



(Time: 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.)

**SATSANG PRAVIN : PAPER - 1**

**Note:** A few of the questions in this Pre-Test Paper will be asked in the Final Examination to be held on Sunday, 4 March 2018. In the Final Examination answers written on extra pages will not be considered valid. Without the prior permission of the Pariksha Karyalay in Ahmedabad, answer papers written by substitute writers in place of the original candidate will not be accepted. Answer papers with more than one type of handwriting will not be accepted. Answers crossed out will not be considered valid. Answers will not be considered valid if they are not written in legible handwriting. Use the latest editions of the exam books. Candidates will not be allowed to keep any electronic items, such as, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, etc. in the examination room.

**SECTION 1: AKSHAR PURUSHOTTAM UPASANA - 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, May 2012**

**Total Marks: 100**

**Q.1 For any TWO of the following, give THREE references from the scriptures. (It is compulsory to write the reference scripture and number.)** [6]

1. Shriji Maharaj – The supreme: In his own words.
2. Importance of upasana.
3. Disadvantages of understanding God as nirakar.

**Q.2 Given below are references from the scriptures, principles or stanzas. Write the topic they relate to.** [5]

**Example:** “Rather, it is the extent of a person’s faith in his Ishtadev – God – that determines how much distinction between atma and non-atma he cultivates.”

**Ans:** Necessity of faith in Divine Supremacy.

1. “Tadaikshata bahu syam prajayeyeti.”
2. “This Sadhu is a foreigner (i.e. does not belonging to this universe).”
3. “Therefore, a devotee of God should realize that the form of God along with his Akshardham is present on this earth, and he should also explain this fact to others.”
4. “Tameva viditvatimrityumeti nanyaha pantha vidyate’yanaya II”
5. “If one associates with Brahman through continuous contemplation in this manner, the jiva acquires the virtues of that Brahman.”

**Q.3 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct options.** [4]

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

1. Characteristics of the gunatit sadhu.
  - (1) ☐ Jadbuddhi jiva, Akshar padne ichchhe to kar Santnu parkhu.
  - (2) ☐ So nar tumha saman Raghuraya.
  - (3) ☐ That Sant appears to be human, he is still worthy of being worshipped on par with God.
  - (4) ☐ The Sant who possesses these attributes has a direct relationship with God.
2. In which forms does Aksharbrahman serve?
  - (1) ☐ Antaryami form of Parbrahman
  - (2) ☐ As Satchidanand Chidakash radiance
  - (3) ☐ Manifest on earth as the Brahmanwarup Satpurush form of Aksharbrahman.
  - (4) ☐ As divine, personal and nirakar.

**Q.4 Describe any ONE of the following and highlight its significance.** [4]

1. Bapu Ratanji in Junagadh.
2. Shitaldas became Vyapakanand Swami.
3. Ramanand Swami rebuked Lalji Suthar.

**Q.5 Write briefly on any TWO of the following. (In 12 lines each.)** [8]

1. Shriji Maharaj –The supreme: In the words of the paramhansas
2. The need to become brahmarup: For unhindered devotion.
3. God has a form and is all-pervasive. How?

**Q.6 Explain any TWO of the following, giving reasons. (In 12 lines each.)** [8]

1. Shriji Maharaj is fully and forever pragat through the Sadhu.
2. Shastriji Maharaj often used to say, “We are the bullocks of Akshar Purushottam.”
3. Even after millions of years, without becoming aksharrup and worshipping Purushottam, there is no final release.

**Q.7 Complete the following statements based on the summary.** [7]

**(What to understand in upasana?)**

1. Ishwar is an ..... brahmands.
2. He (Parbrahman) is the cause ..... an avatar manifests.
3. Aksharbrahman is separate ..... free of all faults.
4. In the form of Dham ..... are able to enter it.

**(What not to understand in upasana?)**

5. When God manifests ..... during that period.
6. Paramhansas ..... Mul Aksharbrahman.
7. Only Purushottam ..... Aksharbrahman.

**Q.8 Write short notes on: 'Liberation through the pragat form of God or his Sadhu.'** [5]

**SECTION 2: SATSANG READER PART 3, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, June 2015 &  
PORTRAIT OF INSPIRATION - PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, April 2011**

**Q.9 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when.** [9]

1. "Have you not gone yet?"
2. "Your jiva, I feel that satsang is no longer predominant in your heart."
3. "The mission of God and His holy Sadhu is to bring people closer to each other."

