

A few of the questions in this Pre-Test Paper will be asked in the Final Examination to be held on Sunday, 5 March 2017. Use the latest editions of the exam books.

BOCHASANWASI SHRI AKSHAR PURUSHOTTAM SWAMINARAYAN SANSTHA
SATSANG EXAMINATIONS

PRE-TEST: SATSANG PRAGNA-1 : PAPER - 1

JANUARY 2017

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

Total Marks: 100



For absent examinees, please return this sheet only.



Please do not damage in any way the 'bar code' printed above.



Compulsory: To be filled by Examinee only

Answer books without the signature of the Class Supervisor will not be considered valid.

Birthdate of Examinee

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Education of Examinee

Class Supervisor should only sign after checking the printed personal details and the compulsory written details above.

Signature of Class Supervisor



Please follow the instructions written on the back side.

Paper Checker's Signature

Paper Checker's Note:

For Moderation Dept.	Que. No. (Marks)	Marks Obtained
	1 (4)	
	2 (4)	
	3 (4)	
	4 (4)	
	5 (9)	

Section-1, Total Marks (25)

For Moderation Dept.	Que. No. (Marks)	Marks Obtained
	6 (12)	
	7 (8)	
	8 (12)	
	9 (8)	

Section-2, Total Marks (40)

For Moderation Dept.	Que. No. (Marks)	Marks Obtained
	10 (5)	
	11 (6)	
	12 (3)	
	13 (6)	
	14 (15)	

Section-3, Total Marks (35)

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શબ્દોમાં

ચેકરનું નામ

Only for absent examinees: Cut only this front page with the 'bar code' from the answer book and return with form A and form B.

Important Instructions For Satsang Exam Students

1. Students can appear for the Satsang Exams from Prarambh to Pragna - 3 after passing each exam.
2. Satsang exam is only valid for use by the candidate identified on the top sheet, and only at the designated center, in the specified medium (Gujarati, Hindi, English) and for the exam level (e.g. Prarambha, Pravesh, Parichay, etc.) indicated. **Any difference will not be allowed and considered as disqualify.**
3. The medium (Gujarati, English, Hindi) and the exam level in which candidates take **the Pre-Test** will be the medium in which they must take the Final Exam. Answer books bearing details of candidates different from the Final List **will not be accepted for marking.**
4. On the day of the Final Satsang Examinations, all examinees should obtain the signature of the class supervisor on the top sheet of answer book bearing their own personal details only. Answer books without the signature of the Class Supervisor will **not** be accepted for marking.
5. Write your answers with either a blue or black pen only. Answers written in pencil, or with a red, green or any other coloured pen will **not be considered valid**. Answers written in more than one coloured ink will not be considered valid.
6. Follow the instructions while answering. Answers crossed out will not be considered valid. Answers will not be considered valid if they are not written in legible handwriting. Please write clearly and legibly. **Answer papers with more than one type of handwriting will not be accepted and considered as disqualify.**
7. Examinations taken at **unauthorized locations** or in which the exam rules have been violated will not be considered valid.
8. Without the prior permission of the Satsang Exam Division in India, answer papers written by substitute writers in place of the original candidate will **not be accepted for marking.**
9. Candidates who wish to change the center at which they will sit the Final Exam **must inform and take prior permission** of the Satsang Exam Division in India. Otherwise their answer sheet **not be accepted for marking.**
10. Candidates who have registered for both papers of Satsang Pragna Exam and candidates sitting the Satsang Pravesh, Parichay and Pravin exams should give both papers. **Presence in only one paper will not be accepted for marking.**
11. **In the Final Examination answers written on extra pages will not be accepted for marking.**
12. Candidates will not be allowed to keep any electronic items, such as, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, etc. in the examination room.
13. **Before filling the Application Form for the Pragna Exam, Please note the following points:**
 - Students according to their choice can appear for both the Question Papers in the same year or appear for the 1st paper in the first and the 2nd paper in the following year for any of the Pragna Exams. **One can only appear for the 2nd Paper after passing the 1st Paper.** Candidates opting to sit only one of the two papers for any of the Pragna examinations must score 45 Marks to pass.
 - Student should make his/her choice while registration. Pragna candidate can choose first paper or Both papers. **Select the first paper if the student wishes to appear for the first paper and if he/she wishes to appear for both papers select both papers.** Candidates who have registered for both papers of Satsang Pragna Exam should give both papers. **Presence in only one paper will be considered as disqualify.** Candidates who appear for both papers in the same year must score a combined minimum of 90 Marks to pass.
 - After passing the 1st paper, one can **postpone** appearing for the 2nd paper for a **maximum of 1 Year.**
 - If two students are eligible for a prize then the one who has appeared for **both exams together** will be **rewarded with 10% marks** and thus become a candidate for the prize.
 - **Note : Now all students who have passed the India Pravin Exams can appear for the Pragna - 1 Exam.**
14. **No valid registration!!! No result.**

SECTION 1: VACHANAMRUT - 1st Edition, December 2011

Q.1 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. [4]

1. Which two forms does Akshar have?

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2. What does total affection for God mean?

