

**Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharpurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha
Satsang Shikshan Pariksha**

SATSANG PRAVESH-PAPER-1

Time : 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 1 March, 2020

Note : 1. Answer of the prescribed edition only will be accepted. Any other answer from different addition will not be accepted. 2. Numbers of the right side indicate marks of question number. 3. Numbers in the blanks on the right side of the answer indicate lesson number & page number.

👉 Important Note 👈

In the question paper the marks of each sub-question should be written in the box (**mark : 1**) given on the right side and the marks obtained by the candidate should be written in the adjacent box. If the answer is wrong then write '0' (zero) in the given box. The sign or indication of true (✓) or false (X) of each sub-question should be marked only on the left-side before the question starts.

👉 Important Note 👈

While checking the answers, when you come across lengthy answers i.e. shortnotes, reasons, brief answer in five sentence etc. Justify to the left side of the paper for any marks deducted. If the candidate has forgotten to mention any mentioned points then the examiner can deduct mark likewise and explain to the leftside of the paper that which point is not mentioned by candidate. For example there is question in March-2013, Pravesh paper-1, "Transformation of JobanPagi" JobanPagi said to Maharaj, 'Oh Lord, I am crooked worthless and foolish. I was unable to recognize you for who are you. Oh compassionate one! please have pity on me. Please free me from my sins.' If any point is not written then write "My sins" at left side.

SECTION-1: NILKANTH CHARITRA, 6th Edition, December - 2010)

Q.1 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. (Total Marks: 9)

Note: Who is speaking 1 mark, to whom 1 mark and when 1 mark.

1. "I shall have to do is to wait for you." (31/60)

- ❖ The wife of Bhagwandas - Bhagwandas
- ❖ Bhagwandas is ready to go in search of God. If can-not find God, then she shall wait for the end of life.

2. "To listen to discourses with women in this way is not dharma." (46/95-96)

- ❖ Nilkanth Varni - Sadhus and devotees
- All men and women sat together to listen to the discourse in the big compound of Jivraj Sheth. So he said.

3. "I am wandering to show the way to the likes of you who are lost." (15/26)

- ❖ Nilkanth Varni - Mohandas
- ❖ Why are you roaming this difficult terrain at young age when Mohandas lost his way in dense forests, he asked to Nilkanth

- Q.2 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones.
(Total Marks: 4)

📖 **Note: One or more options may be correct. Full marks will be awarded only if all the correct options are chosen, otherwise no marks will be awarded.**

1. 1, 4 (4/8) 2. 2, 3 (54/111-112)

- Q.3 Fill in the blanks. (Total Marks: 4)

📖 **Note : Marks will be given only if both answers are correct.**

1. Shikotar, Lakho Koli (38/75) 2. Sahajanand Swami, Akshardham (55/116)
3. 1849,1856 (44/91) 4. Nilkanth, Nepal (18/32)

- Q.4 Write short notes on any ONE of the following. (In 15 lines.) (Total Marks: 5)

📖 **Note: Main points of short note are highlighted. If points are included than give full marks.**

1. **Nilkanth In Jagannathpuri (27/49-51)**

Nilkanth arrived on the banks of **Indradumyna lake** a couple of kilometers from Jagannathpuri. A mandir has been built there **on the sacred ashes of Shri Krishna** in Puri. Nilkanth used to have the darshan of Jagannathji and sit in **meditation before the Garud pillar** in the mandir. He would listen to the discourse on the Shrimad Bhagwat. The priest was happy, so give him the food offered to Shri Jagannathji. He would go to Chandan Sarovar and perform yoga. The king Known that Nilkanth had arrived in Puri. The king used to visit the varni daily and listen to his discourses and learn the essence of spirituality. **The king accepted him as his guru.** A large band naked bawas deceived the masses, indulged in illicit sex and remained intoxicated in addictions. They wielded weapons. They burned with envy towards Nilkanth. **In the festival of Rath Yatra, The king placed Nilkanth on a chariot and pulled the chariot. So the bawas were filled with hate and anger.** One day Nilkanth was meditating, a bawa shook him for pluck some spinach leaves. Nilkanth replied, **"Since there is a jiva in it, I will not pluck it,"** The bawa unsheathed his sword and rushed to strike Varni. Jairam started screaming, so the other bawas came and stood in defense of Nilkanth. There were two opposing sides and drums the battle began. Jairamdas rushed to the city of Jagannathpuri and announced, **"Help, help ! Nilkanth life is in danger."** When the king came to hear of this, he led his armed soldiers and also himself. **The soldiers to attack the bawas, and thousands of bawas killed.** The king came to Nilkanth, he was still absorbed in meditation. Nilkanth blessed the king and departed from there. Nilkanth had stayed for ten months and **perceived the devotion and deception of the priest of Jagannath mandir.**

