

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

SATSANG PRARAMBHA

Time : 9.00 to 12.00 p.m.

Total Marks : 100

Sunday, 1 March, 2015

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: GHANSHYAM CHARITRA, 7th Edition, April - 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. "What are you waiting for? Come on, finish the shaving." (10/16)
👉 Bhaktimata to Amai Barber
- 👉 When Amai Barber was shaving Ghanshyam's head and the shaving was half finished, Ghanshyam became invisible to him. While everyone else could see Ghanshyam sitting in Bhaktimata's lap, Amai alone could not see him. So he stopped shaving. Then....
2. "It is all due to Ghanshyam's divine power." (24/46)
👉 Bhaktimata to Vasantabai
- 👉 Ghanshyam did not want to walk, he has made Ichchharam very heavy weight. So Vasantabai put Ichchharam down and asked Bhaktimata, "Why has Ichchharam suddenly become so heavy?" Then.....
3. "So we cannot get down from the tree." (39/77-78)
👉 The thieves to Dharmadev
- 👉 When the thieves came to farm to steal the jack fruits, both their hands got stuck to the fruit. When Dharmadev and Ghanshyam reached the farm, the thieves begged for forgiveness and say to Dharmadev.

Q.2 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. Who named the Lord? (4/7)
A. Sage Markandey named the Lord.
2. What did Ghanshyam wear when he left home? (45/88)
A. Ghanshyam wore only one piece of a loin-cloth, when he left home.
3. What did Dharmadev fetch to protect Ghanshyam from monkeys? (16/26)
A. Dharmadev fetched a stick to protect Ghanshyam from monkeys.
4. What happened to Ghanshyam's teeth that were lying on the ground? (27/52)
A. Ghanshyam's teeth that were lying on the ground turned into pearls.

Q.3 Rewrite the incorrect sentences 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. **Siddhis at his service:** Ghanshyam had a maternal aunt, named Lakshmibai. One morning she asked Bhaktimata, 'What shall I cook today?' (8/12)
2. **Birth of Ghanshyam:** It is the night of Monday, 2 April 1781. Chaitra sud 9, Samvat year 1837. The time is 10 o'clock at night. (1/1)
3. **Lakshmibai sees a miracle:** The boys would enter the house secretly, take the earthen pot from a basket suspended from the ceiling, and enjoy the feast of milk, curd, makhan or whatever else was in the pot. (30/58)
4. **Seen in many mandirs at the same time:** There were many mandirs on the way. So Rampratapbhai thought he might as well have darshan. He entered one of the mandirs, and found Ghanshyam, sitting and listening to the Ramayan. (19/31)

Q.4 Write briefly five main points (in sentences) on any ONE incident. (Narration is not required.) (Total Marks: 5)

 **Note : It is not necessary that the answer is written in the following way. If the incident is covered up in five sentences then marks will be given.**


1. **A Test for the son (5/8-9)**
 1. Once, Dharmadev decided to test his son, Ghanshyam.
 2. He asked for a small stool from Bhaktimata and then covered it with a silk cloth and placed a gold coin, a book and a small sword on it.
 3. Then, with Bhaktimata he waited with great interest to see which of the three things Ghanshyam would pick up.
 4. Within a short time, Ghanshyam got down from his cradle, went to the stool and picked up the book.
 5. Seeing this, Dharmadev and Bhaktimata were convinced that their son would study and become a scholar.
2. **Curing smallpox (12/19-20)**
 1. Once in very hot summer, when Ghanshyam was down with fever, Chandamasi advised Bhaktimata, "Ghanshyam has smallpox, so put him to bed."
 2. Lakshmibai, Bhaktimata's sister-in-law advised, "Do not allow him to go out, or to wash, or even to touch water for twenty days."
 3. When Ghanshyam heard this, he said, "We are Brahmins. So we must take a bath everyday. When I will take a cold water bath the smallpox and the fever will both disappear."

4. Believing to his words, Bhaktimata poured a few buckets of cold water on him and she found that the smallpox had subsided and the fever too had gone down.
5. Seeing the miraculous recovery, both Chandamasi and Lakshmibai thought that Ghanshyam must surely be God himself. They bowed to him, and went back home.

