

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

SATSANG PARICHAY - 1

Time : 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 2 March, 2014

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 the 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: SAHAJANAND CHARITRA, 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. "If you want food, we are prepared to serve you with food." (2/8)
 - 👉 Shriji Maharaj - to Magniram
 - 👉 When Magniram threatened Maharaj give me ten thousand rupees or I shall have the entire town drowned in the sea.
2. "This is your younger brother, Ichchharambhai, who has arrived." (20/118)
 - 👉 Muktanand Swami - to Shriji Maharaj
 - 👉 When Muktanand Swami introduced Ichchharambhai who came from Chappaiya to Loya for Maharaj's darshan.
3. "Has he become blind on my account?" (10/72)
 - 👉 Shriji Maharaj - to sansangi
 - 👉 During the course of his travels Maharaj came to Visnagar He learnt from the satsangi about Shobharam's blindness. Compassionate Maharaj felt pity and remarked.

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

1. Bishop Heber was surprised to see Shriji Maharaj's devotees. (24/137-138)

- A. Shriji Maharaj sent some baskets of sweets and garlands to Bishop Heber. Bishop looked at all the six devotees. They were Bania, Kathi, Koli-thakur, Rajput, Rayat and Muslim devotees with a tilak on their foreheads. They stood there before the Bishop with folded hands. Bishop Heber was surprised to find these people of diverse culture and upbringing living together.
2. Gadhada's market reopened and business returned to normal. (18/113)
- A. Shriji Maharaj took the boy into confidence and affectionately advised him where to spit and where not to. He explained to sadhu and said how the child had spat without any intention. He pleaded with sadhu to forgive the child and accorded honour and respect to the Jain sadhu. Jain Sadhu was convinced and realized his sadhu dharma and asked his followers to withdraw the strike.
3. Shriji Maharaj said, "Kindly never disobey the Shikshapatri." (26/151-152)
- A. In Barwala one of the beloved devotees invited Maharaj to his house. His house was very small. He made arrangements for Maharaj's stay in the bigger house of his elder brother. The devotee went to buy foodstuff. His elder brother who had no respect towards Maharaj and who hated the sadhu entered the house and shouted to Maharaj. Maharaj asked him not to lose patience and explained everything. But he said please quit this house so Maharaj remarked, "we have disobey the Shikshapatri written by us therefore we suffered."

Q.3 Write short note on any ONE of the following. (in 15 lines) (Total Marks: 5)

1. **Method of De-addiction (5/36-37)** The sadhus and satsangis of Swaminarayan sampraday had impressed people by their pure actions and characters. They helped people become free of various harmful habits, vices and addictions. They made the people addiction-free in a most friendly and casual way without pressurizing them. Mulu Khachar Garasiya of Khambhala came for the darshan of Maharaj. When Maharaj asked him to become satsangi, he said I am an opium and tobacco addict. I cannot give them up and therefore, I am unable to become a satsangi. Maharaj replied, "Don't worry. You just try to give them up. Even if you don't succeed you should accept vartman and be a satsangi. If you can't do anything, you can at least observe the five vartmans. Mulu Khachar gained confidence and said, "OK Maharaj! Make me a satsangi." So, Maharaj offered him vartman and made him a satsangi. Mulu Khachar stayed with Maharaj at Ghadhada. Whenever he found some free time from listening to the discourses, he would retire to smoke his hookah. After some days, Maharaj asked him to join the devotees to celebrate the festival in Vartal. Mulu Khachar readily joined the group. The devotees used to break their journey to take rest at certain towns and villages. There, Mulu Khachar would light his hookah and take a few puffs. The locals who came to see the devotees criticized Mulu and would say, "All these people belong to the Swaminarayan Sampraday, but that man who smokes a hookah does not seem to be one of them!" These remarks irritated Mulu. He gave up smoking. However, Mulu Khachar continued chewing tobacco and opium secretly. The entire group reached Vartal. The devotees of Gujarat had arranged the lodgings of all the devotees from different places at one location. There, Mulu Khachar used to chew his tobacco and opium. All the satsangis had seen him doing so. Then Maharaj started introducing the satsangis from Kathiawad to those from Gujarat. All of them embraced each other. But they avoided Mulu Khachar, saying, "The one who chews tobacco and opium does not seem to be a satsangi!" Mulu Khachar decided then and there to give up tobacco and opium. After three to four days when Maharaj learned that Mulu Khachar had given up the hookah, tobacco and opium, he called him and asked, "On whose advice did you give up your addictions? Mulu Khachar replied, "Maharaj, at the insistence of non-satsangis, I gave up the hookah, and the satsangi made me give up tobacco and opium." He added, "Maharaj, you have

showed great mercy on me by bringing me to this festival. You have changed my life by making me free from the slavery of addictions.”