3. By whom can one attain ekantik dharma?

4. According to Vachanamrut Gadhada I 18, what is Maharaj's nature?

Q.2 Write concisely on any TWO of the following questions. (In 4-5 lines each.) [4]

1. According to Vachanamrut Gadhada I 21, how can one extremely please god?

2. How does Shriji Maharaj talk about the great satpurush in Vachanamrut Gadhada I 67?

3. According to Vachanamrut Gadhada I 60, what are the means to eradicate worldly desires?

4. According to Vachanamrut Panchala 7, when can one be said to have known God perfectly?

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Q.3 Write on any ONE of the following examples and clarify its principle. (In 4-5 lines.) [4]

1. God's eternal residence based on the example of a heap of gold and a pile of stones.

2. Example of the 'maya' of a magician.

() **Example:**

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Principle:

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Q.4 Explain any TWO of the following incidents and give a suitable Vachanamrut reference from the syllabus. (In 3-4 lines each.) [4]

1. Those who are virtuous talk about their duties while those who have faults talk about their rights.
2. When Ramsang Bapu understood the glory of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, his nastik attitude was overcome and an astik attitude developed.
3. Ten persons crossed the river. When one of them counted the remaining, they were nine, he started crying.
4. Lalji drank milk offered by Jivuba and threw the empty bowl at Abhel Khachar.

() **Reference:**

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Explanation:

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Q.5 Complete the following quotations. [9]

1. A person who safeguards
.....
..... possess a blunt intellect.
2. A Sant with such a conviction redeem countless wretched jivas.
3. Someone may appear can be called intelligent.

SECTION 2 : BHAGWAN SWAMINARAYAN JIVANCHARITRA PART 1 - 6th Gujarati Edition, May 2013 AND PART 2 - 6th Gujarati Edition, June 2012

Q.6 Write concisely on any ONE of the following. (In 30 lines.) [12]

1. Nilkanth's journey for the liberation of jivas (Only incidents from 'Divine Journey in Jungle').
2. Divine personality of Nilkanth Varni (Only incidents from 'In East Bengal').
3. Affectionate relationship between Ghanshyam and Suvasinibhabhi (Only incidents from 'Birth of Purushottam and Childhood Incidents' to 'In the Holy Land of Ayodhya').

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Q.7 Write short notes on any TWO of the following topics. (Each short note should contain two incidents of five lines each.) [8]

1. Lives transformed by Shri Hari (Only incidents from 'Shri Hari's Powers Seen Through Samadhi' to 'Prohibition on Installing Murtis of Ram, Lakshman, Janki').
2. Shri Hari won over by the devotion of devotees (Only incidents from 'Raghunathdas Causes Problems' to 'Shri Hari Enters Panchala').
3. Sadavrat in Mangrol (Only incidents from 'In the Pilgrim Place of Lojpur').

() **Incident 1:**

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Incident 2:

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Q.8 Describe any THREE of the following incidents and give your thoughts. (Write incidents in eight lines and thoughts in four lines.) [12]

1. Shri Hari in Umreth.
2. In Guptaprayag: Nilkanth Varni in a shepherd's hut in Dolahe village.
3. The Vasant Festival in Manavadar.
4. Shri Hari explains the significance of Navratra in Bhader.
5. Explained the glory of Ekadashi to Bawa Mohandas in Hanumangadhi.

() Incident:

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Thoughts:

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Q.9 Narrate incidents to describe the personality of any ONE of the characters below. [8]

1. Shitaldas (Hostile, Mangrol) (Only incidents from 'Prohibition on Installing Murtis of Ram, Lakshman and Janki').
2. Mulji Sharma (Only incidents from 'Nilkanth Varni Meets Ramanand Swami' to 'Satsang in Kutch').