**Q.10 Give reasons for the following. (In 9 lines each.)** [8]

1. They began to beat the pujari. **OR**
2. Nishkulanand Swami went away from Gadhada.
3. David, Daniel and Richard left wondering at the spark of divinity. **OR**
4. Ganesh's happiness knew no bounds.

**Q.11 Answer the following concisely. (12 lines each.)** [8]

1. Paramchaitanyanand Swami in Dharampur. **OR**
2. Muktanand Swami: Mother of the Satsang.
3. Innocent tribals are the sons and daughters of Eternity. **OR**
4. Happy conclusion to the protests.

**Q.12 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer.** [5]

1. What did the son say to his mother?
2. Where and what did Khushal Bhakta and the Brahmins pray to God?
3. Who was Parvatbhai's choicest deity?
4. In which city did Pramukh Swami Maharaj eat the distasteful kadhi?
5. Where and on what occasion did Swamishri collect used datan sticks?

**Q.13 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct options.** [8]

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

1. Raghuvirji Maharaj.  
(1) ☐ In the whole of Vartal, only Raghuvirji Maharaj recognized me properly.  
(2) ☐ His style of renunciation resembled that of Maharaj.  
(3) ☐ Raghuvirji Maharaj was the son of Rampratapbhai.  
(4) ☐ Raghuvirji Maharaj consecrated(installed) Harikrishna Maharaj in Vartal.
2. Shivalbhai's spiritual condition.  
(1) ☐ When did you come? (2) ☐ I only have these clothes and ornaments.  
(3) ☐ How much will come to our house? (4) ☐ When was this mansion constructed?
3. Help to humanity by Swamishri.  
(1) ☐ Pious for whole the life in Panchvartamaan.  
(2) ☐ In the war of Afghanistan.  
(3) ☐ The world renowned Swaminarayan Mandir in London.  
(4) ☐ Natural disasters in Orissa and Maharashtra.
4. Various heads of government and royalty who have been touched by Swamishri's saintliness:  
(1) ☐ Nani Palkhiwala. (2) ☐ Atal Bihari Vajpayee.  
(3) ☐ David Blair. (4) ☐ Prince Charles.

**SECTION 3: ESSAY**

**Q.14 Write an essay on any ONE of the following: (In approximately 60 lines.)** [15]

1. Tenth anniversary celebration of Atlanta Mandir.  
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) August-September 2017, pp. 27 to 33, 39 to 42)
2. Spiritual dawn rises in the continent of Africa.  
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) May 2017, pp. 12 to 17)
3. Dignitaries comment during the grand inauguration of the art album on Bhagwan Swaminarayan.  
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) June 2017, pp. 23 to 28)



 **Important Note:** Past Papers and their solutions can be downloaded and printed free from the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha's website - link : <http://www.baps.org/Satsang-Exams.aspx>

 **Matter of above three essays are shown in the following pages**

(One essay from the list of essays will be asked in the Final Examination  
of March-2018.)

**Pravin Essay 1:**  
**Tenth Anniversary Celebration of Atlanta Mandir**

**I. Paragraphs 1-2**

- A. The day of 06/21/2017 will be always be remembered in the spiritual history of America. As Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj was sanctifying the land of America for the first time as Guru and the spiritual heir of Param Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj.
- B. Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj left London on 06/21/2017 after bidding farewell to the devotees there. He boarded the air plane of the british airways and landed in Atlanta.
- C. On behalf of the North American devotees and sadhus, Pujya Yagnavallabdas Swami and Kanubhai Patel welcomed Swamishri by offering a garland.

**II. Paragraphs 3-5**

- A. Mahant Swami Maharaj received a grand welcome from the devotees at the Atlanta mandir. Swamishri entered by walking on red carpet with thakorji in his hands and met everyone by lovingly looking at all the devotees. The devotees swayed to the “Valam Vadhana Ho, Swami Ne Harshe Vadhavye” as Santo garlanded Swamishri. As a welcome to Swamishri, the devotees had taken part in various fasts.
- B. After doing deep pragatya, Swamishri greeted everyone by saying, “Jai Swaminarayan”. This triggered the memory of Param Pujya Pramukh Swami Maharaj arriving in Robinsville in 2014 and greeting the devotees in the same manner. Then Swamishri retired to his utaro.
- C. Swagat Sabha for Swamishri was organized in Atlanta on 6/23/2017. Swamishri was welcomed with the Yuvaks dancing to “Swagat kariye re, guru charne namiye re...”.

