

Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharpurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha
Satsang Shikshan Pariksha

SATSANG PRAVESH-PAPER-2

Time : 2.00 to 4.15 p.m.

Total Marks : 75

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: KISHOR SATSANG PRAVESH, 5th Edition, December - 2009)

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. "Return to your body again!." (21/75)
 - ⇒ Shriji Maharaj to Sachchidanand Swami
 - ⇒ In the last moments before Shriji Maharaj returned to his divine abode, Sachchidanand Swami stopped his own pulse and breathing and went to Akshardham ahead of Shriji Maharaj. On seeing him there, Maharaj immediately commanded....
2. "Where can one find manifest God in this Kali-yug?" (18/67)
 - ⇒ Brahmin / An old Rajgar Brahmin / Rana Rajgar's Father to Ramanand Swami
 - ⇒ Ramanand Swami had explained to him, "Ultimate redemption cannot be attained without the contact of God in human form." At that time, he asked...
3. "The tobacco is not yet sold and the collection of the dues is not yet complete." (12/39)
 - ⇒ Kashidas of Bochasan to Shriji Maharaj
 - ⇒ Kashidas used to take his carts full of tobacco to Gadhada to sell. He would stay there and enjoy the company of Shriji Maharaj. When Maharaj would ask him to go home he cleverly said this.

Q.2 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)

1. Every satsangi should make it a rule to retire to bed only after the recitation of cheshta. (1/6)
 - A. By thinking constantly of God's divine actions and form, one's mind becomes attached to Shriji Maharaj. All worldly activities performed throughout the day come to rest and, even in the deep sleep, one retains contact with God. Therefore, every satsangi should make it a rule to retire to bed only after the recitation of cheshta.
2. Ladhikai explained the supremacy of Shriji Maharaj to all the devotees. (14/42-43)
 - A. In samadhi, Ladhikai saw Shriji Maharaj seated on a divine throne in Akshardham. Seeing innumerable released souls and even Ramanand Swami in his service, she was surprised. Ramanand Swami rebuked her, "Why do you address Shriji Maharaj impolitely? He who dines at your home is sitting on this throne. He is the ultimate reality - Purna Purushottam Narayan - the supreme cause of all incarnations. Explain this to Sundarji Suthar and Gangaram the wrestler as well." According to this order of Ramanand Swami Ladhikai explained the supremacy of Shriji Maharaj to all the devotees.
3. Gunatitanand Swami wiped the pus off Bhai Atmanand Swami's body and bathed him.
 - A. Bhai Atmanand Swami's natural tendency was not to care for his own body. Once, he developed scabies throughout his entire body. Despite this condition, he had to travel from one town to another with Gunatitanand Swami. As he marched forward, the boils on his body began to burst one by one and pus began to flow from them. At last, when they reached the place, Gunatitanand Swami wiped the pus off Bhai Atmanand Swami's body and bathed him.

Q.3 Write short notes on 'Sagram' (2/13-17) (In 15 lines). (Total Marks:5)

