

**Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharpurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha
Satsang Shikshan Pariksha**

SATSANG PRAVESH-PAPER-2

Time : 2.00 to 4.15 p.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 4 March, 2018

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 brackets on the right side of the question heading 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. "Now that I am the king I can do as I please." (24/81)
 - The minister's son - the assembly.
 - The prince bowed down and paid salutations to the minister's son who was the new king. On returning to the royal palace the minister's son summoned the court and asked the assembly. He called for his friend, the prince, and handed over the royal throne to him.
2. "Our Lord made us cover our eyes with a veil." (11/36)
 - Bhai Atmanand Swami, Atmanand Swami, Vrudhatmanand Swami, Bhai Swami - Raghuvirji Maharaj. (Acharya Maharaj)
 - In Nadiad, on a padhramani to a devotee's home, chairs had been arranged for the elderly sadhus to sit on. Atmanand Swami didn't approve of the way the chairs were arranged. Then..
3. "So we should offer worship to it, instead of Indra." (16/49)
 - Shri Krishna - Cowherds
 - The cowherds of Vraj used to worship Indra. Shri Krishna told them, "Our wealth is due to this Mt. Govardhan. So we should offer worship to it, instead of Indra."

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

1. Shriji Maharaj called Prabhashankar a true devotee. (20/71)

- A. The marriage procession of Prabhashankar had started. exactly at this moment a courier arrived with a letter for him. He read the letter and said to his relatives, "This marriage will have to be stopped. This is a letter from Shriji maharaj calling me to Vartal." To him everything else was trivial before the command of Shriji Maharaj. When Prahashankar reached to Vartal, he frankly narrated the full story. Shriji Maharaj was pleased and commented, "You are a true devotee."


2. Raghavanand and Vishvatmanand were known as Jam-tagda sadhus. (18/68)

- A. Four brothers named Bhima, Vashram, Raghav and Rana lived in Golida. They invited Maharaj to their house and lovingly served him a meal. Greatly pleased with them, Shriji Maharaj offered them to ask for a boon. The brothers politely asked, "Yama should never enter our village or its outskirts to fetch any soul." They took turns to guard the town. Once when they saw the servants of Yama, they chased them out with sticks. Raghav and Vashram were initiated as sadhus. As they had driven away the servants of yama, they were known as Jam-tagda ssadhus.

3. Laduba and Jivuba's grief disappeared. (9/30-31)

- A. Talking about understanding of Devji Bhagat maharaj said that look at this devotee's understanding. She experiences happiness even though her young son has unexpectedly died. Whereas here, ever since five-year-old Hiruba passed away, everyone has been grieving. They have been so overcome with sorrow, that they have even stopped preparing my thal. Hearing this, Laduba and Jivuba's grief disappeared.


Q.3 Write short notes on 'Sachchidanand Swami' (21/72-75) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

 **Note: Main points of short note are highlighted. If points are included than give full marks.**


Dajibhai, a devotee from the Vaghela Kshatriya community, belonged to the town of **Moda near Jamnagar**. He was always engrossed in devotion to God, just like Jadbharat. From the first time he met Shriji Maharaj, Motabhai was completely attracted by Maharaj's murti and harboured an **intense desire to become a sadhu**. Thus, he frequently ran away from home to Shriji Maharaj. Annoyed by this, his family put **fetters on his legs** and locked him in a room. Motabhai remembered Shriji Maharaj. Maharaj soon appeared before him, **broke the fetters** and took Motabhai to Gadhada. He was initiated into the sadhu-fold and renamed **Sachchidanand Swami**. Whenever he was separated from Maharaj, **blood would ooze** from every pore of his body. Just as he had a deep affection for Maharaj, Swami also had a great affinity for Satsang. He often said, "Even my legs are cut off, I will drag myself to where all sadhus throw the remnants of their food, sit there, **eat those remnants and remain in Satsang**. As instructed by Maharaj, Swami had the **Radha Vav dug**. Near this well, he cultivated a beautiful garden of flowers. Once Shriji Maharaj was giving special vows to be observed during chaturmas. Sachchidanand Swami took a vow **not to sleep for four months** and sit cross-legged with a stone on each thigh, to meditate on Shriji Maharaj during the night. In a time of drought the devotees prayed to Shriji maharaj for rain but Maharaj refused to oblige and said that it won't rain this year as Indra has become angry. Worried devotees came to Swami. He said, "**I cannot do anything without consent of Shriji Maharaj**". But the devotees persistently requested, "We will bear the brunt of the consequences." Compassionate Swamiji gave a kick to Indra, woke him up and asked him to shower rain. Soon there was plentiful rainfall. When Shriji Maharaj came to know about it, he immediately **excommunicated** him from Satsang. Swami sat on the opposite bank of the River Ghela and began to offer devotion. He was very thirsty, but he did not give up chanting Maharaj's name. Shriji Maharaj was sitting in his room, Akshar Ordi, and began to feel very thirsty. The attendant Brahmachari served him plenty of water, but his thirst was not quenched. Then Maharaj said, "**Serve water to the Swami who is very thirsty**." It was only when Swami drank the water that Shriji Maharaj's thirst was quenched. Such was Sachchidanand

