



(Time: 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.)

SATSANG PRAVESH : 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.

Total Marks: 75

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

Q.1 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. [9]

1. "I had sent word to all concerned through Mayaram to go for Varni's darshan in Loj. Why, then, didn't you go to Loj?"
2. "At present I wish to travel alone. However, when I remember you come immediately."
3. "Hereafter all of you should follow out the instructions of Ramanand Swami."

Q.2 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). [6]

1. The King of Jagannathpuri accepted Nilkanth Varni as his guru.
2. The sadhus were imprisoned by the King of Kathmandu, Rana Bahadur, and subjected to torture.
3. The bawas of Ramji Mandir were thoroughly battered by Hanumanji.

Q.3 Write short notes on any ONE of the following. (In 15 lines.) [5]

1. Meeting with Himalaya.
2. Meeting Gopal Yogi.
3. Nilkanth in Loj.

Q.4. Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. [5]

1. What did Lord Shivji and Sati feed Nilkanth Varni during his vicharan?
2. What blessings did Nilkanth give to Nar and Narayan?
3. Where did Nilkanth Varni meet Sevakram?
4. In which direction did Jairamdas meet Nilkanth Varni?
5. In the village of Amarpur, Nilkanth Varni was offered a pile of what?

Q.5 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. Nilkanth Varni and Jairamdas
 - (1) ☐ Jairam would bring lotus fruits for Nilkanth Varni.
 - (2) ☐ Stayed for a few days at his friend Bhagwandas' home.
 - (3) ☐ Nilkanth would teach Jairamdas the shastras and yoga.
 - (4) ☐ Daily go for a walk in the forest with him.
2. Nilkanth Varni lifted the veil of illusion from the mind of Queen of Vanshipur
 - (1) ☐ One should be afraid of the ferocious creatures.
 - (2) ☐ I have come to redeem people from the allurements of maya.
 - (3) ☐ I shall grant you all Gokuldham.
 - (4) ☐ I have not come to become attached to your kingdom or your daughters.

Q.6 Fill in the blanks. [4]

1. In Vadodara, a merchant named fed
2. There was a small between Ashram and 's house.
3. The householder bawa had son and daughters.
4. A came at midnight and went round

SECTION 2: SATSANG READER 1 - 6th Edition, April 2011

Q.7 In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. [9]

1. "If you believe me to be great, do not go."
2. "Weren't you upset?"
3. "Please forgive me if I have ever done anything wrong or if I have ever not been able to act according to your wishes."

- Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each).** [4]
 1. Ladudanji's heart swelled with joy, he spontaneously composed and sang a kirtan: 'Dhanya ajni ghadi re...'
 2. Jhinabhai sat with his head down in the royal court of Junagadh.
- Q.9 Write short notes on 'Describe the murti portrayed in the kirtan "Tara mukhni lavanta..." (In 15 lines).** [5]
- Q.10 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer.** [4]
 1. Who served as the bodyguard of Shriji Maharaj in Gujarat?
 2. Why did Maharaj send Brahmanand Swami to Ahmedabad?
 3. List any four well-known literary works by Brahmanand Swami.
 4. By whose command did Jethabhai take initiation into the parshad-fold and when?

- Q.11 Select the SIX correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes.** [6]

Topic: Jivuba's vow to celibate

1. All I wish to do in my life is worship God. 2. Saint himself is living in his darbar, yet he was unable to recognize him. 3. Jivuba married with Hathiya Patgar of Kundal. 4. Feeling hurt he found comfort in prayer. 5. I wish to remain celibate and worship God. 6. Staying at least 20 feet away from men not closely related to her. 7. If your God is really true, he'll come this instant and eat this yogurt. 8. I wish that you show us your divine powers, just as Lord Ram had shown his. 9. Jivuba then got a letter of permission from her husband Hathiya Patgar and returned to Gadhada. 10. God came forth from the murti, giving darshan as Chaturbhuj Vishnu and began eating the curd. 11. Raibai convinced her son to give permission to his wife to worship god. 12. Upon returning to his senses, he fell at the feet of Saint.

(1) Write the correct sentence numbers

Note: (1) 3 marks will be awarded for 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.

(2) Correct sequence of sentences

- Q.12 Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading.** [4]

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

Example: Swami Yagnapriyadasji: While wandering on the farm, Motibhai's son, Jethabhai, was bit by a scorpion and Jethabhai soon passed away. Then he came with Shriji Maharaj and said "Narayan" to Motibhai.