2. **O carrots! (7/53)** Maharaj arrived at Jhinjavadar, Alaiya Khachar’s town. Maharaj started a new practice. He instructed everyone to meditate before taking meals. After the food had been served, the ‘Jai’ would be hailed and everyone would keep their eyes closed and feel for the food in the plate. Only the first item they touched was to be eaten and nothing else. The clock struck twelve. All sat for their meals. They shut their eyes, meditated and then Maharaj called the ‘Jai’. Sura Khachar touched the pickled carrots which was too salty and had too much hot pepper. As soon as he put one piece of carrot into his mouth he started to hiccup. Water started running down from his eyes and his hair stood on end. What could he do? He drank some water and his hiccups eventually stopped. Then Sura Khachar started singing: “O dear, these carrots are my enemies....” On hearing this, Maharaj burst into laughter. Maharaj asked him, “How did you enjoy the dish?” Sura Khachar replied jokingly, “Maharaj, everyone should share in this pleasures!” Maharaj showed mercy and allowed him to eat dudhpak.
3. **Succour to the Poor (14/94-95)** There lived two satsangi women in Langhnaj, one was very poor. Her name was Sonbai Bhavsar. The other was a rich Nagar Brahmin. Her name was Gangaba. Sonbai invited Maharaj and other sadhus for a meal. When Gangaba learnt about this, she approached Sonbai and said, “You have not rice and pulses of good quality. Your foodstuff is inferior to mine, so you cook and serve the sadhus and I shall prepare a special dish for Maharaj with my superior grains and shall bring it to your house and serve it to Maharaj.” Poor Sonbai was hurt but with great pain she agreed to the proposal. She thought, “My foodstuff is inferior, it could not be served to Maharaj.” At noon, Maharaj came to Sonbai’s house for lunch wearing his wooden sandals. He looked at Sonbai. She looked sad and her eyes had become misty. Maharaj asked her to explain the cause of her sorrow. Tearfully, Sonbai explained everything to Maharaj. Maharaj declared, “Bring whatever you have cooked. I shall eat only your food.” Sonbai became very happy and laid a low stool for Maharaj and offered him the food. When Maharaj had finished his meals, Gangaba, appeared, followed by a Brahmin with a prepared dish. Maharaj told her, “I have eaten, I enjoyed Sonbai’s food. Now share your food with Sonbai?” Gangaba introspected, realized her mistake and was convinced about Sonbai’s sincerity and devotion.


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. To whom did Shriji Maharaj reveal the six objectives behind his incarnation on earth? (20/116)
A. Shriji Maharaj revealed to Gopalanand Swami the six objectives behind his incarnation on earth.
2. What atonement did Shriji Maharaj give to Sura Khachar for using rude words? (11/76)
A. Shriji Maharaj told Sura Khachar to turn fifty-one malas as atonement for using rude words.
3. Which village and whose home did Shriji Maharaj visit during his last illness? (29/167)
A. Shriji Maharaj visited Kakabhai’s home at Rojka during his last illness.
4. Why did the Paramhansas not take cooked food as alms? (7/50)
A. Paramhansas had doubt “How can we eat food cooked by anybody and everybody? So they were not prepared to ask for such alms.
5. What were the names of the three special rooms where Shriji Maharaj lived incognito? (12/88)

A. The names of the three special rooms were labelled as Gujarat, Kathiawad and Kutch where Shriji Maharaj lived incognito.