3. Walking on water (38/75-76)

1. One afternoon in Chhapaiya, Ghanshyam, accompanied by Ichchharam and some friends had a bath in the Meen Lake on the outskirts of the village and played amlipili under a banyan tree till the evening.
2. Suddenly, as it began to rain heavily with thunder and lightning rent the sky, the whole of the surrounding area was inundated with water, his friends Veni, Madhav and Prag were worried about how they would reach home.
3. Ichchharam asked Ghanshyam, "How can we go home in this flood water? I will drown if I try to walk through the water."
4. Ghanshyam got down from the tree. He kept Ichchharam behind him holding his dhoti. The others follow similarly holding on to one another's dhotis, they all walked behind Ghanshyam.
5. When they came to the water's edge, they were lifted above the ground and even rain did not touch them. Seeing this, Dharmadev, Bhaktimata and the parents of all the children bowed to Ghanshyam believing him to be God himself.

Q.5 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 8)

 **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 (26/49) 2. 3, 4 (3/6) 3. 2 (6/10) 4. 4 (45/87)

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

1. Ghanshyam restored Vrajvihari's eyesight. (41/82)

A. When Ghanshyam asked a question about vairagya, Vrajvihari did not answer his question during discourse. He told him, "Come to my house. I shall answer all of your questions.". Ghanshyam was disappointed with the reply. He felt pity for Vrajvihari. He placed his hand on Vrajvihari's head & gazed into his eyes. So his eyesight restored. (41/84)

2. The boatman asked for more money from Ghanshyam. (34/68)

A. Ghanshyam told the boatman, "We want a separate boat. Can you provide one?" So the boatman asked for more money from Ghanshyam, to reserve the whole boat.

3. Dharmadev told Ramprataphai to take care of his younger brothers.(44/86)

A. As Ghanshyam was not attached in any way to this mundane existence, when Dharmadev fell ill and could not even get up from his bed, he told Ramprataphai to take care of Ghanshyam and treat him with love and respect and not to speak to him harshly, and also to take good care of Ichchharam.

(SECTION - 2: YOGIJI MAHARAJ, 8th Edition, February-2014)

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. "I will teach you how to meditate." (2/2-3)
 - Jinabhai to his friends
 - When Jinabhai comes out of rapt meditation, his friends asked him "What were you doing?" then.....

2. "You will be a great sadhu one day." (11/15-16)
 - ⇒ Rajput devotee to Jina bhagat
 - ⇒ A Rajput devotee, who was an expert in astrology and palmistry, was struck with wonder when he saw the soles of Jina Bhagat's feet. He had never seen such extraordinary lines on the feet of any sadhu before. So he says this to Jina Bhagat.
3. "Today, I have failed to give you water on time." (20/31-32)
 - ⇒ Yogiji Maharaj to Harikrishna Maharaj
 - ⇒ Once Yogiji Maharaj with Nirgundas Swami was going to Gadhadra from Sarangpur. He did not find water anywhere on the route on that hot summer's day. So he asked for forgiveness to Thakorji and says.....

Q.8 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. Why did the sadhus and the devotees help in the construction of the mandir? (18/28)
 - A. Due to lack of funds, the sadhus and the devotees helped in the construction of the mandir.
2. What did Yogiji Maharaj say during his final illness? (33/55)
 - A. During his final illness Yogiji Maharaj had said, "Pramukh Swami is everything to me. All of you will now enjoy the bliss of God through him."
3. From whose foot did Yogiji Maharaj remove the thorn ? (17/27)
 - A. Yogiji Maharaj removed the thorn from Sadhu Narayanprasad's foot.
4. Where was Yogiji Maharaj's Amrut Mahotsav celebrated? (28/45)
 - A. Yogiji Maharaj's Amrut Mahotsav was celebrated in Gondal.

Q.9 Select the six correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes. (Total Marks: 6)

Topic: Jinabhai's courage (3/3-4)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|
| (1) Write the correct sentence numbers | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 12 |
| (2) Correct sequence of sentences | 11 | 12 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 |

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.10 Write short notes on "The likings of Yogiji Maharaj" (31/51-52) (In 15 lines.) (Total Marks: 5)

Yogiji Maharaj used to wear only coarse clothes throughout his life. He was very simple and liked to spend his time in service. He always ate simple food which he mixed in a wooden bowl and ate only after adding water to it. Whenever there was any special dish or if there were any sweet delicacies, he would fast on that day. He always had a smile on his face. He was at home with young and old alike, inquired about their welfare and blessed them all. He prayed to Shriji Maharaj that everyone be relieved of their miseries. He chanted the Swaminarayan Mahamantra constantly with a mala in his hand.

Yogiji Maharaj had a special bond with children. He affectionately called them to him and taught them to sing, "Swami ane Narayan, Akshar ane Purushottam, Atma ane Paramatma, Brahman ane Parabrahman."