Ans. Swami Yagnapriyadasji: While working in the pasture, Ashabhai's son, Desaibhai, was bit by a snake and Desaibhai soon passed away. Then he came with Bhagatji Maharaj and said "Jai Swaminarayan" to Ashabhai.

- Bhaktaraj Darbar Shri Jhinabhai:** On the night of the no moon, the sadhus went along with Maharaj to an open field on the city outskirts. Adorned in rich, silver-threaded clothes and beautiful diamonds.
- Swami Yagnapriyadasji:** Seeing him settled his senses and convinced him that, through Bhagatji, he had attained devotion. He attracted his mind before Bhagatji's personality.
- Bhaktaraj Joban Pagi:** Takho learnt that the Kishor had come to Vartal from Uttarsanda after having travelled to various parts of the country. He offered the Kishor a lodge.
- Sadguru Shukanand Swami:** After Maharaj had passed away, Pujaji, Maharaj's attendant, once walked into the Radha Vav. As he walked in, he was surprised to find Maharaj seated on the rock. Maharaj said, "Pujaji, go call Brahmanuni."

SECTION 3: ESSAY

- Q.13 Write an essay on any ONE of the following. (In approximately 30 lines.)** [10]

- Historical record of the life of Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan.
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) June 2017, pp. 15 to 19)
- Presidents of African countries honour His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj.
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) May 2017, pp. 35 to 39)
- Yuva Talim Kendra: An activity inspired and nourished by the Satpurush.
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) July 2017, pp. 32 to 33, 50)

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 **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.)

Pravesh Essay 1:
Historical Record of the Life of Bhagwan Swaminarayan

I. Summary:

- A. *Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan: A Saga in Paintings* is a book published by BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha under the guidance and inspiration of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. This book is filled with numerous paintings each showcasing Bhagwan Swaminarayan's life in a way that has never been done before. In the following essay, some very well-known artists like Shri Ravi Paranjpe and Shri Vasudeo Kamath share their thoughts about this book.

II. Bliss Article: For more information please refer to the Swaminarayan Bliss (May-June 2017 edition), **pg. 66-67** (continued on p. 70).

- A. http://download.baps.org/Data/Sites/1/Media/Otherfiles/Bliss_May_June_2017_01.pdf

Pravesh Essay 2:
Presidents of African Countries Honor His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj

I. Summary:

- A. P.P. Mahant Swami Maharaj recently visited Africa as the spiritual heir of P.P. Pramukh Swami Maharaj. The presidents of North Africa's Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania welcomed him with the same love and hospitality. The following essay describes their interactions upon meeting.

II. Bliss Article: For more information please refer to the Swaminarayan Bliss (May-June 2017 edition), **pg. 56-57**.

- A. http://download.baps.org/Data/Sites/1/Media/Otherfiles/Bliss_May_June_2017_01.pdf

Pravesh Essay 3:
YuvaTalim Kendra: An Activity Inspired and Nourished by the Satpurush

I. Section 1:

- A. "What is in the Talim Kendra, which prepares such ideal youths in the short span of six months?" Such are the remarks that youths often hear from their family members, friends, and town folks after finishing their training at YuvaTalim Kendra. What is more unique about the evolution of the youths is that the amount of change in the youths is beyond imagination of the volunteers and sadhus involved in the training process.
- B. The reasoning behind initiating such a change is by inspiration of the GunatitSatpurush over the years. BrahmaswarupYogijiMaharaj laid a long-term vision for such training, which later came into fruition through the efforts of P.P. Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

II. Section 2:

- A. October 28, 2008, P.P. Pramukh Swami was residing in Gondal. The yuvaks of the Talim Kendra presented speech and drama during Ravi Sabha assembly. During His ashirvad in the assembly later, Swamishri elaborated that 'Jogi Maharaj desired and gave blessings to train the youths and as a result Yuvamandal and Kishore mandal were established. Everyone saw that the Satsang was flourishing, but to foster core values in tomorrow's generation coaching of youths was considered. Keeping this vision in mind, Talim Kendra in Sarangpur was established.'