2. **Gives Darshan To Veniram (3/3-4)**


After Ghanshyam's renunciation his friends searched him. Veniram remem bered that **Ghanshyam often jumped into the deep well of the village.** If Ghanshyam is not to be found there, **I shall also kill myself by drowning in the well,** having thought thus, Veniram plunged into the well. Not find Ghanshyam. Veniram did not come out, so **his father, Motiram got worried and he jumped in to the well to save him.** The Motiram began to drawn in the well was very deep and dark. As time passed neither father or son came of the well. Veniram's mother and maternal uncle came and began to cry. **Ghanshyam took pity on them and appeared in the well in his divine form,** he lifted Veniram and his father out of the well.

3. **On The Way Of Badrinath (5/10)**

After **a nine day trek through the forest,** Nilkanth passed through Bahadurpur and reached the banks of the river Ganga. He reached **Haridar.** There was Kumbh Mela at Haridar. The fair was overflowing with bawas, the vairagis, jogis, jatis, sadhus and sanniyasis, Nilkanth went round the fair giving darshan to all and redeeming them.

In the guise of Brahmins, **Mahadev** and **Parvatiji** served Nilkanth for many days at the fair. Many ascetics, engrossed in penance for ages, felt elated at the darshan of Nilkanth. Nilkanth visited the hermitage where Dhruvji had **performed severe penance**. From there he reached Laxmanjhula, Nilkanth bathed in the Ganga and paid homage to the Lakshman in the mandir of Lakshmanji. Lakshman himself emerged from his image and bowed at the feet of Nilkanth. Nilkanth gave him **darshan in the divine form of Shri Ramachandra**. Gangaji appeared there in the form of a beautiful woman and placing some fruits. Seeing her devotion, Nilkanth ate a few fruits and distributed the rest to Lakshmanji and Gangaji as prasad. Lakshmanji filled up a pot with water and after filter it with his apron, brought it to Nilkanth. In response to the devotion shown by Lakshmanji, Nilkanth **stayed there for ten days**.

Q.5 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks: 5)

 **Note: No mark for incomplete answer.**


1. Why did Nilkanth not drink water from the kosh? (37/73)
A. A kosh's water is charmvari so Nilkanth not drink water.
2. What was in the wall between the ashram and the barber's house? (47/96)
A. A small window in the wall between the ashram and the barber's house.
3. For how many days did Nilkanth walk without food or water on the way to Bhutpuri? (32/64)
A. Four days Nilkanth walk without food or water on the way to Bhutpuri.
4. What did the village girls of Loj see into a lumps of dung? (49/100)
A. The village girls of Loj saw the universe into a lumps of dung.
5. What did Lalji query to Ramanand Swami? (51/106)
A. Lalji queried to Ramanand Swami, "Is Nilkanth as great as Dattatray, Rishabhav or Ramchandraji?"

Q.6 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)

1. **The bear will attain Akshardham. (24/47)**
A. The bear was Jambuvan. It had served Shri Krishna but because of doubts it had been wandering hither and thither. Today it contact with Nilkanth, so it will be redeemed. Aashirvad of Nilkanth it born as a devotee. He will come into contact of Nilkanth and attain Akshardham.
2. **Nilkanth assumed 900,000 forms. (21/40)**
A. Nilkanth offered oblations at every sacrificial altar. He drank water from every cistern and consecrated the water. So Nilkanth assumed 900,000 forms.
3. **The city of Bansi went up in flames. (9/16)**
A. Two servants of the king aimed rifles on a couple of birds heedless of presence of Nilkanth. The helpless eyes of both birds stared at Nilkanth and soon died. Nilkanth redeemed their souls. That day Nilkanth observed a fast and thought his mind, Let this city be burned and decided to leave the city. As a result the city of Bansi went up in flames.