Swami's oneness with Maharaj. 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.** When maharaj commanded him to return to his body he said, "I won't be able to stay there." When Swami urged repeatedly, then Maharaj gave him sanctified water to drink and **promised to bring him to Akshardham within six months.** Only then did Swami come back into the body. Such was Sachchidanand Swami's deep love for Shriji Maharaj.

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. **How many shloks are there in Shri Swaminarayan Ashtakam? (6/22)**
A. There are eight shloks in Shri Swaminarayan Ashtakam.
 2. **Where did Dubli Bhatt stay and perform religious rites? (15/45)**
A. Dubli Bhatt stayed at Mota Gokharvala and performed religious rites.
 3. **Which direction represents the direction of the devas as per our scriptures? (1/3)**
A. East represents the direction of the devas as per our scriptures.
 4. **By whose grace did Shitaldas go into samadhi? (3/17)**
A. By Shriji maharaj's grace, Shitaldas went into samadhi.
 5. **Who was born on the full moon day of Fagun? (16/56) (common)**
A. Brahmaswarup Pragji Bhakta (Bhagatji Maharaj) was born on the full moon day of Fagun.
- Q.5 'Karod rupiya kharche.....' (24/82-83) - Complete the Swamini Vat and narrate it. (Total Marks: 5)**

 **Note: If Swami-ni-vat 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 if any of them is written by examinee.**


Swaminarayan hare Swamie vat kari je: 'Karod rupiya kharche pan ava Sadhu male nahi ne karod rupiya deta pan a vatu male nahi ne karod rupiya apta pan manushyadeh male nahi. Ne apne pan karod janma dharya chhe pan koi vakhat avo jog malyo nathi. Nikar shu karva deh dharvu pade?'

'Even by spending tens of millions of rupees, such a Sadhu is unattainable. Even by giving tens of millions of rupees, such spiritual talks are unattainable. Even by giving tens of millions of rupees this human body cannot be attained. And we, too, have taken tens of millions of births. But never have we had such company of the God-realized Sadhu. Otherwise why would we have to take birth?'

It is very difficult to attain the company and talks of a sadhu possessing the attributes of dharma, jnan, vairagya and bhakti. His enlightened talks have the power to dispel the ignorance of maya within us. It is also rare to attain a human birth; we take birth as a human only after moving through the whole cycle of 8,400,... life forms. We have attained all three of these things. And what are we doing with these rare attainments? The following story illustrates.

A blind man committed a crime. But what punishment could be given to a blind man? The king commanded him, "Surrounding this town is a 24mile-long fort with only one gate. Go walk with your hand on the fort's wall and when the gate comes you are free." The blind man started walking, with one hand touching the wall of the fort and a walking stick in the other. When he was a few steps from the gate came, he felt an itch on his head. So as he walked on, he lifted his hand to scratch his head. In the moments he used his hand to scratch his head, he walked passed the gate. When he placed his hand back on the wall, all he felt was the solid wall and so he ignorantly started the 24 mile trek all over again. The same happens to us. We have attained this rare human body and have come in contact with a true sadhu. Now, we must recognize his greatness and eradicate our ignorance by listening too his discourses.


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

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

1. Mohime tav bhaktapano tame koi prakar; Dosh na rahe koi jatko, suniyo Dharmakumar...
Tumaro tav Hari bhaktako, droh kabu nahi hoy; Ekantik tav dasko dije samagam moy.. (7/24)
2. Ame a yagna arambhyo, balidano ame daishu;
Amara Akshar Purushottam Gunatit jnanne gaishu..
Ame sau Shriji tana putro, Akshare vas amaro chhe;
Svadharmi bhasma choli to, amare kshobh shano chhe..
3. Karyam na sahasa kinchit karyo dharmastu satvaram;
Pathaniyadhitavidya karyaha sangonvaham satam. (22/77)
4. I bow to Bhagwan Swaminarayan who is surrounded by innumerable muktas (liberated souls) and the eternal Aksharbrahman in his divine abode, Akshardham - which is as bright as infinite suns and moons. (6/22)