() Incidents:

[illegible]

**SECTION 3: DHARMIK VIDHANO ANE BHAVNAO - 7th Gujarati Edition,
September - 2014 AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ESSAY**

1. With what feelings is a kanthi made of tulsi wood worn around the neck?

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- [illegible]

1. What does Pramukh Swami Maharaj say about gharsabha?
2. What is prayer?

[6]

- [illegible]

1. Associating with God by karma is karmayog.
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) July 2016, pp. 4 to 6, 19)
2. Enduring story of the immortal Amrut.
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) September-October 2016, pp. 7 to 15)
3. Tributes paid to Pramukh Swami Maharaj by renowned dignitaries from diverse fields.
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) September-October 2016, pp. 121 to 126)

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(One essay from the list of essays will be asked in the Final Examination of March-2017.)

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school writing paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

 **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>

Essay 1: Associating with God by karma is karmayog.

“The Presence of God in Every Action (Karma) is the Philosophy of Action (Karmayog)”

I. Section 1: Introduction

- A. To infuse our actions with yog is to perform every action by including God in them.
- B. By including God in every action, one develops firm conviction in his form and does every action with this understanding.

II. Section 2: “You are only entitled to perform actions”

- A. Every action has its appropriate fruit or reaction. No action is fruitless. Good actions bear good fruits and bad actions bear bad fruits.
- B. Some fruits are immediate and others are long-term. We refer to these long-term fruits as merits and sins.
- C. God is the only one that can give us the fruit of our actions. We have no control over that. Hence, he is known as the ‘giver of all fruits’.
- D. God gives us a body, the power to perform actions, the power to understand, the power to desire and wish and the discretion between right and wrong. The ultimate decision is up to us.
- E. Question: If we were to perform actions without thinking of or desiring the fruits, then why would anyone want to perform actions? How do you perform actions without thinking of the outcomes? Why is the discretion between good and bad even necessary then?
 - 1. Answer: It is not wrong to think of the fruits. Thinking about the fruits of our actions is going back to our ultimate goal. This helps us perform good actions and refrain from performing bad actions. But, thinking about fruits is different from being entitled to deciding what the result of our actions to be. If we believe that we should be getting certain fruits for certain actions, it may be true for a few cases, but God may not always give us the fruit we desire.
- F. This raises another question as to what the point of performing actions is if the ultimate decision is God's. That is why Bhagwan Krishna clarifies and states that one should not give up performing their actions.

III. Section 3: Infusing Yog into our Actions is the Embodiment of the Philosophy of Action

- A. Dedicating and our actions to God occur through the cleansing of our emotions. We must be non-egotistical and understand that ‘I am not performing these actions! It is through the strength of the present form of God I have that I am able to do this! He is the all-doer! I am doing everything solely to please him.’
- B. Performing your actions with spirituality means understanding yourself to be the soul (atma)- separate from the body, senses and mind. This understanding

- prevents us from being bound to our actions. Bhagwan Swaminarayan has classified such a spiritual understanding as the highest level of atmanistha.
- C. Performing actions without any desire for the fruits, recognition or anything else prevent us from getting attached to those actions.
 - D. Performing actions without the “I” and “my” factor prevent our actions from becoming polluted.
 - E. Performing actions while being lazy, tired, demotivated, and dislike invites sorrow, anguish and repentance into our lives. We should avoid this.
 - F. If we align our actions and the method of perform them to what Bhagwan Krishna says then performing actions will not remain a daunting task.
 - G. Our actions should always be in line with our scriptures and our Guru’s words.
 - H. Arjun was performing his action without spirituality, with desire and while forgetting the doership of God. This is why he was victim to doubts and sorrow during the war. Bhagwan Krishna had to teach him the philosophy of action.
 - I. Bhagwan Swaminarayan has called karma in line with the philosophy of action as described by Bhagwan Krishna, bhakti.
 - J. Bhagwan Swaminarayan says, “One who performs actions without the desire of fruits related to dharma, artha, and kam and solely for the reason of pleasing God, all of his karma become bhakti.” (Gadhada II-11)
 - K. “There is a big difference in the actions of those who are excommunicated and those who are devotees of God. The excommunicated perform actions to treat their indriyas and the devotee performs actions for the purpose of God and his devotee’s service. Hence, every action performed by a devotee of god is in fact bhakti.” (Gadhada II-11)

Essay 2: Enduring story of the immortal Amrut.

“The Sweet Eternal Legacy of an Eternal Being”

I. Section 1

- A. Born in the village of Chansad, Shantilal lived a life with simplicity. Shastriji Maharaj knew his ability and wrote a small, three-line letter to Shantilal, encouraging him to leave home and join him. With a firm determination to earn his Guru’s raajipo, Shantilal became a sadhu at the age of 18 and was known as Swami Narayanswarupdasji.
- B. Shastriji Maharaj appointed him as the President of BAPS at the age of 28. Since then, he became known as Pramukh Swami.