(SECTION-2: SATSANG READER PART-I, 6th Edition March - 2019)

Q.7 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. (Total Marks: 9)

 **Note : Who is speaking 1 mark, to whom 1 mark and when 1 mark.**

1. **"Only one powerful enough to give would have the courage to ask at such a time." (8/77)** ➤ Ashabhai - Swamishri
➤ In spite of the calamity Ashabhai doing seva for murtis of Sarangpur mandir that time Shastriji Maharaj remarked, "Such service in spite of the calamity, No one else could have done this."

2. "In that letter, you descried Maharaj to be like Prahlad and King Janak." (3/27-28)
 - Gunatitanand Swami - Shukmuni
 - Spoke of Maharaj's glory as Purushottam to Shukmuni in Ahmedabad.
3. "Prahlad's father never asked God to look after his son, did he !" (4/38)
 - Jhinabhai - Maharaj
 - When Jhinabhai were nearing his end, Maharaj asked him, he wished to ask for anything for his son, Hathisinh that time.

Q.8 Select the SIX correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes. (Total Marks: 6)

Topic: Bhaktaraj Jivuba (6/51-56)

- (1) Write the correct sentence numbers:

1	3	7	9	10	11
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- (2) Correct sequence of sentences :

10	11	7	3	1	9
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Note: (1) 3 marks will be awarded in the correct sentence number only if all the six sentence numbers are correct and (2) 3 marks will be awarded only if all the sequence of sentence numbers are correct. Otherwise no marks will be given.

Note: (1) Correct sentence numbers: Give 3 marks only if six sentence numbers are correct in any sequence, otherwise no marks will be given. **(2) Correct sequence of sentences:** Give 3 marks if all sequence of sentence numbers are correct as per answersheet otherwise no marks will be given.

Q.9 Write short notes on "Shriji Maharaj develops Muni Bawa's conviction." (1/6-8) (In 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Note: Main points of short note are highlighted. If points are included than give full marks.

Munibawa, a profound scholar of Sanskrit and the **Vedant philosophy** was **arrogant**. **Paramatma Brahmanand Swami studied** with Munibawa, won with his **sheer humility and brilliant intellect**. He explained to Munibawa the significance of **atma and Paramtma and the greatness of Shriji Maharaj**. When Munibawa came for Maharaj darshan that time Maharaj not to look at him and said, "**Who is Munibawa?**" Maharaj's in difference hurt him. Upset, so left the assembly and prepared to return to Surat. Muktanand Swami and Brahmanand Swami persuaded him to stay. They honoured him on the spot and arranged a grand reception for him at the darbars of Dada Khachar, Jiva Khachar and other village chieftains, and gave him gifts. Munibawa was pleased by the honours. The next day' Munibawa went for the arti, he saw Maharaj spun **the 20 kg cushion** on his finger, tossing it towards where his seat was arranged. The cushion seat in the correct position. He saw in Maharaj the **divine power of Shri Krishna**. Munibawa went to Maharaj and bowed to him with folded hands. Maharaj took off his own rose garland and placed it to him. He inhaled the fragrance of the roses he **experienced samadhi**. This divine darshan, he was convinced of **Maharaj's supremacy**. He stood humbly, requesting Maharaj to **initiate him as a sadhu**. Maharaj initiated him, yet kept his name as Munibawa.

Q.10 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks:4)

Note: No mark for incomplete answer.


1. When and of which mandir was Jethabhai appointed the Kothari by Acharya Maharaj? (7/60)

A. Acharya Maharaj appointed to Jethabhai as Kothari of Mumbai mandir in V.S. 1953.
2. Which three things does Devanand Swami say leave to worship God? (2/20)

A. Devanand Swami said to left man, mardai and motap do for worship to God.

3. Who and in what way inspired Ladudanji's mother and father? (1/1)
A. God inspired in Maharaja's thought to the Ladudanji's mother and father.
4. What did sadgurus tell Joban Pagi to take every day? (5/49)
A. Maharaj's sadgurus told to eat a pinch of Maharaj's sacred ashes everyday to Joban Pagi.