Sagram was a poor man from Limli, a village near Vadhwani. Sagram was born in the Vaghri community. Muktanand Swami had initiated him and made a devotee of Shriji Maharaj. Sagram had imbibed such high standards of morality that if he even accidentally touched a woman other than his wife, he would take a bath and fast on that day. His life became purer than that of even the Brahmins. In 1813 (samvat 1869) when a terrible famine struck in Gujarat, suffering from starvation and overcome with despair, he, set out with his wife to Surat to seek help from Muktanand Swami. Walking along he noticed a shiny silver ornament which was quite large, weighing about half a kilo. But as he was a devout satsangi, thinking his wife may be tempted to take it quickly covered it with dust. Following him at a short distance, when his wife noticed, she asked him and he innocently explained. His wife exclaimed, "Oh! you have simply covered dust with dust! To me another's belongings are as useless as dust. Going ahead, they met with some people who had lost their ornament. From appearance they felt that Sagram and his wife were not trustworthy, they asked Sagram about lost ornament. Though Sagram described the exact place, they could not trust him and took him along with them. When they found it, they tried to reward him, but Sagram politely declined saying, "We are devotees of Bhagwan Swaminarayan, just following our religious vows." When Vajesinh, the king of Bhavnagar, heard of such miraculous transformation, he summoned him to his royal court and asked him, "Has Swaminarayan shown you any miracles?" Sagram replied, "Oh! My Lord, You are the master of the kingdom, whereas we are Vaghris. We lived brutishly until Swaminarayan inspired us to live a pure life by giving us spiritual vows. So, for someone like me, to be able to sit here before you is itself a great miracle. The king was pleased with Sagram's frank and reasoned response. Truly pleased with Sagram's faithful devotion, Shriji Maharaj reached unannounced to Sagram's hut to fulfil his inner wish. Sagram and his wife rejoiced Maharaj's unexpected visit and unable to hold back his enthusiasm, he danced while singing, "An elephant has entered my hut." To Sagram, Shriji Maharaj's visit to his humble dwelling was as inconceivable as fitting

an elephant in a small hut. Maharaj lovingly ate what she prepared for him. As Sagram was well versed in the scriptures, once, he defeated Shivram Bhatt of Shiyani in a spiritual debate. Impressed with Sagram's spiritual wisdom, Shivram Bhatt realized Shriji Maharaj's greatness and became his disciple.

Q.4 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. What was Dubli Bhatt's real name? (15/45)
A. Dubli Bhatt's real name was Ranchhodji Maharaj.
2. Whose dead horse did Vyapkanand Swami revive? (3/19)
A. Vyapkanand Swami revived Hamir Khachar's dead horse.
3. Who composed the kirtan 'Snehbharya nayane...'? (25/89)
A. Muktanand Swami has composed the kirtan 'Snehbharya Nayane'.
4. Where did Zamkuba hide from fear of the mounted soldiers? (17/65)
A. Zamkuba stayed hidden in carcass with fear of the mounted soldiers.
5. Which two Paramsansas were born on the day of Vasant Panchami? (16/54)
A. Two Paramsansas - Sadguru Brahmanand Swami and Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami were born on the day of Vasant Panchami.

Q.5 'Satsang thay pan....' -(24/83-85) - Complete the Swamini Vato and narrate it. (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: "Satsang thay pan sang vina satsangnu sukh na ave, keni pethe to jem khadhanu male pan khadha vina tenu sukh na ave temaj lugda-gharena male to pan perya vina tenu sukh na ave, tem sang vina satsangnu sukh ave nahi."

"One can attain Satsang, but without close association, there is no happiness. How? It is like a person having food, but without actually eating there is no happiness. Also, one may have clothes but without wearing them there is no happiness. Similarly, without the association of the great sadhu, one does not get the bliss of satsang."

Simply standing on the banks of a river does not quench one's thirst; one must drink some of the fresh water. The snake, which wraps itself fully on the sandalwood tree but keeps its mouth away from the tree, retains its poison. Similarly we are fortunate to have attained satsang - something that is a rare achievement even for Brahma, Shiva and other deities. However, we will not experience bliss if we do not actively take benefit of this satsang.

Once there was a shopkeeper who sold edible oil for a living. He had a small shop in town and was busy constantly making small sales to his customers. One day an ascetic, on his way to perform austerities came to his shop with a parasmani and gave this precious stone to him for keeping it safe and told him, "This is a parasmani. If you touch it to any iron, it will turn into gold. You will no longer be poor. I will come to retrieve it on my way back." As the shopkeeper was busy, he hurriedly told the Mahatma to put it in the recess of the wall. He was so engrossed in his menial business transactions that he never found the time even to look in the recess of the wall. The Mahatma returned after six months and had imagined that the shopkeeper must have surely become rich and happy by now, but he found the shopkeeper was running the shop in the same old state. When the Mahatma asked for the parasmani,

