Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharpurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha Satsang Shikshan Pariksha

SATSANG PARICHAY-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 (\checkmark) 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 PARICHAY, 4th Edition, January - 2010)

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. "Therefore, it is as good as I having eaten them." (29/106)
- Shriji Maharaj to the devotees
- Once Shriji Maharaj told Gordhanbhai to serve him pendas brought by a devotee. Gordhanbhai finished all the pendas. When one of the devotees wondered, Shriji Maharaj explained.
- 2. "We will not even get anything to eat in Kutch." (19/66)
- Muktanand Swami to Shriji Maharaj
- Shriji Maharaj initiated Sundarji Suthar into the sadhu-fold and asked Muktanand Swami, "What a wonderful thing I have done. I have made a king's minister renounce." Then....
- 3. "Concentrate on the roof tiles of Dada Khachar." (26/98)
- Parvatbhai to Swarupanand Swami
- ➡ When Swarupanand Swami fell ill and was feeling restless, Shriji Maharaj told him to go to Parvatbhai and listen to him. Then...

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

- 1. The sadhus and devotees praised Galuji heartily. (3/9)
- A. Once, when Shriji Maharaj was to visit Dadusar, Galuji's mother died. Galuji told his brothers, "If we remain engaged in performing the last rites, then Maharaj will not stay. So let us cover the body and put it in the loft." He recieved Maharaj with the beating of drums, offered prostrations and also served all of them with the food prepared by a Brahmin. When they departed, Shriji Maharaj told Galuji to complete his unfinished work. When Muktanand Swami asked Maharaj, he disclosed the secret. None else can act like this. So, the sadhus and devotees praised Galuji heartily.
- 2. The Prince didn't ask about the bandage on his throat. (7/17)
- A. The prince had great faith in his friend and knew the true spirit of friendship. The prince believed that his friend would have done something which was in his interest. He was convinced that his friend would do no wrong to him. So, he didn't ask about the bandage on his throat.
- 3. Ramanujanand Swami refused the throne of the mandir with a Golden pillar. (12/43)
- A. Ramanujanand Swami was in search of manifest God for the moksha of his soul. So there was no use of the throne of Golden pillar mandir. Thus, he politely refused and both the sadhus started for Kathiawad for the darshan of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

Q.3 Write short notes on "Rajbai" (18/62-65) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

A woman called Rajbai of the village called Vankia was an ekantik devotee of Shriji Maharaj. Rajbai was attracted towards Shriji Maharaj when she had first darshan at Gadhada. She realized that Shriji Maharaj was supreme God. She had resolved to serve Shriji Maharaj by observing absolute celibacy in all the eight forms. She was not interested in marriage. When the would be in-laws sent the customary sari and coconut, her mother kept them on ledge and showed the sari to Rajbai. Displeased with it Rajbai said, "Set it ablaze." And soon the sari was ablaze. On the day of her marriage, the marriage party arrived at Rajbai's house and the bridegroom entered the special place where the marriage was to be solemnized, Rajbai remembered Shriji Maharaj and attained samadhi and lay there like a corpse. At the marriage altar, Rajbai's place was taken by one of her maids. Rajbai was placed in the cart and was sent to the house of the bridegroom. On her way she continued to sing bhajans. At night when her husband entered the bedroom, Rajbai was meditating on Shriji Maharaj. The husband, instead of Rajbai, saw a fierce lion sitting on the cot. He gave out a wild scream and ran out of the room. He went to his mother and said, "I don't want this woman." He gave a note to her and sent her away to Gadhada. Once, Shriji Maharaj was addressing a holy assembly under a neem tree. Rajbai's relatives came there and requested to Shriji Maharaj to order Rajbai to return home. Maharaj told her to return home. As soon as she heard these words, she fainted and blood oozed from all the pores of her skin. Her relatives thought that Rajbai would die, so they requested Maharaj to bless her that she recovers. Immediately Maharaj approached her unconscious body and said, "You may observe absolute celibacy and stay here to serve me." Soon, life returned to unconscious Rajbai. She got up and fell at the feet of Shriji Maharaj. Maharaj asked her, "Why did you feel bad about my suggestion?" Rajbai replied, "O Maharaj! Haven't I experienced worldly pleasures in all my previous births? In all my births I must have consumed enough mother's milk which could easily fill the oceans. I have taken birth so many times and have indulged in sense gratification. In this birth I am determined to observe absolute celibacy and serve you wholeheartedly. When you asked me to observe celibacy and serve you, I became very happy." Once in summer, Rajbai had served Maharaj with ras and rotli and had performed pujan through Dada Khachar. By the grace and will of Shriji Maharaj, Rajbai attained samadhi. She saw the luminous divine figure of Shriji Maharaj

seated on a divine throne in Akshardham. Brahma and other deities showered flowers and sandalwood powder on Shriji Maharaj and Rajbai. Rajbai's detachment was intense. She used to keep herself at least ten yards away from men; she wore thick, coarse clothes; ate very little and slept on the ground. Her celibacy was so absolute that after her death when Dada khachar poured ghee on her funeral pyre for cremation, the fire did not light. Then Gopalanand Swami came forward and said, "Tell the fire deity that the sati has left and this is just her body, therefore, there is nothing wrong in touching her body." No sooner did Gopalanand Swami complete these words, the fire was ablaze. Because of her deep devotion towards Shriji Maharaj, she has earned her place among the immortal names of the great devotees in the Satsang.

