



(Time: 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.)

SATSANG PARICHAY : 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: SAHAJANAND CHARITRA - 6th Edition, January 2013

Total Marks: 75

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

1. "Why are you all crying? Is someone dead?"
2. "You are a Hindustani Brahmin, Hariprasad Pande's son."
3. "I have spun just a silver from the huge piles of cotton."

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

1. The supply of ghee never ran out in the yagna at Dabhan.
2. Shriji Maharaj covered Gunatitanand Swami with the coarse blanket.
3. Shriji Maharaj fell ill in Bhuj.

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

1. Manki's Mount.
2. Re-entry into Ahmedabad.
3. Visits to Kariyani and Gadhadra.

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

1. What vows did Shriji Maharaj give to the sadhus during the famine of 1869?
2. What did the Kanbi boy tell the barber?
3. When did Shriji Maharaj complete the Shikshapatri? (Samvat and Tithi)
4. Who was introduced as a sadguru by Shriji Maharaj?
5. Where were the arrangements for Maharaj's stay made by the devotee from Barvala?

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. Carrots are my enemies
 - (1) ☐ Alaiya Khachar touched the pickled carrots.
 - (2) ☐ Pickled carrots were flat.
 - (3) ☐ How did you enjoy the dish?
 - (4) ☐ Only the first item they touched was to be eaten and nothing else.
2. Reception at Dharampur.
 - (1) ☐ Was offered rich clothes and precious ornaments of gold and diamonds.
 - (2) ☐ Sixteen signs on the feet.
 - (3) ☐ I don't seek kingdoms.
 - (4) ☐ I have come here from Akshardham to liberate the jivas.

Q.6 Fill in the blanks. [4]

1. To destroys ego, Shriji Maharaj wrote a letter to devotees to become paramhansas.
2. During the construction work of mandir, Shriji Maharaj embraced sadhus whose bodies were
3. The banyan tree was possessed by thousands of
4. All the sadhus were divided between the sadgurus, due to which was left with no disciples.

SECTION 2: SATSANG READER II - 4th Edition, April 2011

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

1. "As I was born later, I was not able to have Maharaj's darshan."
2. "I pledge that I will daily compose eight pads in praise of your murti."
3. "Give it to me. I will take it."

Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). [4]

1. Gunatitanand Swami took the responsibilities of Indrajibhai's two sons.
2. Kamalnayan Shastri experienced divine peace in Junagadh mandir.

Q. 9 Write short notes on ‘Premanand Swami’s Tune: To Obey Commands’ (in 15 lines). [5]

Q.10 Answer ALL of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. [4]

- 1. Where was Premanand Swami born and in which family?
- 2. What did Dada Khachar say to the barber halfway through his haircut?
- 3. Who did the sadgurus appoint for which gadis?
- 4. Who replied to the pundits in the Ahmedabad debate?

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

Topic: Bhaktaraj Laduba Celebrates Annakut Utsav

1. Shriji Maharaj said, “Let Laduba look after the festivals of the bright half of the month and let Jivuba take care of the festivals taking place during the dark half of the month.” 2. Jivuba approached Laduba with a request, “O sister, please allow me to celebrate the festival of Annakut, which takes place during the dark half of the month.” 3. “Maharaj, We will manage to stay anywhere on the bank of the river.” 4. Laduba politely asked, “Maharaj, Who used to feed you and bathe you in your incarnation as Krishna?” 5. Bhaktimata said, “Then I am prepared to stay here with my son, Shriji Maharaj.” 6. Bhaktimata said, “I am a Pativrata woman, so if you all observe dharma then I will stay among you.” 7. Laduba explained, “According to scriptures the Annakut festival is a part of the Diwali celebrations.” 8. Laduba began to take care of the buffalo at home. 9. The next day many other women had assembled in a room. Suddenly, the whole room was filled with brilliant light. 10. Laduba, with great efforts and assistance from her friends, prepared a beautiful Annakut. 11. Shriji Maharaj consecrated the murti of Vasudev Narayan in one of the rooms of the darbar. 12. Upon hearing this, the women replied, “We will observe dharma.”

(1) Write the correct sentence numbers

(2) Correct sequence of sentence

Note: (1) 3 marks will be awarded for the correct sentence numbers 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.

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: Sadguru Nityanand Swami: On Maha vad 9, V.S. 1902, in the presence of Acharya Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, Gunatitanand Swami, Paramchaitanyanand Swami, Kripanand Swami and other sadhus, he passed away at Ahmedabad.

Ans. Sadguru Nityanand Swami: On Magshar sud 8, V.S. 1903, in the presence of Acharya Raghuvirji Maharaj, Gopalanand Swami, Shuk Muni, Shunyatitanandji and other sadhus, he passed away at Vartal.

- 1. **Bhaktaraj Dada Khachar:** Jiva Khachar (Vikram Raja) had two wives, Mohanadevi and Subhadradevi. On Posh Sud 6, Samvat 1857, Mohanadevi gave birth to a daughter.
- 2. **Swami Jaga Bhakta:** Gopalanand Swami was happy to receive him but his uncle, Maghav Bhakta, came to Sarangpur in search of him. He didn’t find Jaga Bhakta there, so he decided to go to Bhavnagar.
- 3. **Mukundanand Varni (Mulji Brahmchari):** He had accompanied Swami to a certain village where a hut had caught fire. He feared that Swami would be burnt. He lifted Swami along with his seat, carried him out and placed him under a pipal tree.
- 4. **Sadguru Nityanand Swami:** On hearing this, Chandramani felt great anxiety in his mind. He became impatient to meet Ramanand Swami.