the shopkeeper requested him to take it from wherever he had left it. The Mahatma saw the parasmani covered with dust. The shopkeeper did not understand the importance of the parasmani. Reprimanding him, the Mahatma asked for some pieces of iron. As the poor shopkeeper did not have any pieces of iron in his shop, he collected two pounds of iron from here and there. As soon as the Mahatma touched the parasmani to the two pounds of iron, it turned into gold. The vania jumped with excitement and told the Mahatma to leave the parasmani for a while more. "Fool, I left it here for six months, now it is your fate." said the Mahatma and walked away with his parasmani. In the same way, we have been blessed with a parasmani in the form of this satsang, but idleness and negligence obstruct us. We can turn ourselves into precious gold if we practise satsang wholeheartedly by body, speech and actions.

Q.6 Complete the following. (Total Marks: 8)

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

1. Jiva anantna mokshne arthe, anadi akshar sath lai.....
Purushottam Narayan pote, pragatya manav deh dhari.... (13/41)
2. Trigunatit firat tanu tyagi, rit jagatse nyari...
Brahmanand kahe santki sobat, milat hai pragat Murari..... (4/21)
3. Sadaiv Sarangpurasya ramye, Sumandire hyaksharadhama tulye.
Sahaksharam muktayutam vasantam, Shri Swaminarayanamanamami. (6/23)
4. **Translation:** Shed all your ideas of dharma and the strength of dharma and seek my refuge. Fear no longer, for I will redeem you from all sins and grant you moksha. (22/76)

(SECTION-2: SHASTRIJI MAHARAJ, 5th Edition, March - 2012)

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. "Please sing that kirtan about the sixty-eight places of pilgrimage." (44/95)
 Ranchhodbhai to Yogi Swami
 At midnight, Ranchhodbhai saw that the gate of the mandir was slowly pushed open and a divine cow, extremely white in colour, came to Swamishri's feet and bowed her head three times. So, he was convinced that the sixty eight places of pilgrimage must have taken the form of a cow and come to be sanctified at Swamishri's feet. Then...
2. "Scoundrels! Sinners! At least now let us get some sleep!" (23/52)
 furious false sadhus to Swamishri
 In Vadodara, during the evening session, Swamishri spoke on the differences between a true and a false sadhu. Several false sadhus thought that Swamishri was referring to them in his discourses. So....
3. "He hasn't even completed the required one year as a parshad." (9/25)
 Viharilalji Maharaj to Vignananand Swami
 Vignananand Swami requested Viharilalji Maharaj to initiate Dungar as a sadhu but Viharilalji Maharaj also wanted an assistant who was as skilled and clever as Dungar. So he refused by saying.....

Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 6)

1. Devotees of Mahuva became aware of Bhagatji's enlightened state. (14/34)
- A. Yagnapurushdasji, Mahapurushdasji and Narayancharandas described the qualities of an Ekantik Satpurush to the devotees of Mahuva according to Vachanamrut Gadhada I-27, that he possesses dharma, gnan, vairagya and bhakti and that Shriji Maharaj does not remain away from him for even a moment. Listening to the divine

voice and ability to cite exact reference from the Vachanamrut, devotees of Mahuva became aware of Bhagatji's enlightened state.

2. At Karamsad, the six-year-old Dungar astonished everyone. (3/6)
 - A. At the age of six, Dungar went to a family wedding to Karamsad. Dungar refused to have lunch since it was Ekadashi, he was observing a fast. Everyone was astonished to think, 'How could a six-year-old boy choose to fast when such a sumptuous meal was being served?'
3. No one heeded these false complaints of several sadhus who disliked Swamishri. (22/50)
 - A. The financial condition of Sarangpur mandir had improved considerably. The mandir's renovations were progressing rapidly. Therefore, no one heeded these false complaints of several sadhus who disliked Swamishri.