Q.4 Answer <u>ALL</u> of the following, using one sentence (not just one word) for each answer. (Total Marks: 5)

Note: No mark for incomplete answer.

- 1. When does mind become steadfast? (5/14)
- A. When a devotee pours all his feelings and emotions in the murti of God through the nine modes of worship, the mind becomes steadfast.
- 2. What did Shriji Maharaj do to Naja Jogiya while wrestling? (8/19)
- A. Shriji Maharaj flung Naja Jogiya up to the ceiling and threw him on the ground.
- 3. What is internal kusang? (14/51)
- A. To indulge in sensual pleasure and to ascribe human traits to God and to his brahmanized Sadhu is internal kusang.
- 4. During the discussion between Nathu Bhatt and Damodarbhai, what did Nathu Bhatt at first believe? (13/45)
- A. Nathu Bhatt believed that Shri Krishna is the supreme deity during the discussion with Damodarbhai.
- 5. What promise did Shriji Maharaj make to Kashidas in V.S. 1865? (10/31)
- A. In V.S.1865, Shriji Maharaj had promised Kashidas of Bochasan, "Here, at this place a big mandir will be erected and I shall dwell here along with my dham."

Q.5 "Jem gay chhe te" (25/92-94) - 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.

"Jem gay chhe te vachhda saru parso muke chhe tem je shishya hoy te gurune man sope to antahkarannu ajnan tali nakhe. Pan te vina tale nahi."

"Just as a cow releases milk for its calf, if a devotee surrenders his mind to his guru, he will free the inner faculties for ignorance. But without this it will not be removed."

Satyakam Jabali went to a guru to attain wisdom. The guru asked about his family background and history. As he didn't know he asked his mother about it. His mother told, "You have no father." Jabali returned to the hermitage of the guru and told him everything. The guru then remarked, "You haven't concealed anything from me so you are a brahmin." He granted him permission to study in his hermitage. Once, the guru said, "Who will lead these cows to the meadows? He will have to allow them to graze till they increase to four hundred cows. Then only I will impart spiritual wisdom to him." Most of the pupils replied, "We have come here to study and not to graze cows." They avoided the work. But Satyakam Jabali carried out the guru's command and led the cows away for grazing. In accordance with the guru's command, he started serving the cows and took them out for grazing everyday. He looked after their daily needs of water and fodder and served them with love. The cows went on

multiplying. While serving the cows, he began to learn a great deal from the trees, leaves, animals and birds. When the number of cows had reached four hundred, Satyakam went to his guru. At that time his face was beaming with the radiance of wisdom. The guru bestowed upon him his choicest blessings and said, "You have acquired all knowledge. From today, you will be regarded as a master of everything." With these words the guru blessed him and he attained brahmajnan. Thus, Swami observed, such stories can be narrated only when one begins to overflow with love for one's disciples. Milk begins to flow from the udder of a cow at the sight of her calf, because the calf is so dear to the cow; in the same manner, if one surrernders completely to the guru and accepts his precepts unconditionally, then only does the guru eradicate one's ignorance. One who has become worthy of one's guru's blessings and love does not need any knowledge of the scriptures.

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

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

- 1. Durgapur khel rachyo ati bhari, Bhela rame sadhu ane brahmachari. Tali pade upadati ati sari, Dhunya thay chaud lok thaki nyari. (20/76)
- Je Swaminarayan nam leshe, tena badha patak bali deshe;
 Chhe nam mara shrutima anek, sarvopari a ja ganay ek.
 Jo Swaminarayan ek var, rate bija nam ratya hajar;
 Japya thaki je fal thay tenu, kari shake varnan kon enu. (6/15)
- 3. Bhav-varidhi-moksha-sadhanam, Gururaja-prakat-sva-sangamam; Praktikrutvan krupa-varsha, Sahajanand-gurum bhaje sada. (11/40)
- 4. **Translation:** If a man thinks of objects of sense gratification, interest in them arises; from such interest desire is born; that state in which a person cannot resist indulging in worldly pleasure is called desire; from desire anger is produced.

(SECTION-2: PRAGJI BHAKTA, 4th Edition, SEPTEMBER - 2009)

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. "He is very great and will inspire thousands of people to worship God." (2/3)
- Gopalanand Swami to devotees
- □ In Pithvadi Pragji Bhakta performed the pujan of Acharya Maharaj and the sadhus, performed arti and then prostrated before them. When the devotees asked Gopalanand Swami to say more, he said.
- 2. "The nose is a bit long, Maharaj's nose was not so long." (24/53)
- Bhagatji to Yagnapurushdasji
- 3. "Now make everyone as happy as you are." (28/64)
- Bhagatji to Yagnapurushdasji
- At Gondal, when Yagnapurushdasji sought Bhagatji's opinion about his studies, Bhagatji said this.