**III. Paragraphs 6-9**

- A. Many dignitaries were present in the welcome assembly. Amongst them were U.S. congressman Mr. Rob Woodall, Lilburn city administrators.
- B. In his Ashirwad, Swamishri said, “The yuvaks and the dignitaries welcomed everyone in a grand fashion and surrounded everything in happiness. Why wouldn't there be happiness? Maharaj and Swami are present here. Attaining Maharaj and swami is our biggest wealth. Shriji Maharaj came on earth to bring us happiness. Nobody is bigger than him. Gunatitand Swami is Mul Akshar and Maharaj and present within him. Both Maharaj and Swami are present within the Satpurush. Maharaj has said, ‘Bhagwan does not leave this earth’.

**IV. Section 1: Abhishek Murti Pratishtha and Rath yatra Utsav**

- A. On June 24<sup>th</sup> 2017, Swamishri performed the Murti Pratishtha of the Nilkanth Varni murti. There was annkut set up near the Nilkanth murti and Swamishri gave his ashirwaad standing near the aankut. In his ashirwaad, Swamishri said, “I pray that Nilkanth Varni fulfils everyones’ sankalps and that their financial situation improves”.
- B. After the ashirwaad, Swamishri performed the aarti of the Nilkanth murti. Devotees from all over North America gathered to celebrate the Rath Yatra Utsav with Swamishri. Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj started the celebration by performing the aarti of Hari Krishna Maharaj and then placing him in the Rath. He operated the Rath via a remote control and gave everyone this darshan smruti. Swamishri inaugurated three books, *Expressions, Impressions and Feelings*, *Royal Path of Brahavidya – Swaminarayan Sadhana* and *Hinduism – Sacred Texts*.
- C. Yuva din in Atlanta mandir was celebrated on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2017. The theme of the Yuva din was, “Eva Sant ne Namu hu Shish”. Yuvaks recived the

opportunity to sing in Swamishri's morning puja, ask him question in the FAQ sessions as well as receive sanctified smrutibhets.

- D. Mahant Swami Maharaj drew a nilkanth varni and said, "Nilkanth Varni Sathe chhe". In the evening assembly swamishri sat in a hindolo and gave everyone present an opportunity to swing him.
- E. In his Ashirwad Swamishri said, "This satsang is divya. Just like we value \$1000 dollars and know it's worth because its' been stamped by the government. The same way, each devotee of this satsang has been stamped by Shriji Maharaj. He further adds that Shriji Maharaj has said, "Even if some devotee does not do my seva, but if he sings the praises of a devotee then it is considered as if he has performed a great seva of mine.

## **V. Section 2: Bal Din**

- A. Bal Din was celebrated on June 26, 2017. In Swamishri's morning puja, the children invited him to the special evening program for Bal Din. The kids performed a musical skit and pleased Swamishri.
- B. In his Ashirwad, Swami requested the children to be aware of the Kusang and engage in Satsang. In the second part of the program, Swamishri drew the the story of the ant and the elephant. He added that Maharaj and Swami are like the elephant. Let's thank God that he has given us this Satsang. We can only attain moksh if we have strong association with the Satpurush.

## **VI. Section 3: Kishore Din**

- A. Kishore Din was celebrated on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Kishore's questions were presented in the form of kirtans in Swamishri's morning puja. After the puja, Swamishri was presented with the invitation to the Kishore Din programs.
- B. At 11:20 am, Swamishri arrived to join the Kishore Shibir. There Swamishri took part in an FAQ session. Then he was garlanded by the various Kishore pravrutti santo and the kishores received a chance to have close darshan of Swamishri.
- C. At 7:23 pm, Swamishri arrived in the evening assembly of the Kishore Din. The kishores presented mukhpath to Swamishri. The kishores and kishoris became nishkapt in front of Swamishri through letters. Swamishri appreciated their gesture and in his ashirwad said, " Maharaj and Swami will forgive everyone's mistakes".

## **VII. Section 4: Shishu Din**

- A. Shishu Din was celebrated on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2017. In the evening at 7:40 pm Swamishri arrived in the Shishu sabha. After performing the aarti of Hari Krishna Maharaj, Swamishri took his seat.
- B. Then 100 shishus came on stage and sat around Swamishri. The program was on a theme of a shishu sabha.
- C. Swamishri said that he sees Yogiji Maharaj and Pramukh Swami Maharaj in all the children.