Q. 9 Write short notes on any ONE of the following. (In 15 lines.) (Total Marks: 5)

1. Meeting Bhagatji Maharaj (10/25-27)

The murti of Ghanshyam Maharaj was to be consecrated in Surat mandir, so Bhagatji Maharaj had come there. He discoursed continuously. Thousands of sadhus and devotees would sit and listen with great concentration. Yagnapurushdasji would go to the seats of the senior sadhus to listen to their teachings. Once, seeing a large crowd seated around Bhagatji Maharaj, Yagnapurushdasji, too, sat in the assembly. Bhagatji's discourses seemed different from anything Yagnapurushdasji had ever heard. Surprisingly, Bhagatji, a tailor by profession, would continue stitching clothes as he spoke. Each and every devotee listened carefully, making sure not to miss a word. They sat motionless, their eyes gleaming with joy as Bhagatji talked. Yagnapurushdasji, wondered to himself, "He seems to be someone extraordinary. How is he able to speak with such spiritual depth and stitch at the same time?" Reading his mind, Pragji Bhakta said, "Sadhuram! All living creatures have two eyes. Scholars are said to have three. Those who are righteous have seven. But a gnani, one who possesses true knowledge, has countless eyes. So, I can see with my fingers, I can see with my back, I can see from everywhere." Astonished that Bhagatji had read his mind, Yagnapurushdasji thought to himself, "How did he know what I was thinking? He is certainly someone great." Within a short period of time, Bhagatji's words moved Yagnapurushdasji. He found that Bhagatji Maharaj was blessed immensely by his guru Gunatitanand Swami. He accepted Bhagatji Maharaj as his guru. Being very busy due to festival during the daytime, in the evening Yagnapurushdasji would sit before Bhagatji listening to his teachings late into the night. Unable to hold his enthusiasm, he would wake up his companion sadhu Ramratandas and repeat everything he had heard from Bhagatji. Before he realised, it would be four in the morning, time for everyone to go and bathe in Tapi river. Sometimes in the free time during the day, he would sit and discuss spiritual matters with Vignandas Swami and Prabhudas Kothari, both senior disciples of Bhagatji Maharaj. Such was Yagnapurushdasji's eagerness to gain spiritual knowledge.

2. From a Trinket into a diamond (32/70)

Hirabhai Mukhi, a descendant of Kashidas Mota, lived in Bocharan. He struck terror throughout the Gujarat region. He often stole, plundered and even murdered at will. Whoever dared to file a complaint or stand as an eyewitness against him was as good as dead. All of Gujarat shuddered at the mention of his name. Not even the police dared lay a hand on him. Once, Hirabhai decided to sponsor a meal for Swamishri and his followers at mandir. Swamishri accepted his charity and served all of the sadhus, but he himself refused to eat. As Hirabhai was informed, he came to meet Swamishri. Swamishri boldly set his terms, "I will eat only if you accept vartman and become a satsangi." As Hirabhai looked into Swamishri's eyes, his life changed. He gave up his sinful ways, accepted vartman from Swamishri and became a devotee. All who lived in the region of Gujarat were amazed at Swamishri's feat. People appreciated that one who could transform a brute like Hirabhai into a devotee of God must indeed be some

great incarnation. When Gordhanbhai Kothari heard about this, he called Hirabhai to Vartal and exclaimed, "Hirabhai, Shastri Yagnapurushdasji has made you into a devotee. If Acharya Bhagvatprasadji Maharaj were still alive today, he would honour Yagnapurushdasji with two pairs of Shriji Maharaj's charanarvind and would give him an eminent position in satsang. Unfortunately, those who are in power today are eager to exile him." Hearing Gordhanbhai's words, Hirabhai realized Swamishri's greatness.