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

- 1. Vitthalbhai offered oil to Hanumanii but the disease was not cured. (29/68)
- A. Vitthalbhai offered oil to Hanumanji at his own will and not at the command of Bhagatji Maharaj. So, the disease of his daughter-in-law was not cured.
- 2. Mana Bhagat became silent. (7/16)
- A. Once, Mana Bhagat told Swami, "This poor Pragji has left everything to learn meditation from you. But instead, you make him lift big stones. You are extracting

- work beyond his capacity." Swami replied, "I will make him lift stones and realize God." So, Mana bhagat became silent.
- 3. Bhagatji's last rites were performed according to the customs of his community. (28/65)
- A. Bhagatji had instructed the devotees in advance that his last rites be performed according to the customs of his community, but they should not use sandalwood etc. Accordingly, Bhagatji's last rites were performed according to the customs of his community.

Q.9 Write short notes on "Manifestation through Pragji Bhagat" (16/34-35) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Thousands of devotees had thronged to the Junagadh mandir on the occasion of the Bhim Ekadashi festival. When Swami saw the assembly hall canopy, he remembered Pragji Bhakta. He could not control his tears and said, "For what crime has he been excommunicated? Those who excommunicated him are themselves excommunicated." Such was the deep love Swami had for Pragji Bhakta. Then he entrusted certain mandir duties to Jaga Bhagat and other trusted devotees and left to tour the region. He came to the gate leading to Nagarwada and sat there for sometime. He said, "I have spent forty years, four months and four days in this place. Now I shall move around in Satsang, visiting the devotees and shall stay at Mahuva." Thus he indirectly referred to the fact that he was manifest in the Satsang through Pragji Bhakta. Gunatitanand Swami left for Vanthali. From there he went to Upleta, Panchala and Gondal. As the Maharaja of Gondal had sent a special invitation to him, he was accorded a royal welcome to the palace. He blessed young Bhagwatsinhji and offered him vartaman. He visited the homes of Ganod Darbar and Madhavji Karbhari at eleven o'clock at night. Then on Aso sud 12 V.S.1923, at 12.45 a.m.he, of his own free will, independently left his mortal body and returned to Akshardham- the divine abode - to serve Shriji Maharaj.

Q.10 Answer <u>ALL</u> 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 Bhagatji Maharaj say in response to the devotee who said, "How is it that you, a householder, are placing your hands on the head of a sadhu?" (24/52)
- A. In response to the devotee Bhagatji said, "It is Bhagwan Swaminarayan, not I, who has placed his hands."
- 2. Who gave what to Pragji Bhakta when he set off for Mahuva? (15/32)
- A. The bhandari had given him some ladus when Pragji Bhakta set off for Mahuva.
- 3. At the instance of realization, what darshan did Shriji Maharaj first give to Pragji Bhakta? (10/20)
- A. At the instance of realization, Shriji Maharaj gave darshan in saffron robes at first to Pragji Bhakta.
- 4. How many rotla did Yagnapurushdasji eat as per Bhagatji's command in Bhadrod? (21/46)
- A. Yagnapurushdasji ate three and a half milet rotlas in Bhadrod.
- 5. How many malas did Bhagatji Maharaj turn for the welfare of the devotees? (25/54)
- A. Bhagatji Maharaj turned eighteen thousand malas for the welfare of the devotees.

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. 1, 4 (12/25)

2. 1, 2 (19/40-41)

3. 1, 4 (2/6)

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. **Grand reception at Junagadh:** In V.S. <u>1953</u>, on the occasion of the <u>Janmashtami</u> festival at <u>Junagadh</u> he persuaded <u>Acharya Maharaj</u> to invite Bhagatji to <u>Junagadh</u>. (27/58-60)
- 2. **Guru Of Shastri Yagnapurushdasji:** Ramratandasji and Yagnapurushdasji were companion sadhus. Once Ramratandasji requested Bhagatji Maharaj to get him the pair of footprints of Shriji Maharaj Yagnapurushdasji had. (18/39)
- 3. **The Path of Thorns:** Pragji Bhakta discoursed to thousands of devotees during this festival and satisfied them. The talks and discourses continued till late at night. (13/28)
- 4 **Satsang with the Diwan of Vansda:** On receiving instructions from <u>Acharya Maharaj</u> and <u>Kothari, Bhagatji arrived at Vansda, via Bilimora, along with four devotees.</u> (23/48)
- 5. **The Last phase:** Bhagatji told Yagnapurushdasji not to come to Mahuva. But his mind was continuously focused on Bhagatji. (28/65)
- 6. **Trouble for Bhagatji's sadhus:** Bhagatji's spiritual <u>tours</u> comforted innumerable devotees in <u>Gujarat. Motilalbhai</u> of <u>Pij</u> used to <u>chant bhajans</u> incessantly. (20/41)