III. Section 3:

- A. The Talim Kendra that came into life through YogijiMaharaj's vision has grown tremendously under the guidance of ParamPujyaPramukh Swami Maharaj and

PujyaMahant Swami Maharaj. As a result, we have gained 1,200 yuvasevaks. PujyaMahant Swami Maharaj has explained the importance of Talim Kendra numerous times - 'The training that would take up to 60 years to nourish the youths, only takes 6 months here.' In a letter that he wrote from Sankri on June 1, 2011, He writes:

'This training is a privilege of this birth. All of you have taken birth many times, but have not once gotten such a training. A training that would teach you to overcome maya. In this world, many training centers exist, but the Talim Kendra in Sarangpur is the only one based on the gnan of Atma-Parmatma. More I think about it, more mahima I understand of the Talim Kendra.'

- B. NayanPrajapati, A youth from Khambhat, had gone for darshan and blessings of PujyaMahant Swami Maharaj on his birthday. He had just finished studying engineering, so he asked Swami "What should I do next?" Swami gave guidance for him to enroll in the Talim Kendra. Nayanbhai immediately agreed to it. Swami became very happy on hearing this and opened a candy from its wrapper and put it in Nayanbhai's mouth himself, tied a Nadachadion his hand, and gave three memorable pats on this back. Showering his blessings, He advised, 'Now go to the Talim Kendra promptly.' There are many youths like Nayanbhai, who were one on one inspired by Swamishri to join Talim Kendra.

IV. Section 4:

- A. The bliss of GunatitSant has been felt by all partaking youths at the Talim Kendra in these past ten years both directly and indirectly. GunatitSant has put in personal efforts to get them enrolled in the training and to arrange for their needs while at the training. Moreover, during the training they have received motherly love, fatherly guidance, knowledge from a guru, and a bond of friendship through GunatitSatpurush. Pradeepbhai Pandya was fortunate to end his extreme fast at the hands of PramukhSwami Maharaj. Whereas Pradeepbhai Sharma had a similar opportunity at the hands of Mahant Swami Maharaj. Pramukh Swami Maharaj was advised to rest by doctors during his late years. However, He insisted on handing out the results of the trainings to the youths himself and blessed each youth individually

V. Section 5:

- A. Swamishri has played with these yuvaks and has fed them from time to time. To ensure the vision of the Talim Kendra is carried out, He has provided continuous guidance as well. 'We have well trained Sadhus. Now, to prepare well trained yuvaks, we have arranged for such training. If a yuvak migrates to foreign countries right now, he is able to drive satsang there via katha-varta due to such training. May all of you be motivated to do your best and inspire thousands to do satsang.'
- B. May 30, 2008, He inquired to the yuvaks sitting on the grounds of the SmrutiMandir how their training was coming along. He has even taken interest to keep them engaged in training and further development even after these yuvaks return back to their homes. June 6, 2009, Swamibapa was residing in Bochasan. P. Gnanvijay Swami, a sadhu heavily involved with the Talim Kendra teachings, was giving a report on a reunion of Talim Kendra Yuvaks from Tajetar area. Swamibapawould stop him from time to time during this session to gather more information. Then he asked, 'Do these yuvaks gather on regular basis after graduating from Talim Kendra?' To this P. Gnanvijay Swami replied, 'As per your guidance these yuvaks do gather in their areas once a month for goshti and at larger scale during reunions to keep their development ongoing.' Swamibapa was satisfied with the given answer provided and continued, 'That's great, these yuvaks gain lot of training in the six months they spend in Sarangpur, wherever they go they will perform equal to a sadhu.'

VI. Section 6:

- A. Pramukh Swami Maharaj has created an army of fully talented youths. Bhagwan Swaminarayan came on this earth to make jivas attain the state of Brahmrup, so that they can attain ultimate salvation. Gunatit gurus have kept this sankalp of Bhagwan Swaminarayan at the center of guiding mile stones – such as the Talim Kendra. Pramukh Swami Maharaj has created this army of yuvasevaks keeping

Shreeji Maharaj's vision in mind. Once in Gondal, addressing the yuvaks Swamibapa said, 'All these yuvaks will in turn teach others and they will in turn teach others leading to unmeasurable progress. This was the reasoning behind Yogi Bapa's sankalps.' These words of Pramukh Swami have come to life after ten years of establishment of Yuva Talim Kendra.

- B. Swamibapa has provided unending guidance to the yuvaks of Talim Kendra, from time before their trainings to years after via phone, letter, or in person. Some yuvaks are such in whose life Swamibapa has been there from their smallest event to largest – job search, marriage, business to name a few.