## **VIII. Section 5: Karyakar Sabha**

- A. A karyakar sabha in Atlanta was organized on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. The hall was tightly packed with karyakars when Swamishri arrived at 7:10 pm.
- B. On behalf of the karyakars, Pujya Vivek Murti Swami asked, "What is the best way to do seva? Swamishri responded, "We have received this seva so that we can grow and develop as individuals. This seva is not going to stop without us and we should think how fortunate we are to receive this seva. We are given this seva so that we can strengthen our bhakti. We should perform our seva with this mindset and also have enthusiasm in our seva."

## **IX. Section 6: Atlanta Mandir Dashabdi Mahotsav**

- A. Atlanta is the capital of Georgia state and a popular city of the U.S. Pramukh Swami Maharaj built a beautiful traditional Hindu mandir in this major city. This mandir has been awarded the title of the biggest Hindu mandir in the western hemisphere.
- B. In 2017, the mandir completed 10 years and a grand celebration took place on 7/1/2017 in the presence of Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj.
- C. The Secretary of the Georgia state, Brian Kemp, awarded Swamishri with the key to the city and declared that day as "Maharaj Swami Maharaj Day".
- D. In his blessings Mahant Swami Maharaj said, "Pramukh Swami Maharaj has given us the gift of this beautiful mandir. There has been a big growth in the satsang community in the last 10 years. Shriji Maharaj took birth on earth and looked towards the west. He gave the joy of satsang to 500 paramhansos and 20 million devotees. Our gurus and Pramukh Swami Maharaj has continued that satsang tradition by creating this mandir."

## **X. Section 7: Diksha Utsav**

- A. Diksha Din was celebrated in Atlanta on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. Two sadhaks were going to receive the Parshadi diksha by Mahant Swami Maharaj.
- B. In his blessings Swamishri said, "We thank the parents of these two Parshads. These two also have asked that they receive the strength to follow this path and please their guru. They will definitely become sadhus."

## **XI. Section 8: Pratik Guru Purnima**

- A. On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Pragat Guru Hari Mahant Swami Maharaj celebrated Pratik Guru Purnima in Atlanta. Atmaswarup swami gave the main discourse.
- B. Then, Narayan muni swami asked Swamishri, "You have written Divine memories 4 and provided us with various smrutis of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, how was your experience of writing about your guru?". Param Pujya Mahant Swami responded by sharing, "Our satsang and devotees have grown to this extend due to the work of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Pramukh Swami Maharaj has taken care of us as a mother, father, and a son. It is a distinct pleasure to write about the instances from his life and continue to be inspired by him.
- C. In his blessings Swamishri said, "Yogibapa used to say, 'Satpurush ma nirdoshbudhi rakhvi ej saachu gurupujan.' We have attained the same swarup on this earth that resides in the Akshardham. We should not see any faults in the Satpurush. It is very hard to stay together and understand everything by keeping Mahima. But if you apply nirdoshbudhi then there would be no questions left. That's why we should keep nirdoshbudhi".

### **Pravin Essay 2: Spiritual Dawn Rises in the Continent of Africa**

#### **BLISS Article: "A New Light on the African Continent"**

##### **I. Summary:**

- A. The article provides a glimpse into the history of the growth of satsang in Africa. Satsang in Africa went from a handful of dedicated and enterprising devotees to a flourishing, dynamic fellowship. Thus showing what faith, perseverance, and the blessings of God and guru can achieve.

##### **II. Bliss Article:**

- A. Please refer to the Bliss Article (May-June 2017) for more information. It can be found on **pages 37-41**.
- B. Link to the article: <http://www.baps.org/Bliss/2017/Swaminarayan-Bliss-May-June-2017-11534.aspx>

**Pravin Essay 3:**  
**Dignitaries Comment During the Grand Inauguration of the Art Album on**  
**Bhagwan Swaminarayan**

**BLISS Article: “Launch of an Iconic Art Publication: Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan  
a Saga in Paintings”**

**I. Summary:**

- A. On Friday, 21 April 2017, a special evening event for inaugurating an iconic art publication depicting Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s divine life and work was held at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, Ahmedabad, in the divine presence of HH Mahant Swami Maharaj, acclaimed artists, invited dignitaries and thousands of devotees. The article highlights their commentaries on the publication.

**II. Bliss Article:**

- A. Please refer to the Bliss Article (July-August 2017) for more information. It can be found on **pages 21-25, and 37.**
- B. Link to the article: <http://www.baps.org/Bliss/2017/Swaminarayan-Bliss-July-August-2017-11957.aspx>