Q.11 Rewrite the incorrect words shown below in relation to the sentence heading. (Total Marks: 4)

 **Note: Marks will be awarded only if a sentence is written completely correct. Otherwise no marks will be awarded.**


1. **Shukanand Swami:** He deeply wished to become a parshad, but he was hesitant to ask Swami himself. So, he requested Sura Khachar, "Ask Swami to make me a parshad." (3/24)
A. Shukanand Swami: He deeply wished to become a sadhu, but he was hesitant to ask Maharaj himself. So, he requested Somla Khachar, "Ask Maharaj to make me a sadhu." (3/24)
2. **Devanand Swami:** Around this time, Shriji Maharaj came to Dhigda after completing a yagna in nearby Dabhan. The family member gathered around Swami's bullock cart for meal. (2/17-18)
A. Devanand Swami: Around this time, Shriji Maharaj came to Balol after completing a yagna in nearby Jetalpur. The towns people gathered around Maharaj's bullock cart for darshan. (2/17-18)
3. **Swami Nirgundasji:** "We still have to do puja of Mahuva," Bhagatji said, passing his hand over Nirgun Swami. "Keep courage. Swami will make you better. (7/68)
A. Swami Nirgundasji: "We still have to do arti of Gadhada," Swamishri said, passing his hand over Nirgun Swami. "Keep courage. Maharaj will make you better. (7/68)
4. **Bhakaraj Darbar Shri Jhinabhai:** Once, Jhinabhai came to Jamarala. Here, he came to know that Vikmshi darbar had fallen very ill and that nobody was cooking for him. (4/36-37)
A. Bhakaraj Darbar Shri Jhinabhai: Once, Jhinabhai came to Mangrol. Here, he came to know that Kamalshi Vanjha had fallen very ill and that nobody was looking after him. (4/36-37)

Q.12 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 4)

1. **Joban Pagi could not steal Maharaj's horse. (5/44)**
A. Joban Pagi entered the stable and approached Maharaj's horse. He went to untie the horse, he saw Bhagwan Swaminarayan in gold-thread clothes, in circles of light. So he disappeared into the darkness.
2. **Brahmanand Swami sent Gunatitanand Swami to Gadhada. (1/13)**
A. At last time of Maharaj instructed Brahmanand Swami to go to Junagadh and told send Gunatitanand Swami to here. Brahmanand Swami went to Junagadh and told Gunatitanand Swami that Maharaj had called for him. Immediately Gunatitanand Swami left for Gadhada.

(SECTION-3: ESSAY)

Q.13 Write an essay on any ONE of the following. (in approximately 30 lines.) (Total Marks: 10)

 **Note :** Essay is an independent original subject. In addition to following points many other point might be included. Examiner has to examin essay on the basis of originality, knowledge of sampraday, special analysis and point from any other scriptures.

1. Shastriji Maharaj: The Only Goal Was to Spread Akshar-Purushottam

Shastriji Maharaj, an unearthly man - There was nothing in his mind apart from Akshar-Purushottam. - He completed building Bochasan mandir within six months and then the second mandir and third and so on..- Clarity of goal in his mind that, 'All these work are done by Shriji Maharaj so the money will be managed and so the other things.' - How was his heart like? Let's try to understand this through two example:

(1) Usually a father would tell his son, 'All these money are earned by me, how can you use it abruptly?' But Shastriji Maharaj was having an ocean-like heart. He said, "Just enjoy." He meant, "Enjoy the Satsang and worship the God."

(2) One brick seller gave him raw bricks which led to collapsing the bungalow in Bochasan. Still he came for his payment and cursed a lot. Shastriji Maharaj tolerated it and gave him his payment. After few days, that man was about to be fined by the Government, but Shastriji Maharaj decided to help him for the sake of his family. What generosity! We cannot have such a big heart as we will definitely think otherwise.

