

Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharapurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha
Satsang Shikshan Pariksha

SATSANG PARICHAY-2

Time : 2.00 to 4.15 p.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: 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. "You are truly Akshar." (8/20)
 - ◇ Ghanshyamdas - to Gunatitanand Swami
 - ◇ Ghanshyamdas was meditating in the assembly hall. Gunatitanand Swami was sitting by his side. He said to Ghanshyamdas, "Are you meditating or caressing the buffalo with a white spot on the forehead at Gadhada?" Ghanshyamdas could not say anything because it was true so he fell at the feet of Swami and said the above sentence.
2. "Why were you standing alone at a distance for so long?" (12/41- 42)
 - ◇ Lakshmichand Sheth - to Sukhanand Swami
 - ◇ Lakshmichand Sheth was offering food in charity to the needy. The sadhu stood in a corner when all the people were served, the sadhu approached the Sheth and collected food that time he said the above sentence.
3. "Don't show me your face again and do not come to me." (13/46)
 - ◇ Rampratapbhai - to Damodarabhai

- ⇒ When Damordarbai's wife returned to Dham, Damordarbai married again. When Rampratapbhai learned about this he called him and scolded him by saying the above sentence.

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

1. My devotees should never divulge the secrets of others at any place. (1/6)
 - A. By divulge the secrets of others at any place, one commits the sin of betrayal and the person whose secrets is revealed feels hurt. This results in the sin of betrayal.
2. Rajbai's sari was ablaze. (18/62)
 - A. Rajbai was not interested in marriage. She had resolved to serve Shriji Maharaj by observing absolute celibacy in all the eight forms and to deny the body all the pleasures of the senses. She plainly refused to be engaged. The would be in-laws had sent the customary sari and coconut. Her mother showed the sari to her saying look at this sari. Rajbai was displeased and said "set it ablaze" and soon the sari was ablaze.
3. Feeling offended, Paramchaitnyanand Swami left. (23/84)
 - A. Shriji Maharaj was greatly pleased with devotion of Kshatriya devotee so he initiated him and named him Aksharanand Swami. Then Aksharanand Swami was made the mahant of Vartal mandir. Paramchaitnyanand Swami was senior to Aksharanand Swami. He thought only yesterday he was made a sadhu and today he is made mahant. Feeling offended Paramchaitnyanand Swami left.

Q.3 Write short notes on "Vishnudas" (15/52-53) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Vishnudas checked the stock and said to Shriji Maharaj that amount of foodstuff was not enough. Listening this Swarupanand Swami remarked, "If there is not enough foodstuff it will bring a bad name to Lakshmiji. Why should we worry about it. Seeing the faith of these two disciples Shriji Maharaj touched the containers of oil, ghee, jaggery, wheat and rice with his stick and all the containers became filled with the various items. Maharaj was at the command of Vishnudas from the village Dabhan. All the grand yagnas which Maharaj had performed in Dabhan was conducted in the name of Vishnudas Patel. He was a favourite and ekantik devotee of Maharaj with the divine grace of Shriji Maharaj. He had attained niravaran sthiti. Thus sitting at home he could see Shriji Maharaj who would be touring far away. He would tell others devotees about Maharaj's vicharan and is exhibiting this particular divine exploit. He constantly saw divinity in Maharaj and experienced the highest level of spiritual knowledge. Maharaj was very fond of the mangoes of certain mango tree in Dabhan. Therefore, Vishnudas used to carry cartloads of these mangoes to Gadhada for Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj was very impressed by this deep devotion of Vishnubhai and used to bless him by placing both his hands on his head and by giving the prints of his feet on his chest. Shriji Maharaj himself used to serve ras and rotli to the sadhus and devotees. Vishnudas believed the divine murti of Shriji Maharaj which is sealed in Akshardham with all his powers is the same as the murti of Shriji Maharaj together with all his divinity and powers which I have attained here. I have before me that Shriji Maharaj with all his power and divinity who dwells on his Akshardham. Shriji Maharaj always bestowed his divine grace on such a sincere devotee.

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. When does a murti attain divinity? (5/13)
 - A. When God realized Satpurush performs the prescribed vedic rites of invoking the divinity of God in the murti then God himself remains manifest in the murti.
2. Who put Gordhanbhai in a state of samadhi? (29/106)
 - A. Nilkanth Varni put Gordhanbhai in a state of samadhi.

3. What are the three types of kusang described in the Swamini Vato? (14/51)
- A. The three types of kusang have been described in the Swamini Vato: (1) External kusang (2) Internal kusang (3) Kusang within Satsang.
4. What is the fruit of one's spiritual wisdom and the state of being in constant communion with the murti? (26/98-99)
- A. Even if one sees the murti of God incessantly to worship him in all the nine ways and to sing the praises of all his divine exploits is the fruit of one's spiritual wisdom and the state of being in constant communion with the murti.
5. From the nine types of devotion, write the last two types of devotion. (27/101)
- A. To serve God with servitude and to surrender one's self completely to him are the last two types of devotion from the nine types of devotion.
- Q.5 "Apne tapas karvo je" (25/91-92) - 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: "Apne tapas karvo je hajar rupiya male tenu shu fal chhe, lakh rupiya male tenu shu fal chhe ne karod rupiya male tenu shu fal chhe? Kem je rotlathi to vadhare khavatu nathi. Mate tapas karvo ne pachha valta shikhu."