Q.5 From the given options, place a tick (✓) in the box next to the correct ones. (Total Marks: 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. 2, 3, 4 (2/8) 2. 2, 3 (28/157)

Q.6 Fill in the blanks. (Total Marks: 4)

1. Vartal, twelve (14/97-98) 2. Gopalanand, Chhani (25/146)
3. Sorath, Akshardham (26/151) 4. Nirgunanand, blanket (23/132)

(SECTION-2: SATSANG READER PART-2, 4th Edition April - 2011)

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. "There is an invitation for you." (7/51)
 - ☞ Gunatitanand Swami - to Jaga Bhakta
 - ☞ When Jaga Bhakta's father Raghav Bhakta came with note of recommendation addressed to Acharya Raghuvirji Maharaj given by Mahapurushdasji the mahant of Gadhada.
2. "Stop. Please don't sing such kirtans." (2/15)
 - ☞ Dada Khachar - to Premanand Swami
 - ☞ After Maharaj departure to his abode. One day Premanand Swami remembered Maharaj so he started singing "Sajni Shriji mujne..." On hearing this verse Dada Khachar ran to Premanand Swami and said above words.
3. "I feel at peace by your darshan." (4/31)
 - ☞ Acharya Ayodhyaprasadji - to Gunatitanand Swami
 - ☞ On 1867 CE (Samvat 1923) the Acharya fell ill and had to fast for 13 days. Mentally he felt uneasy therefore specially he called Gunatitanand Swami to Ahmedabad on arrival of Swami to Ahmedabad. Acharya Maharaj could not control his emotions and said above words.

Q.8 Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). (Total Marks: 4)

1. Shriji Maharaj asked Teja Thakkar whether he was willing to sell his buffalo. (6/45)
 - A. Teja Thakkar brought a new buffalo. He sent a container full of milk with request to Laduba that it be served to Maharaj. Maharaj found the milk delicious. So Laduba thought how nice if we had that buffalo so that we serve its milk to Maharaj everyday. When Teja Thakkar came, Maharaj praised the taste of milk. Maharaj went to his house personally to have a look at the buffalo then Maharaj asked Teja Thakkar whether he was willing to sell his buffalo.
2. Ada told his followers to go to Bochasan. (8/67)
 - A. Ada started telling his followers to go to Bochasan. He used to say The Akshar Purushottam philosophy which had so far remained restricted to a corner has now spread throughout the Charotar region. Therefore those who want talk about or listen to it openly should go to Bochasan.

Q.9 Write short notes on "Nityanand Swami's unshakable faith in the supremacy of Maharaj" (1/4-5) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Nityanand Swami had an unshakable faith in the supremacy of Maharaj. While the Satsangijivan scripture was being written at Vartal, the question of how to describe Maharaj's form was raised. Most of the sadhus compared him with incarnations like

Ram and Krishna. At that time Nityanand Swami said, "Shriji Maharaj is the avatari of all avatars. He is the cause of all causes. He is the manifest supreme God, Purushottam Narayan. How can we say he is like other incarnations?" The sadhus were divided on this issue. Even Shriji Maharaj himself opposed Nityanand Swami. Maharaj tried his best but Nityanand Swami was as firm as a mountain in his conviction. He didn't budge. In the end, Shriji Maharaj called him an obstinate person and excommunicated him. Nityanand Swami stopped attending the daily satsang assemblies. He stopped taking meals and engaged in constant meditation and bhajan. This continued for seven days. On the eighth day Shriji Maharaj invited Nityanand Swami to the assembly, performed his puja and offered his own garland as a token of love and appreciation for his devotion. People were surprised to see this sudden change in Maharaj's attitude towards him. Maharaj then explained to the paramhansas, "Nityanand Swami is right in his understanding. A devotee must possess such qualities. You, too, should understand my form, the way he understands it."

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

 **Note : No mark for incomplete answer.**

1. Who became oblivious of everything on hearing the music of Premanand Swami? (2/15)
A. The musicians from Gwalior became oblivious of everything on hearing the music of Premanand Swami.
2. Where and with whom did Mulji Brahmachari stay after being excommunicated? (3/23)
A. After being excommunicated Mulji Brahmachari stayed with Ramdasbhai of Dabhan.
3. With whom did Shriji Maharaj solemnize the marriage of Dada Khachar? (5/38)
A. Maharaj solemnized the marriage of Dada Khachar with Jasuba.
4. Who did Karsanjibhai marry? (8/63)
A. Karsanjibhai had married Ladkiba.