We feel happiness as we are indulged in the bodily things but Shastriji Maharaj was beyond it. He had indefinite faith in Shriji Maharaj. What a great joy he must be feeling! No one else can spread Upasana like he could. The knowledge of Akshar-Purushottam was tremendous and Shastriji Maharaj did his work tremendously. He was not arrogant but full of confidence, 'This has to be done or else the liberation of millions of people will be suffered.' The liberation would be suffered indeed but Maharaj has said in 'Purushottam Bolya Prite' that, "The Sidhhant can't be deferred and which defers can't be the Siddhant." He would only send to the earth such Satpurush so this tradition continues. His arrangements only! The Satpurush are different but the element is the same. Satpurush never leaves from the earth. Shastriji Maharaj's only work was to spread the faith in Akshar-Purushottam. Whoever has faith in this, is entitled to be liberated. Just as Mota Swami (Yagnapriya Swami) used to tell, "If you have faith in Akshar-Purushottam, then Shriji Maharaj Himself will come to embrace you and take you into His lap by making you His child." Shastriji Maharaj has also made us their children and nurtured us with this knowledge. Now we only have to do is seeking his company. This will give us knowledge, strengthens our faith and makes us zealous.

"Yagnapurush na darshan karata, chadhe chhe chogano rang..."

We should all have such enthusiasm. We all should be able to conceive Akshar-Purushottam Siddhant, spread by Shastriji Maharaj in our jiva, strengthen it and receive the Askhardham, that is the prayer to Shriji Maharaj.

2. Servitude: The Essential Quality of a Devotee

Servitude is the one of the highest quality of a devotee - A devotee only becomes the servant of the God and His devotees - The curiosity of serving and after serving, having the sportsmen spirit of forgetting about it. - The tradition of servitude is very ancient in India - The forced labor was also there - Serving without own desire and rewards is forced labor - People also devotee God forcefully but that is not true devotion - Difference between forced labor and servitude - Servitude has devotion - The devotee with servitude sees God in everyone which itself is the epitome of servitude - There is no my-ness, ignorance, anger or hatred. - There is the sense of fulfilment but not of inactivity. - There is dignity but not ego. - Whoever having servitude has affirmation to remain in the favorites of the God and want to serve Him. - Bhagwan Swaminarayan says that there is no liberation without servitude. - The spiritual path becomes easier for the devotee who becomes the servant of the God and his devotees. - All impurities vanish from him and knowledge, devotion, etc. pious qualities increase. - Servitude is essential and important quality for every devotee - Even God also want to become the servant of His sadhu and bow down in front of him.

3. Edison Mandir: Murti-Pratishtha Mahotsav

'The Cultural Festival of India' was celebrated in Edison in 1991 - HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj decided to build mandir in the warehouse where 'Vishwashanti Mahayagna' was held. - Swamishri consecrated murtis on 8th August, 1991. - As the satsang flourished, the mandir land was not able to fit the mass of the devotees. - The decision of the expansion and rebuilding of the mandir was taken. - Swamishri showered flowers on the land where murtis to be consecrated in the future on 12th August, 2014. - After few days, Pu. Mahant Swami Maharaj did ground breaking ceremony with all the rituals.

As the part of the Pratishtha celebrations, special sabhas with the theme of 'The miracles can be made with unity' were held starting six months before. -Nine-day long celebrations were organized starting from 10th to 18th August. - The festivities started with 'Vishwashanti Mahayagna held on 10th and 11th in four different sections comprising over 1600 hosts. - On 13th August, A special karyakar sabha was held in the presence of Atmatruptadas Swami. - On 14th morning, new mandir inauguration ceremony was done in the presence of Pujya Doctor Swami. - Assembly rooms, activity centres for children and youth, gym, book stall, Premvati, kitchen and the nij mandir were sanctified by Pujya Doctor Swami and other sadhus.

The mass engagement and thread giving ceremony was held on 16th august morning. - In the afternoon, procession of the murtis were organized starting from Middlesex County College to Edison mandir. - 1.5 km long procession had nine decorated chariots carrying the murtis. - Kirtan aradhana was later on. - Akshar Purushottam Maharaj and other godly murtis' consecration ceremony was on 17th August morning followed by sabha where senior and local sadhus gave speeches. - The grand cultural programme was held in the evening with the theme named 'Mandiram-The Musical' by children and youth. - On 18th August morning, Gunatit Gurus murtis were consecrated. - All the murtis were consecrated by Pujya Doctor Swami, Pujya Ishwarcharandas Swami and other senior sadhus. - In the afternoon, a beautiful cultural programme with the theme named 'Divya Mandirne Vandana-Sanskar Sargam' by ladies department. - The whole festivities were organized under the guidance of Haridarshandas Swami and other sadhus with great hard work and celebrated grandeously.

👉 **THE END** 👈