(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. **“Do what you feel is appropriate.” (39/85)**
 - The king of Limbdi (Thakor saheb) - Swamishri
 - Swamishri spoke boldly, “ It is only for our God, the supreme Sahajanand Swami, and for Gunatitanand Swami that we have suffered countless hardships. It is for them that we have become sadhus.” Then the king says..
2. **“Go into samadhi and put in a request to Shriji Maharaj.” (48/101)**
 - Swamishri (Shastriji Maharaj) - Dharmaswarupdas
 - In September 1936 (Samvat 1992), the devotees of Ahmedabad decided to hold a parayan. The month of Bhadarva had arrived and it still had not rained. So, the devotees prayed to Swamishri. Then..
3. **“You all should pressure Acharya Maharaj and request him.” (29/64)**
 - Gordhanbhai - Swamishri's devotees
 - In Vartal, they tried many plans to kill Swamishri. So, Swamishri's devotees went to ask for Swamishri and his group of sadhus but neither gave them a straight answer. Then..

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


1. **Jaga Bhakta became dismayed in Junagadh. (18/41)**

A. Misled by the talks of jealous sadhus, Jibhai declared that no one should visit Jaga Bhakta's seat or listen to his discourses. He also banned Jaga Bhakta from coming to speak in the general assembly. Meeting devotees and spreading the message of Akshar-Purushottam was all that Jaga Bhakta lived for. So he was dismayed by Jibhai's ban.
2. **Dungar Bhakta's trips to Vartal became more and more frequent. (6/14)**

A. Dungar Bhakta no longer preferred to stay at home. He wished to renounce it and become a sadhu. While he did not feel any affinity for his relatives, he found it difficult to be away from sadhus. Whenever he went to Vartal for the full-moon day festival, he would not return home for two or three days. He would sit individually with many of the sadhus and listen to their teachings. Thus, Dungar Bhakta's trips to Vartal became more and more frequent.
3. **Bhagatji delighted by Yagnapurushdasji's devotion in Chansad. (13/32)**

A. Yagnapurushdasji sent a tumbdi which had been sanctified by Shriji Maharaj and a garland of jasmine buds which had been offered to Harikrishna maharaj, with Dajibhai for Bhagatji Maharaj. Delighted by yagnapurushdasji's devotion, Bhagatji affectionately exclaimed, “Oh, how wonderful indeed, yagnapurushdasji, how wonderful indeed!”

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

 **Note: Main points of short note are highlighted. If points are included than give full marks.**


1. Sixty-Eight Places of Pilgrimage (44/94-96)

From Sarangpur, Swamishri went to the **village of Ashi**, with Yogi Swami. Yogi Swami would wake up at three in the morning, and with his sweet voice sing prabhatiya bhajans. One morning he sang narsinh Mehta's famous kirtan, 'Pran thaki mune Vaishnav vahala..' He continued singing, '**Adsath tirath** mara sant ne charane, koti Ganga koti Kashi re..' Yogi Swami's **singing annoyed Ranchhod Patel**, who often slept in the village mandir. He said, "Maharaj! Do not sing such a silly bhajan. **In this Kaliyug, such a sadhu does not exist.** Do not sing such nonsense." Yogi Swami obliged, "All right, I will sing another bhajan." He then started another bhajan. That night, after giving discourses Swamishri went to sleep in the mandir. Ranchhodbhai sat on the floor nearby. Beacause of his old age and frail health, he rarely ever slept at night. Everyone drifted off to sleep. Ranchhodbhai got up and closed the front gate of the mandir and sat down to turn the beads of his mala. About after an hour, the **gate was slowly pushed open. A divine cow**, extremely white in colour, **came inside**. She **came to Swamishri's feet** and bowed her head three times. Ranchhodbhai could not believe his eyes. The cow then quietly left the mandir. Ranchhodbhai followed to see where it would go. As he stepped outside, he faintly saw the cow in the moonlight for a short distance, then the cow vanished. 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. When Yogi Swami awoke at 3 a.m, Ranchhodbhai requested, "Maharaj! Please sing that kirtan about the **sixty-eight places of pilgrimage.**" Yogi Swami inquires, "Why? Just yesterday you told me not to sing it," Ranchhodbhai replied, "**I had darshan of the Ganga in the form of a cow.** Now, my ignorance is gone." He then related all that had happened. He exclaimed that **Shastriji Maharaj was a powerful incarnation.**