Q.11 Select the six correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes. (Total Marks: 6)

Topic: Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj's atmanishtha (4/29-32)

- (1) Write the correct sentence numbers

1	4	6	7	9	11
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- (2) Correct sequence of sentences

1	11	4	6	7	9
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Note: (1) 3 marks will be awarded in 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 is correct. Otherwise no marks will be given.

Note: (1) Correct sentence numbers: Give 3 marks only if all 6 sentence number is correct otherwise no marks. **(2) Correct sequence of sentences:** Give 3 marks if all sequence of sentence numbers is correct as per answersheet otherwise no marks.

Q.12 Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading. (Total Marks: 4)


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

1. **Bhaktaraj Laduba:** She had married Khoda Dhadhal of Botad. However, her mind remained focused only on God. Therefore, Khoda Dhadhal willingly sent her back to her parents to worship God. (6/41)
2. **Swami Jaga Bhakta:** When he read the telegram he cancelled his trip to Bhavnagar and sent the attendant back to Sarangpur on horseback to bring his pattar, puja and dhotis. He took a junior sadhu with him and went directly to Dangra. (7/60)

3. **Premasakhi Premanand Swami:** After some time a carder passing by suddenly saw the child lying in the hole of the tree. His joy knew no bounds on seeing the child. (2/9)
4. **Shri Krishnaji Ada:** He could have easily arranged for his personal needs from the beloved devotees. But, in accordance with Swami's command, he regularly visited eight houses to collect alms and gave one-tenth of his alms to the mandir before taking the rest home. Then he would cook his food and eat. (8/65)

(SECTION-3: ESSAY)

**Q.13 Write an essay on any ONE of the following. (In approximately 30 lines.)
(Total Marks: 10)**

 **Note : Essay is an independent original subject. In addition to following points many other point might be included. Examiner has to examin essay on the basis of originality, knowledge of sampraday, special analysis and point from any other scriptures.**

1. **Shastriji Maharaj's priceless gifts: Siddhant, Sanstha, Satpurush:** Shastriji Maharaj as a founder of Akshar Purushottam Sanstha has contributed lot to society by giving us priceless gifts in form of Siddhant, Sanstha, Satpurush. **(1) First priceless gift - Siddhant:** Any Institution or Organization is based on principle. Principle is foundation of organization. Organization or Institution is recognized by its principle and all that is embodied in them. The principle of Shastriji Maharaj as given by Shriji Maharaj. 'Aksharrup thai Purushottam ni bhakti karvi or Aksharrup thai Purushottam ma jodavu. Shastriji Maharaj under went lot of struggle to ensure spread of this principle. He wanted to spread this principle to all the aspirant for their ultimate liberation. (quote incidents) **(2) Second priceless gift - Sanstha:** Shastriji Maharaj's second priceless gift is Akshar Purushottam Sanstha itself. He made sure that there was no exception in this universal principle because only if one adheres to this principle strictly then only one can progress in spirituality path to obtain moksha. Any sanstha without principle redundant. Akshar Purushottam Sanstha has completed its 100 years. It is propagating step by step. It has by now spread more than 55 countries in the world. It has been leading millions of devotees to enlightenment via Ishtadev Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Guru parampara. **(3) Third priceless gift - Satpurush:** Shastriji Maharaj taught us to recognize satpurush and follow satpurush like those described in vachnamrut by Shriji Maharaj and other scriptures like Ved, Upnishad. Shastriji Maharaj had described glory of such a satpurush as a moksha nu dwar - gate way for ultimate liberation. Shastriji Maharaj introduced us to Yogiji Maharaj as a satpurush and taught us his importance. He gave us gift of another satpurush in the form of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. Pramukh Swami inturn took this institute to an entirely different level with vast development. Now this institute has thousands of Mandir, Saints and millions of followers. He has given this institute untouchable foundation. **Conclusion:** We can realized presence of Shriji Maharaj in the work of Shastriji Maharaj.
2. **B.A.P.S. Sanstha: Source of Selfless Service:** **(1)** Bhagirathi means River Ganga. To bring the river Ganga on earth King Bhagirath had extremely difficult task - so Gangaji had to reside on earth. Whenever there is any continuous flow of hard work, King Bhagirath's example is always cited. **(2)** B.A.P.S. Sanstha is principle based many factors are responsible for the progress of Sanstha - Seva is one of the important factors - along with Satpurush hundreds of saints - devotees - aspirants are ready to serve our Ishtdev. (Quote incidents) **(3)** The value of seva is incredible - one should serve with physical - Mental - financial support. The greatness of seva sung by many great people can be quoted. **(4)** Anybody whoever it may be saints, devotees, satpurush etc. likes to serve Sanstha beyond their limit. - To please Maharaj and Guru what cannot be done? Ready to sacrifice their lives too. (Quote incidents) **(5)** First of