II. Section 2

- A. In 1968, Yogiji Maharaj celebrated Pramukh Swami’s 48th birthday in Mumbai on a grand scale. Pramukh Swami did not agree, as it was not fair and appropriate to celebrate the jayanti of any other in the divine presence of Yogiji Maharaj. Yogiji Maharaj used to say that Pramukh Swami is Shastriji Maharaj, but just in a different form.

- B. Pramukh Swami accepted Gurupad as per Shastriji Maharaj and Yogiji Maharaj's will, but he never thought of himself as the guru and always behaved as a sevak.

III. Section 3

- A. In 1976, Pramukh Swami visited 728 villages. He constantly moved around to reform the lives of countless people by giving them higher spiritual values without caring for himself and his body. Pramukh Swami has helped others without discriminating between cast, creed or religion.
- B. In his guidance, BAPS went from a small droplet of water to a vast ocean. He has built more than 1,100 Mandirs all around the world and made 1,000 sadhus who are staunch in their niyam and dharma. In addition to spirituality, BAPS contributes in various fields such as education, healthcare, environment, charities, as well as Bal-Yuva-Mahila upliftment.

V. Section 5

- A. Swamishri has always been unaffected by praises. He always tried to ignore getting respects, honors and gave all the credit to either God or his Gurus. Bill Clinton said, "I can see in his eyes that he has come forward not by putting others behind him. But by putting others in front of him."
- B. On one word of Swamishri, thousands of youths become ready to sacrifice their time and energy only because of the selfless love of Swami. There is no one else in this world like him.
- C. He successfully blended spirituality with science. Pramukh Swami himself was an institution. It is said that an institution is the strengthened shadow of his leader. In spite of all this success, his attachment with Bhagwan was unbreakable. Prayer to God was his formula.

VI. Section 6

- A. Pramukh Swami travelled for nine decades for the welfare of people and to spread the message of Akshar and Purushottam in the whole world.
- B. Shri Morari Bapu said, "Thousands of people come to hear the saint, but the increase in the number of people who came to do his darshan has happened only in the case of Pramukh Swamiji. "
- C. After his return to Akshardham on August 13th, 2016, thousands of people offered tremendous tributes to him. It was noted that such farewell by 21 lakh people has never occurred even for any Prime minister of India.

VII. Section 7

- A. The volunteers, the government ministries, railway ministry, the state transport and others made all the facilities available. The toll-tax was made free. The Hanumanji Mandir also extended all the help for housing arrangements free of cost.
- B. Followers from all over the world rushed for Swamishri's darshan, whilst facing numerous difficulties, financial burden and without caring for housing or food arrangements. Devotees spent up to 9 lakhs on airline fares for this trip. Several groups of people came walking from their villages. All roads leading to Sarangpur were packed. Everybody had one desire and that was just to get a

- last glimpse of Swami's darshan, forgetting any inconvenience faced while coming.
- C. After Swamishri's return to dham, thousands of people were inspired to follow Swami's agna such as living addiction-free, vegetarian diet, daily puja, ekadashi fast, go to Mandir every day, and attend ravisabha, etc.,
 - D. Tribute assemblies were held all over the world. The iconic arch of the Wembley Stadium in UK was lit orange in honor of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Several roads were also named after Pramukh Swami Maharaj. On the day of funeral rites, the flag at White House was half-staffed for Swamishri

Essay 3: Tributes paid to Pramukh Swami Maharaj by renowned dignitaries from diverse fields.

Bliss article: "Tributes by World Leaders, Royalty and Spiritual Masters"

I. Summary:

- A. This article focuses on tributes offered by many people across all walks of life in India. Presented here are a selection from the vast number of tributes expressed in various forms.
- B. People: Manohar Parrikar, Defense Minister India. Prakash Javedkar, Minister of Human Resource Development; Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, Bihar; Ashok Gehlot, Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan; Amitabh Bachchan, Padma Vibhushan Actor; G. M. Rao, Founder and Chairman, GMR Group; Ramoji Rao, Chairman, Ramoji Group; KV Kamath, Chairman, BRICS Bank; Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State, Government of India; Paresh Raval, Actor and MP, Mumbai; Ahmed Patel, Member of Parliament, New Delhi and etc.
- C. Note: not all of the people listed in the Gujarati essay are in the Bliss article. Additional information may be found at pramukhswami.org, "Tributes" section.

II. Bliss Article:

- A. Please refer to the Bliss Article (September-October 2016) for more information and a translated version of some of the tributes. They can be found on **pages 73-79**.
- B. This article will be available soon at the following link:
<http://www.baps.org/Publications/Magazines/Swaminarayan-Bliss-38.aspx>