We should think, "What is the benefit of getting 1,000 rupees or 100,000 rupees or 10 million rupees? Since we cannot eat more than a limited amount of food. Think thus and learn to step back from indulgence." Swami explains to us that however much money one earns, one should continuously try to find out what benefit the money bring us. Because after death, absolutely nothing will accompany us. Vaghjibhai of Vaso was a staunch disciple of Gunatitanand Swami. He perpetually felt divine bliss in his heart. His father, Tulsibhai, was a big dealer in tobacco, so he could not find time to visit Junagadh. He invited Swami, to Vaso. He used to say, "Swami, please stay here for four days instead of two, if need be, stay for eight days instead of four but see to it that I experience the peace and bliss which my son Vaghji experiences in his heart. But Tulsibhai never found time to sit in the company of Swami. After his morning darshan he would go to the shop and return late in the evening. He was so engrossed in his business that he could never spend even a little time with Swami. Three days passed, but Tulsibhai could not take benefit from either Swami's company or from his religious discourses. And yet he went on pleading. "Give me peace, give me bliss." On the fourth day, Swami called him and asked him to sit by his side and said, "Tell me, if a thick heavy pan weighing a 100,000 maunds is heated red hot and then if one or two pots of water on it will it cool down?" Tulsibhai replied, "No Swami." Then Swami said, "Such a pan when dipped into the water of Ganga will cause waters to leap as high as a tall mansion for at least fifteen days as it cooling down. In the same manner, your consciousness has been heated by your involvement in worldly activities for so many years. How can you feel peace or experience bliss by just two drops of darshan or spiritual talks. Even by spending thousands of rupees one cannot eradicate the darkness of ignorance from one's conscience. It is removed only by seeking communion with such sadhus. Thus, Swami encouraged him a great deal. Then Tulsibhai started visiting Junagadh to seek communion with Swami. As a result, he felt peace in his heart. Therefore, after seeking communion with a sadhu, if one learns to withdraw from the worldly chase then only does one experience peace and bliss in one's heart.

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

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

1. Haide har gulabi fore, Chitt maru roki rakhyu tore;
Gajra kaju baju man mare bhavta re,
Kanak chhadi sundar kar laine, Gajgati chalo halva rahine;
Chhittdu choro mithu mithu gavte re.... (24/87)
2. Ashtakon ne urdhvarekha, swastik jambu jav vhalo;
Vajra, ankush, ketu ne padma jamne paga nav vhalo.
Trikon, kalash ne gopad sundar, dhanush ne meen vhalo;
Ardhachandra ne vyom sat chhe, dabe page chihna vhalo. (20/75)
3. Vidhi-shambhu-mukhairnigraham, Bhav-pathodhi-paribhramakulam;
Apidharya mano naraprabham Sahajanand-gurum bhaje sada. (11/39)
4. **Translation:** He who looks upon this contemptuous body consisting of the three elements of wind, bile and phlegm as the self; those related to the body as one's own; and murtis of clay, stone or wood as objects of worship; and who regards sacred waters as pilgrim places and does not have such feelings towards the God-realized Sadhu is an animal in human form.

(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. "I see in them the murti of Brahman." (26/58)
 Bhagatji - to Mana Bhagat
 Bhagatji Maharaj replied to Mana Bhagat when he advised him that life is short so you should not become attached to your babula like disciples otherwise you will have to take them to Dham that time said the above sentence.
2. "Scold these sadhus as they are always pestering me." (19/40)
 Bhagatji - to Muslim bodyguard
 When Rao Saheb's bodyguard in Petlad, who was genuine aspirant of God came to offer his respects to Bhagatji.
3. "Keep faith in Pragji Bhakta and accept Swami as Mul Akshar." (12/26)
 Dama Sheth - to Vagha Khachar
 Vagha Khachar saw that all the devotees of Swami at Junagadh were cheerful and happy where as Vagha Khachar who specially came Junagadh with Swami to accompany him and he did not experience that joy so he talked to Dama Sheth about this.

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

1. For nearly six months Pragji Bhakta did the barber's job. (6/14)
A. A barber named Karsan used to shave the sadhus at Junagadh mandir. He increased his rates by one paise per person. Gunatitanand Swami refused to pay him that increased rates. But soon the sadhus felt uncomfortable without the monthly shave and tonsure. Swami asked Pragji Bhakta to do the barber's job. Therefore, Pragji Bhakta nearly for six months did the barber's job.
2. Amaidas Kothari was shocked. (11/24)
A. Once, Amaidas Kothari, Bechar Bhagat Kothari and some five to seven parshads came there from Vartal to listen to Swami's discourse and to visit some pilgrim place. Swami spent a great deal of time talking to them and said I have retired and handed over all the keys to Pragji Bhakta. Amaidas was shocked to hear this.