2. Importance of Ekadashi explained by Dungar Bhakta (5/6)

At the **age of six, Dungar Bhakta** went to a family **wedding in the village of karamsad**. While everyone else was enjoying the occasion, Dungar slipped out into the village and went to **the local mandir**. There he began to **offer devotional service and give spiritual discourses**. Soon it was time for lunch. Everyone wondered where Dungar Bhakta could be. They searched everywhere for him. Finally, they found him at the mandir. However, Dungar refused to have lunch, explaining that since **it was Ekadashi he was observing a fast**. Everyone was astonished. How could a six-year-old boy choose to fast when such a sumptuous meal was being served? There were **four hundred people** at the wedding. Everyone **pressured Dungar Bhakta** to eat. Undaunted, Dungar Bhakta declared, "**I have heard from the shastras that to eat food made from grains on Ekadashi is as sinful as eating meat.** So, I will not eat." Everyone was touched by Dungar Bhakta's **firm vow to obey** the shastras. They stopped pressuring him and ordered **sweets prepared without grains**, from the nearby town Anand.

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 did Shriji Maharaj exclaim for the land at the hill in Gadhada? (54/112)**
 - A. Shriji Maharaj had exclaimed, "A graet mandir shall be constructed here in the future and the murtis of myself and my choicest devotee shall be consecrated."
- 2. Whose houses did Swamishri purchase in Sarangpur? (37/80)**
 - A. Swamishri purchsed the house of Pitha Khachar in Sarangpur.
- 3. What did Gunatitanand Swami explain? (1/1)**
 - A. Gunatitanand Swami continuously explained that Shriji Maharaj was the supreme God.


4. **Whom did Purani Raghuvircharandas accommodate in Mahuva mandir? (14/33)**

A. Purani Raghuvircharandas accomodated Yagnapurushdasji and Keshavprasaddas in the Mahuva mandir.

5. **Who was working through whom to complete the work of Sarangpur mandir? (40/86)**

A. Akshar muktas were working through Kothari Shankar Bhagat and several sadhus working in Sarangpur mandir.

Q.11 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct options. (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. 3 (4/9)

2. 1, 3 (2/2)

3. 1, 2, 3 (33/72)

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. **A broom for inner cleansing:** During the Janmashtami festival, Acharya Maharaj advised Yagnapurushdasji that if Bhagatji Maharaj told him to study further, he should opt to study in Vadodara, rather than Junagadh. (17/40)
A. **A broom for inner cleansing:** During the Jalijhilani festival, Bhagatji Maharaj advised Yagnapurushdasji that if Acharya Maharaj told him to study further, he should opt to study in Rajkot, rather than Kashi. (17/40)
2. **First celebration of Swamishri's Birthday:** On Akha trij, Samvat 2002, three hundred thousand devotees gathered in Atladra. Many eminent guests had arrived from all over Saurashtra. (50/105)
A. **First celebration of Swamishri's Birthday:** On Vasant Panchmi, Samvat 2001, two hundred thousand devotees gathered in Bochasan. Many eminent guests had arrived from all over Gujarat. (50/105)
3. **I am Yogi and Yogi is myself:** Everyone should chant the name of Akshar Brahma Gunatitanand while doing the dhun. You should only meditate him. I myself meditate him. You should as well. (57/119)
A. **I am Yogi and Yogi is myself:** Everyone should chant the name of Bhagwan Swaminarayan while turning the beads of mala. You should only worship him. I myself worship him. You should as well. (57/119)
4. **Like a favourite son:** Vidhatranand Swami had kept a pair of Gunatitanand Swami's charanarvind. After Swami passed away, these charanarvind were passed on to Swami's younger disciple, Mahapurushdasji. (12/30)
A. **Like a favourite son:** Vignananand Swami had kept a pair of Shriji Maharaj's charanarvind. After Swami passed away, these charanarvind were passed on to Swami's leading disciple, Yagnapurushdasji. (12/30)
5. **The first Akshar-Purushottam Mandir in Bochasan:** As a precautionary measure, Mathurbhai stationed three thousand of his men to guard the site. They stood on four sides to deter anyone who dared to destroy the construction. (34/75)
A. **The first Akshar-Purushottam Mandir in Bochasan:** As a precautionary measure, Hirabhai stationed two thousand of his men to guard the site. They stood on four sides to deter anyone who dared to disrupt the construction. (34/75)
6. **Invincible power:** Niranjandas went to Vadthal to have the remaining murtis made. Swamishri asked Pujari Bechar Bhagat, of the Vadthal Swaminarayan ashram, to make any necessary arrangements for Niranjandas. (24/53)
A. **Invincible power:** Nirmaldas went to Vadodara to have the remaining murtis made. Swamishri asked Kothari Jetha Bhagat, of the Vadodara Swaminarayan mandir, to make any necessary arrangements for Nirmaldas. (24/53)



THE END