He often gathered the children around him and taught them to sing bhajans, and to recite Swamini Vatus. He narrated stories from the life of Shriji Maharaj and Gunatitanand Swami to point out a moral or teach truths to the children. He also narrated incidents from the lives of Shastriji Maharaj and Bhagatji Maharaj as illustrations of correct thought and conduct. He taught everyone how to perform puja and arti and gave them prasad.

Yogiji Maharaj instructed youths to rise early in the morning. After getting up he told them to first remember Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Then, after bathing, one should perform puja, offer prostrations, and read five verses from the Shikshapatri. After puja, one should do one's school work. School children should regularly study for four hours a day and college students for eight hours. Elders must always be shown due respect. Children should daily bow to their parents.


Before going to school or college, one must apply tilak-chandlo to one's forehead. Everybody should visit the mandir daily. They should attend the weekly assemblies without fail. They should commit to memory Swamini Vatu, Vachanamruts and kirtans. Milk and water should be filtered before drinking. One should fast on ekadashi. One should not steal, nor use another's materials without permission. One should not touch another's lost property. One should not smoke or tell lies. One should neither see films nor attend plays. One should not eat in hotels or in the bazaar.

Q.11 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)

1. Thakorji accepted thal in Bhavnagar. (19/29-30)
 - A. In Bhavnagar at Prabhudas Sheth's house the thal was placed before murtis. Yogiji Maharaj started singing thal with profound devotion. After half an hour they saw that five ladoos, dal and some rice had been accepted. The water cup was also half empty. They were convinced that Yogiji Maharaj enjoyed the favour of Swami and Shriji.
2. Many satsang youth centres sprang up in Gujarat. (25/38)
 - A. Yogiji Maharaj established youth centres in every village or city he visited. He kept a record and encouraged them by writing to the members regularly. If any centre had stopped, he would restart it. Thus many youth centres sprang up in Gujarat.
3. The government doctor fell at the feet of Shastriji Maharaj. (21/32-33)
 - A. When a venomous black cobra bit Yogiji Maharaj and Shastriji Maharaj heard of it, he told to take Yogiji Maharaj to the Akshar Deri and chant the Swaminarayan mahamantra. He also said that the effect of the poison would vanish by the divine power of the Swaminarayan mahamantra. After exactly twelve hours, the effect of the poison subsided. The government doctor was amazed to see that the effect of the poison had been nullified by chanting the Swaminarayan mantra. So, the government doctor fell at the feet of Shastriji Maharaj.

SECTION-3: KISHORE SATSANG PRARAMBH, 8th Edition, October - 2010

Q.12 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. Which direction should one face while performing puja? (5/10)
 - A. One should face towards east or north direction while performing puja.
2. Why did Mulji request his mother to sing the songs of the sacred thread ceremony? (15/38)
 - A. Mulji requested his mother to sing the songs of the sacred thread ceremony because at that time Lord Ghanshyam was being given the sacred thread in Ayodhya.

3. Who gave Dungar Bhakta bhagwati diksha and what name was he given? (17/50)
A. Acharya Viharilalji Maharaj gave bhagvati diksha to Dungar Bhakta and he was named Swami Yagnapurushdas.
4. Which devotee from Vadodara used to present skilfully woven clothes to Shriji Maharaj? (20/56)
A. Nath Bhakta from Vadodara used to present skilfully woven clothes to Shriji Maharaj.

Q.13 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 8)

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 (5/14) 2. 1, 3 (18/52)
3. 2 (13/34) 4. 1, 3 (8/20)

Q.14 Fill in the blanks. (Total Marks: 4)

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

1. Shriji Maharaj, brave (6/15-16) 3. Shikshapatri, observance (4/8)
2. Gadhada, Shriji Maharaj (22/61) 4. Bhumanand, four (12/30)

Q.15 Complete the kirtans/verses/shloks below. (Total Marks: 8)

Note : If the Kirtan/Verses/shloks are half correct 1 mark to be given.