3. Adverse Times(28/62)

As there was fierce opposition against Swamishri in Vartal, all of Swamishri's devotees gathered and decided that if trouble arose, they should take Swamishri away from Vartal. Everyone was sure that the wrathful sadhus would attempt something dreadful. All of Swamishri's devotees gathered in Vartal on Kartik Punam Samvat 1962. They did not leave Swamishri alone for even a second. As a result, those who had plotted to harm him were unable to carry out their plans. They were angered even more. The devotees requested Swamishri not to go but as Swamishri was breaking his ekadashi fast, went into the kitchen to have some khichdi. As he was served khichdi, he smelled the pungent odour of a deadly poison coming from his food. Even then, respecting the food that was offered to and sanctified by God, he ate a little. As he was walking out, he stumbled, feeling dizzy. His throat began to burn. The devotees brought ghee for him. Swamishri assured them, "Nothing will happen to me. Do not worry." As they failed, planned to push Yagnapurushdasji into the cooking fire. When the Kauravas had treacherously plotted to burn the Pandavs to death in the wax mansion, God protected them. Similarly, these efforts to kill Swamishri proved futile. The following day, Swamishri entered the kitchen for lunch. Fifteen or so brave devotees waiting at the door. As nothing could be done to Swamishri in their presence, the sadhus shouted to them and began to push the devotees away. The resulting commotion served as a perfect distraction. Five devotees sneaked in and carried Swamishri out of the kitchen. The scuffle continued. Finally, everyone realized that Yagnapurushdasji had already slipped out and that they were now struggling for no reason.

Q.10 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. What glory of Dungal Bhakta did Gunatitanand Swami say to Mathurbhai? (4)
A. Gunatitanand Swami said to Mathurbhai, "Your brother will one day become a sadhu and spread the glory of Shriji Maharaj as the supreme God. By giving spiritual discourses he will invigorate and enhance the Swaminarayan Sampraday."
2. Whose ban did Yagnapurushdasji lift in Junagadh? (18/42)
A. Yagnapurushdasji lifted the ban on Jaga Bhakta in Junagadh.
3. As per Shastriji Maharaj's wish who called out the jai of Akshar-Purushottam at the assembly in Vadtal? (26/58)
A. As per Shastriji Maharaj's wish Galbhai called out the jai of Akshar-Purushottam at the assembly in Vadtal.
4. Whom did Shastriji Maharaj select as his successor? (55/115)
A. Shastriji Maharaj selected Shastri Narayanswarupdasji as his successor.
5. On which scripture did Shastriji Maharaj deliver a parayan in Karachi? (51/109)
A. Shastriji Maharaj delivered a parayan on the Satsangijivan scripture in Karachi.

Q.11 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 6)

 **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. 4 (50/107)

2. 2, 4 (2/2)

3. 1, 4 (13/33)

**Q.12 Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading.
(Total Marks: 6)**

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

1. **Nirgundas Swami passes away:** By the wish of Shriji Maharaj, on Jeth sud 14, Samvat 2006, Nirgundas Swami, as he uttered the Swaminarayan mantra, departed for Akshardham. (56/117)
2. **The blessing of Jaga Bhakta:** In Junagadh, many jealous sadhus could not bear to see so many devotees and great sadgurus sitting before Jaga Bhakta's seat to listen to his discourses. (18/41)
3. **A fourth Shikharbaddh Mandir:** The auspicious day of Ashadh sud 3, Samvat 2001 had been decided for the consecration ceremony. Two days before the pratishtha was to take place heavy rains began. (51/108)
4. **Eighty-fifth birthday celebrations:** On the day before celebration, the devotees seated Swamishri on a decorated elephant and took him on a procession through the city. Yogi Swami and Nirgundas Swami accompanied Swamishri on the elephant. (53/112)
5. **Only the brave can tread the path of God:** It was the month of Maghshar, Samvat 1938 Dungar, with the speed of an arrow shooting out of a bow, finally darted off to join his guru in Surat. (7/19)
6. **Divine Samadhi:** Once, Odhavjibhai, a devotee of Botad, came to meet Swamishri in Sarangpur. As he listened to Swamishri's disscourses, he felt peace. (46/97)