all Maharaj has prepared a battalion of people, Saints who are ready to sacrifice - seva was divided as labour class, financial help - people don't bother to store anything for their future or safety (incidents) (6) To serve mentally is also a big seva - and through speech to sing praises of god, kirtans, spread satsang etc. is also an important seva. (7) The biggest seva is that parents offer their only beloved, highly educated child to Maharaj without thinking about their own future - That is why sanstha is given the title of river Ganga - because other river dry during summer and or the flow decreases seasonally - but river Ganga flows continuously same throughout the year.

3. **Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan: Darshan of the Divine Abodes:** (1) Do people really go to dham (heavenly abode) after passing their life? Do people attain God's divine abode after death? Is there anything existing like dham? We have no proof regarding this neither we have any experience. (2) But our shastras, holy scriptures have proof of existence of various abode of different incarnation of God. But human mind prone to doubt, refuse to accept the existence of Dham. (3) Bhagwan Swaminarayan's manifestation on earth is not only divine but its unique in way that he showed vision of various abode of different deities and this proves that he is a supreme God, Avatari of all Avatars. Once while playing with young Ghanshyam mother had a thought that all the devtas came to be present for the birth of Ghanshyam and she was trying to imagine that what their celestial abode might be like. Bal Ghanshyam read her mind and according to Bhaktimata's desire Ghanshyam put her in deep state of meditation and showed her vision of all incarnation of God and their respective abodes. Its written in Harililakalptaru (2/11/52-53)

Tya to ditha Hari tana Avatar sarve, Matsyadi je thai gaya jagmadhye purve.

Tevo mali stuti kare Ghanshyam keru, Thai din pan pranaye Harirup heri.

Here Prakruti Purush told to Bhaktimata:

Aa Shri Hari je sut che tamara, sada nityana prabhu te amara,

Je Krishna aadi avatar thay, te sarva nu karan aa ganay.

In Harililamrut Shriji Maharaj had clearly explain that many avatar of God came on earth. At present so many avatar's are there and in future many of them will be present on earth. "I am cause of them, Avatari of all avatars and I myself is Master of Akshardham." (4) There is another incidence noted by Gunatitanand Swami "In Faneni Shriji Maharaj sent many people to various celestial abode like Golok, Vaikunth, Shwetdeep, Badrikashram and also he gave them darshan of their masters. After experience of such a super human deed of Shriji Maharaj so many aspirant leave their belief and start doing bhajan of Shriji Maharaj. (Swamini vat - 7/3) According to Tadrupanand Swami: Near Limbdi at Ankleshwar mahadev's mandir. Shriji Maharaj fulfil desire of some Brahmins and blessed them with darshan of Shankar-Parvati, Kartikey, Ganesh, Shivgan, Gangaji in their celestial abode Kailash. Here Shriji Maharaj put some brahmin in state of deep meditation and according to their wishes he gave darshan of Chaturbhuj dhari Maha Lakshmi. (Tadupranand Swami ni vat-37) (5) Shriji Maharaj also blessed devotees other than Hindu. A devotee of Sarkhej village named by Dosabhai was muslim Shri Hari gave him darshan of paygambar and other avatar. In this way Shriji Maharaj realized everyone that there is existence of dham who approached him with this desire. (6) None of these abode can bliss jivas by eternal peaces and happiness. One has to go to Akshardham because only there one can experience sublime happiness. Only from Akshardham does a mukta never return to the cycle of birth and death. Shriji Maharaj not only bliss devotees with darshan of Akshardham but he grant them ultimate liberation.