SECTION 3: ESSAY

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

- 1. Aim to please the guru. (Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) December 2014, pp. 25 to 26)
- 2. Following in the footsteps of Swami: Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj in London. (Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) August 2017, pp. 20 to 26)
- 3. Tenth anniversary celebration of the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Canada. (Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) September 2017, pp. 46 to 51)

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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.)

Parichay Essay 1:
Aim to Please the Guru

I. Summary:

- A. This essay discusses Swamishri's journey in becoming the Pramukh of the Sanstha from his very own perspective. From being assigned as the kothari of SarangpurMandir to becoming the President of the Sanstha, this essay portrays how Swamishri lived with a prime goal to please ShastrijiMaharaj and did as he wished.

II. Essay Archives:

- A. For more information please refer to the translated essay at: [http://www.baps.org/EnlighteningEssays/2015/Guru-Smruti-\(Part-8\)---Resolve-to-please-the-Guru-8104.aspx](http://www.baps.org/EnlighteningEssays/2015/Guru-Smruti-(Part-8)---Resolve-to-please-the-Guru-8104.aspx)

Parichay Essay 2:
Following in the Footsteps of Swami: ParamPujyaMahant Swami Maharaj in London

I. Section 1: Swamishri's Arrival/Welcome

- A. On June 15, 2017 P.P. Mahant Swami Maharaj arrived in the United Kingdom. This marked the beginning of his foreign countries Vicharan to Europe and North America. Countless devotees had gathered to await his arrival.
- B. On the flight from Delhi to London, Swamishri blessed the two pilots and copilot along with the cabin crew. The plane landed at 2:55 in Heathrow Airport in London. From there, Swamishri arrived to Mandir in a helicopter which landed in the vicinity of the Swaminarayan School.
- C. Preparations for Swamishri's arrival had been ongoing for over a month. Swamishri was welcomed with loads of love and devotion. HarikrishnaMaharaj was garlanded along with Swamishri. Swamishri was seated in a horse carriage with HarikrishnaMaharaj held in his hands led by a procession including the Royal Guard and countless devotees from around all of Europe.
- D. At the school campus, Swamishri got off the carriage and sat in a golf cart. He was showered with rose petals and welcomed with dances performed by balaks as he entered the Mandir campus. He first performed abishek and then went on to the Mandir for darshan. Swamishri then entered the Sabha hall.
- E. In 2007, Pramukh Swami Maharaj had visited London Mandir, 10 years later, the same Satpurush returned in the form of Mahant Swami Maharaj.
- F. In his ashirvad, Swamishri expressed his excitement from seeing all the bhaktos. He also emphasized the concepts of keeping samp and following agna. He mentioned that the world is perishable and Bhagwan and Satsang is what we should focus on.

II. Section 2: SatsangShibir

- A. On the evening of June 17, a special Satsangshibir was held in the presence of P.P. Mahant Swami Maharaj. Swamishri also attended the opening ceremony of the Annual 10K Challenge the next evening.
- B. **BLISS Article:** For more information please refer to Swaminarayan BLISS (July-August Edition) **pages 65-66**.
1. Subtitles: SatsangShibir and BAPS Annual 10K Challenge.
- C. Link: http://download.baps.org/Data/Sites/1/Media/Otherfiles/July_August2017.pdf

III. Section 3: KirtanAradhana

- A. A KirtanAradhana was held on June 19. Swamishri mentioned Pramukh Swami's immense sacrifices for the sanstha and bhaktos. He also stated that he wanted

to meet everyone, though physically not possible. Once again, Swamishri emphasized the importance of Satsang and how we should never leave it, no matter the circumstances. He ended with explaining how we should become das na das.

- B. Thus, for six days, Swamishri showered immense bliss and created countless smrutis in London.

Parichay Essay 3:

Tenth Anniversary Celebrations of the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Canada

I. Section 1: PramukhVarni Din

- A. From July 19 to July 28, P.P. Mahant Swami Maharaj celebrated the 10th anniversary of the BAPS Mandir in Canada along with 150 years of Canada as a country.
- B. On July 20th, Mahant Swami Maharaj celebrated PramukhVarni Din. This day was also Yuva Din. After doing deep pragatya and commencing Yuva Din, the Canadian Postal Services offered a stamp with Pramukh Swami's picture. During the assembly Mahant Swami Maharaj gave ashirvad in which he stated, "Divyabhavnivaatsaachichhe". He mentioned that when we do not see divyabhav in each other we are hindering our path to moksh. He compared divyabhav to the rays of the sun, bright and radiantly filled with energy.

II. Section 2: Diksha Din

- A. On July 22, Swamishri gave diksha to two parshads (RutvijBhagat and DhvijendraBhagat). After giving diksha he stated, "ShrijiMaharaj has said that if you have done a certain amount of punya then and only then you can become a sadhu". He mentioned that this birth is only for moksh and nothing else.
- B. During this assembly he also met the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, along with other respected guests. The Prime Minister said this temple has become a landmark to Canada and allow the country to prosper.

III. Section 3: Amrutkalshabhishek

- A. On July 23 Swamishri sanctified the kalash by doing pradakshina and vidhi to them. There were 2000 attendees present in the vidhi. Swamishri blessed the crowd by saying we have nothing to worry about, all we need to do is have faith, trust in the satpurush and we will attain moksh. He referenced ShastrijiMaharaj's saying about how the Satpurush never leaves this earth. In the same way we should not worry and just keep dasbhav and continue doing our bhakti.
- B. During this celebration the 39 virtues that Pramukh Swami Maharaj possessed were portrayed through speeches and skits performed in front of Mahant Swami Maharaj. After which, Swamishri showered all the haribhaktos, one by one, with rose petals.
- C. Countless dignitaries also shared their thoughts and gratitude towards the Mandir and its impact on the community.