/16	2 4/16	4	3	2	3 8/16	2 8/16	1 12/16
44.		Carding Reeling Yarn	14	10 8/16	7	12 15/16	9 11/16	6 7/16	11 9/16	8 10/16	5 12/16	10 2/16	7 9/16	5 1/16
45.		Picking Oakum	1 2/16	13/16	9/16	1	12/16	8/16	15/16	11/16	7 16	13/16	10/16	6/16
46.		Picking Rope	1 2/16	13/16	9/16	1	12/16	8/16	15/16	11/16	7 16	13/16	10/16	6/16
47.		Picking Wool	1 2/16	13/16	9/16	1	12/16	8/16	15/16	11/16	7 16	13/16	10/16	6/16
		<b>Barrack Duties</b>												
1.	C	Choir												
2.	A	Cooks												
3.		Hospital Attendants												
4.	B	Monitors Day School												
5.		Monitors Sunday School												
6.		Nursing												
7.		Nursing on probation	No Specific Quantity of Labour can in general be allotted. The Capacity and Industry of the Prisoners must therefore determine the amount of Task											
8.	B	Public Readers	Work to be placed to their Credit.											
9.		Store Assistant												
10.		Servants Officers												
11.		Turnkeys												
12.		Wardswomen												
13.		Warder Mess Room Cleaners												
		<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>											
14.		Absconding	2	<b>A</b>	For these and all other Barrack Duties (except those marked <b>B</b> & <b>C</b> at which the convicts are Employed for the entire day the average daily Credit to be allowed.									
15.		Discharged												
16.		Exempt	4 & 7	<b>B</b>	Time actually Employed to be allowed, and reckoned at the rate of a day for as many working hours as are upon an average required for the performance of a days Task exclusive of extra Work in each season respectively.									
17.		Holiday												
18.		Received & Rationed	1	<b>C</b>	Four days a month to be allowed.									
19.		Sick in Hospital												
20.		Solitary Confinement												
21.		Sunday												
22.		Wet Days												
		Reference Letters to Industry when the Labour cannot be Tasked.												
	<b>A</b>	Idle for Trial												
	<b>B</b>	Indifferent no Credit												
	<b>C</b>	Moderately Industrious Lowest rate												
	<b>D</b>	Industrious General average												
	<b>E</b>	Very Industrious Highest rate												
	<b>F</b>	Special Instance of Industry an Extra ¼ day to E												

Those Reference Letters to be entered in the Column of Remarks in the Overseers Book for the guidance of the Superintendent in awarding the amount of Credit.	Form of Task Work Ready Reckoner												
	Reference No.2			Needle Work			Cases			Pillow			
	Time	Amount of Work Acquired	10 Hours			9 ¼ Hours			8 ¼ Hours			7 ¼ Hours	
1 <sup>st</sup> Class			2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Class	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Class	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	1 <sup>st</sup> Class	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class
1		3	2 4/16	1 8/16	2 12/16	2 1/16	1 6/16	2 7/16	1 14/16	1 4/16	2 2/16	1 10/16	1 2/16
1 1/8		3 3/8	2 8/16	1 11/6	3 1/16	2 5/16	1 4/16	2 12/16	2 2/16	1 6/16	2 6/16	1 13/16	1 4/16
1 2/8		3 6/8	2 13/16	1 14/16	3 7/16	2 9/16	1 10/16	3 1/16	2 5/16	1 9/16	2 10/16	2 1/16	1 6/16
1 3/8		4 1/8	3 2/16	2 1/16	3 13/16	2 13/16	1 14/16	3 6/16	2 9/16	1 12/16	2 15/16	2 4/16	1 9/16
1 4/8		4 4/8	3 6/16	2 4/16	4 2/16	3 1/16	2 1/16	3 10/16	2 13/16	1 14/16	3 3/16	2 7/16	1 11/16
1 5/8		4 7/8	3 10/16	2 7/16	4 7/16	3 6/16	2 4/16	3 15/16	3 1/16	2	3 7/16	2 10/16	1 13/16
1 6/8		5 2/8	3 15/16	2 10/16	4 13/16	3 10/16	2 6/16	4 4/16	3 4/16	2 3/16	3 11/16	2 13/16	1 15/16
1 7/8		5 5/8	4 4/16	2 13/16	5 3/16	3 14/16	2 9/16	4 9/16	3 8/16	2 6/16	4	3 1/16	2 2/16
2		6	4 8/16	3	5 8/16	4 2/16	2 12/16	4 14/16	3 12/16	2 8/16	4 4/16	3 4/16	2 4/16

## Form of Task Work Register

Police No.100 Eliz<sup>th</sup> Bentick "Cadet" period of probation or sentence ordered days

March 1849	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Amount to be Credited Monthly			Period of Probation or sentence unexpired at the end of each month.	Remarks		
Reference to Employment																																	For lapse of Time	For Extra Work			Total Monthly Credit	
Amount of Time Credited Daily																																						
Amount of Task Work performed Daily																																				* Amount of Work performed Monthly		

A similar opening for each Convict monthly.  
The amount of each description of work to be placed under its respective reference number.

## Form of Overseers Book

No.64 Eliz<sup>th</sup> Bentick "Cadet" Folio 18

Date March 1849	Class of Scale	Reference Numbers to Employment	Amount of Work Performed Daily	Amount of Task Credited Daily	Remarks
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					
31					
			Total Amount of Credit		Days

### Form of Monthly Abstract of Task Work Register

	Month		Description of Effectives and of Labour performed.
	No. of Women	Making Shirts	
	No. of Shirts		
	No. of Women	Washing Blankets	
	No. of Blankets		
	No. of Women	Picking Wool	
	No. of lbs		
	Total Amount of Effectives		
	Barrack Duties		Description of Non-Effectives
	Sick in Hospital		
	Sick or Crumpped[?] on Establishment		
	Total Number of Non Effectives		
	Total Strength of Establishment		
	Remarks		

A rough abstract kept daily is found to be of much assistance in the preparation of the above Monthly Abstract.