3. Bhagatji Maharaj, who was covered with chandan embraced all the sadhus. (21/46)
- A. Bhagatji Maharaj told sadhus, "Today, I want to feed you well. If you will eat as much as I wish, I will be at your command." With great difficulty Yagnapurushdasji ate half a rotlo more to please Bhagatji. Then the sadhus applied chandan on Bhagatji's body. They had a rare darshan of Bhagatji with sandalwood paste all over his body. Then as desired by Yagnapurushdasji and the other sadhus, he embraced them all, besmearing them with chandan.

Q.9 Write short notes on "Satsang with the Diwan of Vansda" (23/48-50) (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Jhaverbhai Nathabhai Amin the Diwan of Vansda was inspired by Yagnapurushdasji's company and was longing for the darshan of and association with Bhagatji. He wrote three letters to Acharya Maharaj and Kothari at Vartal to meet Bhagatji. On receiving instructions from Acharya Maharaj Bhagatji arrived at Vansda. The Diwan accorded a hearty welcome to Bhagatji befitting his status and position. He and his wife attended to Bhagatji day and night. They were vedantis, so Bhagatji talked in detail about five eternal realities - Jiva, Ishwar, Maya, Brahma and Parabrahman with relevant quotations from Vachanamrut and other scriptures. He explained them significance of agna and upasana. One night after completing his routine cheshta Bhagatji retired to bed, than all of a sudden he got up and started chanting the name of God. The Diwan and other devotees also got up. After some time Bhagatji woke up and said, "One who wants to realize God should remember him incessantly. He must always wake up like this and start singing in praise of God. A genuine seeker should fear like a deer and sleep like a crow. When we have innate enemies like our senses and antahkaran we cannot have a sound sleep therefore if while eating drinking sleeping or waking, one remembers God by singing his songs. Then one can do whatever he desires." While delving deep into the realms of Brahman and Parabrahman, Bhagatji often gave practical guidance too, "If you want to become brahmarup and worship God then you should follow your dharma rigorously. Dharma sustains jnan. Jnan establishes vivek and kindless vairagya. Vairagya which is based on jnan liberates you from worldly desires and one develops love towards God. One should strictly follow the eleven commandments and think and act accordingly. Bhakti is like a faithful wife, it will follow dharma and jnan-vairagya are the two sons which also follow her." Thus, through such wonderful talks, Bhagatji taught the Diwan to derive pure joy from devotion to God. He made a solemn promise to Diwanji, "At the time of your death I will come with Maharaj to receive you." Acharya Maharaj was pleased to learn the news about Vansda. He had a turban tied on Bhagatji as a mark of honour. Then he took Acharya Maharaj's leave and arrived at Ahmedabad via Nadiad.

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. Whom did Gunatitanand Swami honour with the garland of roses? (14/31)
A. Gunatitanand Swami honoured with garland of roses to sadhu Hariswarupdasji who was attendant of Shukmuni.
2. Which three boons did Pragji Bhakta request from Swami? (5/10)
A. (1) Please bless me with your knowledge. (2) Show me your dwelling place (3) Make me a true satsangi.
3. Where was Yagnapurushdasji during the jnan yagna in Ahmedabad? (24/50)
A. During the jnan yagna in Ahmedabad, Yagnapurushdasji was in Mahemdavad.
4. Who was possessed by Bhagatji Maharaj in Khandesh? (22/47)
A. A woman was possessed by Bhagatji Maharaj in Khandesh.

5. When was Pragji Bhakta born? (Samvat, Year, and Tithi) (1/1)

A. Pragji Bhakta was born on the full moon day of the bright half (poonam) of Fagun in V.S. 1885.

**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. 2, 3 (3/7)

2. 2 (16/34)

3. 1, 2 (7/14)

**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. **Excommunicated:** We can understand your excommunicating a person who is unrighteous, but we fail to understand why you should excommunicate such a great devotee like Pragji Bhakta. (15/33)
2. **Divinity Revealed:** In V.S. 1914 Bhagatji was going to Junagadh to pay respects to Gunatitanand Swami. He was accompanied by the devotees of Mahuva. Due to heavy rains the Shetrunji was flooded. (29/66)
3. **Art of Saintliness:** Why should I not be pleased with Pragji who has intuitively obeyed me without caring for his own self? said Swami. (8/18)
4. **Request for Akshar Jnan:** Seeing that Pragji Bhakta was firm in his determination to reject worldly pleasures Swami said to Pragji, “You can have your three boons if you are prepared to leave home and stay here and dedicate your life for them.” (5/10)
5. **Bliss in solitude:** Bhagatji told the Sadhus, “These saffron clothes are a great obstacle. Therefore go home and practice satsang.” However, the sadhus expressed their firm determination of worshipping God, while observing strict celibacy. Bhagatji was greatly pleased to learn of their firm resolve. (21/45)
6. **Early childhood:** However, his mother refused to give any food as she had not yet sanctified the food by offering it to God. But, When she went out to do some work, Pragji Bhakta entered the kitchen. (1/2)