1. Avya Akshardhamthi avanima, aishvarya mukto lai,
Shobhe Aksharsath sundar chhabi, lavanya tejomayi.
Karta divya sada rahe pragat je, sakar sarvopari,
Sahajanand krupalune nit namu, sarvavatari Hari. (9/23-24)
2. Galya sata ghebar fulvadi, dudhpak malpua kadhi,
puri pochi thai chhe ghi ma chadhi.....
Athana shak sundar bhaji, lavi chhu tarat kari taji,
dahi bhat sakar chhe jhajhi..... (12/31)
3. Ame sau Shrijitana putro, Akshare vas amaro chhe;
Svadharmibhasma choli to, amare kshobh shano chhe....
Juo sau motina Swami, na rakhi kai te khami;
Pragat Purushottam pami, malya Gunatit Swami..... (B.S.)
4. Shastriji Maharajna gun nitya gaou, Yogiji Maharajna gun nitya gaou,
Pramukh Swamina gun nitya gaou, Tav charnoma shish namaou,
Ashish vachan dyo anandkari..... (3/5)

Q.16 "Bhagwan to potana bhaktani..." (16/45-47) - Complete the Swamini Vato and write an explanatory note on it (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Note: If Swami-ni-vato is written fully correct give 1 mark. 4 marks are for explanation. In Book Swamini Vato is written in Gujarati and is translated in English, give full marks to examinee if any of them is written by examinee.

Swaminarayan Hare Swamie vat kari je: Bhagwan to potana bhaktani raksha karvamaj betha chhe. Keni pethe? To jem papan ankhni raksha kare chhe ne hath kanthni raksha kare chhe ne mavtar chhokrani raksha kare chhe ne raja prajani rakshama chhe, temaj Bhagwan Aapni rakshama chhe. (1.22)

"God always protects his devotees. Just as the eyelids protect the eyes, the

hands protect the neck, a mother protects her child and a king protects his subjects, God protects us."

Prahlad, Narsinh Mehta, Mirabai, for example, were so deeply devoted to God that he protected them from all evil forces. Similarly, Shriji Maharaj protects his devotees as the following story shows.

A devotee called Naja Bhakta was living in the small town of Bhadli. This small town was much oppressed by the shepherds. So Naja Bhakta went to live in another town called Bhoyra. He told Vasur Khachar, the king, about the glory of Shriji Maharaj. The king heard him and then said, "If your God is really God, then he should present himself here tomorrow. Otherwise I will break your kneecaps."

At that time Shriji Maharaj was in Visnagar. "How can Maharaj reach Bhoyra in one night?" worried Naja Bhakta.

The king was a very cruel man and would not hesitate to carry out his threat. Desperately Naja Bhakta began to think of Shriji Maharaj and made a silent appeal.

Meanwhile, Shriji Maharaj started out from Visnagar. On the way, near Vadhvan, there was a river in flood. Walking over the waters, Maharaj reached Bhoyra early in the morning and sent a messenger to the king, "Naja Bhakta's God has arrived." Early in the morning, when Naja Bhakta opened the door of his house, he saw Shriji Maharaj standing at his door. He was stunned. He knelt at the feet of Maharaj in gratitude. Then after some time the two went together to the court of the cruel king. On the way, Maharaj heard about the people's woes and their cries of anguish.


Naja Bhakta told Maharaj, "The king is very cruel man. He punishes people without mercy and breaks their kneecaps."

When the king came to meet Shriji Maharaj, Shriji Maharaj at once sent him into samadhi and showed him the horrors of hell. Here Yamraj beat him mercilessly.

After some time, by the grace of Maharaj, he came out of the samadhi. Immediately he fell at the feet of Maharaj, confessed his evil deeds and asked for forgiveness. He realized that Swaminarayan was God incarnate.

Shriji Maharaj instructed him to be good and never subject people to terrible punishments. Then, Shriji Maharaj initiated him into the Fellowship and made him a satsangi. This was how Maharaj protected his devotee Naja Bhakta, when he was in danger.

Q.17 'The Muslim Woman from Bhal region (14/34-35,37) - Write five brief sentences on the main points of this incident. (Continuous narration not required.)
(Total Marks: 5)

 **Note: It is not necessary that the answer is written in the following way. If the incident is covered up in five sentences then marks be given.**

1. As God is merciful, even a little time spent in devoted service to God, whether he is a Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Parsi, whether he is a man or woman, whether young or old, he is merciful to one and all. He showers his blessings on all alike.
2. A Muslim woman in a town called Sodhi in Bhal district, had reared a babul tree in her garden only for God.
3. Once, when Shriji Maharaj came to the outskirts of that village, stayed to have a bath in the pond, he asked Sura Khachar to bring a babul stick for him.
4. Sura Khachar saw the babul tree in compound of Muslim woman. He requested to give him a stick. The Bibi said, "This stick is for God only and if he is God then I will come personally to offer him the stick."
5. Bibi gave the babul stick to Maharaj and prayed, "O Swaminarayan! Please come to take me to heaven when my days are over!" and with the same babul stick in his hand Maharaj came when the end of her life was near and transported her to Akshardham.

