

Bochasanwasi Shri Aksharapurushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha
Satsang Sikshan Parixa

SATSANG PARICHAY - 1

Time : 9.00 to 11.15 a.m.

Total Marks : 75

Sunday, 4 March, 2012

Note : 1. Answer of the prescribed addition 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 (✗) of each sub-question should be marked only on the left-side before the question starts.

(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. "His preachings and sermons are superior to those we find in the Hindu shastras." (24/137)
 - ◇ Williamson - to Bishop Heber
 - ◇ The chief of the Christian missions Rev.-Bishop Heber was touring Northern India and then came to Gujarat. The collector of Vadodara, Mr. Williamson informed the Bishop about the social reforms and religious reforms brought about by Shriji Maharaj.
2. "I have not come here to run a state." (14/96)
 - ◇ Shriji Maharaj - to Kushalkunverba
 - ◇ Shriji Maharaj was accorded a warm welcome in the royal court of Dharampur. Then the Queen declared, I dedicate my whole kingdom at your feet. so Maharaj refused to accept kindom.
3. "How good are you at arithmetic?" (9/65)
 - ◇ Shriji Maharaj - to Mulji Sheth
 - ◇ Kanbi farmer addressed God as blind and said Maharaj uplifted the monkeys and shepherds and forgot to uplift us. Maharaj said "We want to liberate all the mumukshus on this earth.

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

1. Mulu Khachar gave up his addiction. (5/37)
 - A. While going to Vartal to attend festival, Mulu Khachar at the insistance of non-satsangis, I gave up the hookah and made him give up tobacco and opium. Maharaj changed his life by making him free from slavery of addictions.
2. Shriji Maharaj said, "We have disobeyed the Shikshapatri written by us therefore we suffered." (26/152)
 - A. One of the beloved devotees of Barvala invited Maharaj to his house. But as his house was very small, he made arrangements for Maharaj's stay in the bigger house of his elder brother, and went to bazaar to buy some foodstuff. Meanwhile his elder brother who had no respect and hated sadhus entered the house and

sent Maharaj out of the house. Maharaj remarked, "We have disobeyed the Shikshapatri written by us, therefore we suffered. so kindly never disobey the Shikshapatri.

3. Mukund Brahmachari did not sit in the cart on the way to Vandhiya village. (7/48-49)
- A. On the way to Vandhiya village, they met some robbers, so Maharaj made Brahmachari part with whatever food he had. After walking some time, Maharaj said to Brahmachari, I am terribly hungry, I won't able to walk further without food. Just then a Kanbi patel passed by riding an empty cart, Brahmachari requested to stop the cart and made Maharaj sit on it but he did not sit observing the duties of a servant.

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

- 1 **Sahajanand the Sun (21/128)** In Panchala, on the occasion of Holi, Maharaj assumed multiple forms of himself and participated in a ras with his sadhus. He celebrated this festival by serving jaggery, rice and ghee to the entire town. He fed thousands of Brahmins, sadhus and devotees. They all felt happy after taking the meals. Maharaj enquired, "Is anyone left out?" Those who were in charge of the kitchen arrangements replied, "Maharaj, we have visited all the places and have made sure that no one is left out." But how can anyone escape Maharaj's attention, care and concern? He saw some poor people in rags wandering on the banks of the river. He pointed out towards them and asked, "Have you fed them? Who are they?" One of the organizers replied, "Maharaj they are Vaghris, They live in the forest. They kill goats, hens, rabbits and deer. They are sinners. Since they kill and eat those animals. They are always found wandering like this. Why should we feed such sinners?" Maharaj replied, "The sun rises for everyone. It gives light to the holy and unholy alike. The rain falls on everybody's fields. In the same manner, here is the Sun in the person of Sahajanand. We want to liberate everyone. Therefore, go across the river, call them and satisfy them by serving food to them. Two of the devotees went across the river and returned with Vagharis. Maharaj himself served food them. They kept the murti of Maharaj forever in their hearts and became very happy. At the time of their end, they remembered Maharaj and earned salvation.
- 2 **Not Mud but Sandalwood Paste (23/132)** Maharaj celebrated Fuldol in Vartal. At that time the construction work of the Vartal mandir was in progress. All the sadhus and devotees were helping in this work. Maharaj used to sit in a chair where the work was in progress. He used to give inspiration, energy and guidance to those who were working there. Maharaj was pleased with the selfless service of his followers. He said, "You have toiled much. Let us embrace each other." Bhaktipriyanand Swami remarked, "But Maharaj our bodies are soiled with mud." Maharaj smilingly replied, "It isn't mud, it is chandan (sandalwood paste). Therefore, come all of you who have mud on your bodies. Let us embrace each other." Maharaj embraced all the sadhus and devotees who were serving, even though their bodies were soiled with mud. Gunatitanand Swami was watching this scene from a distance. Maharaj said to him, "Swami! come, let me embrace you." Then Swami replied, "Maharaj! There's no mud on my body." Looking at his unassuming and innocent personality, Maharaj embraced him, although his body was not soiled with mud. In Vartal, Maharaj himself had carried the bricks on his head.
- 3 **Shudras Become like Brahmins (25/146-147)** It was under the influence of Gopalanand Swami that Tejabhai, a weaver, of Chhani had become a satsangi. Through him, in due course, Vankars and Harijans had become satsangis. They bathed daily, applied tilak-chandlo, performed personal puja, held discourses and sang devotional songs. They would not touch unworthy food, even from the houses of Brahmins or Banias. Therefore, some of the villagers used to ridicule

Teja Bhakta and his companions. They used to pass funny remarks about Maharaj too. As Maharaj was to pass through their village, the so-called upper class people like Brahmins, Banias and the bawas and sannyasis had declared, "Nobody belonging to the upper class should go for the darshan of Swaminarayan." Maharaj was offered a seat under a tree by the devotees of Chhani and then one after another all the devotees started falling at his feet and offered garlands to him. None of the Brahmins or Banias came for darshan. Only the Harijans and Vankars were there among the devotees. Maharaj sarcastically asked, "Isn't there any Brahmin or Bania in this village?" Teja Bhakta narrated everything in detail. After listening to him Maharaj observed, "You shall attain the scholarship and culture of the Brahmins. Your actions will be so pure that even the Brahmins will appear small before you."

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

 **Note : mark of right half answer not to be given.**

1. What name was given to Magniram after initiated? (2/11)
A. 'Advaitanand' name was given to Magniram after initiated.
2. What did Sunderji tell Maharaj, after Maharaj tested him? (3/26)
A. After Maharaj tested Sudnaerji, He told "Maharaj, there is no harm in testing a man like me, but do not put others to such tests."
3. How was the ego of Vedantacharya removed? (17/103)
A. Maharaj offered his own interpretations of all the twelve precepts of Vedanta. so the ego of Vedantacharya removed.
4. Who did Maharaj compare to Jadbharat? (23/131)
A. Shriji Maharaj compared Gunatitanand Swami (Nirgunanand) to Jadbharat.
5. Maharaj referred to Manki the mare as whose incarnation? (11/78)
A. Maharaj referred to Manki the mare as incarnation of Garuda.

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. 1, 3, 4 (12/88)
2. 2, 4 (18/113-114)

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

1. Kalyanbhai (7/47)
2. grace (9/67)
3. Swaminarayaniyas (27/154)
4. humility (18/113)

(SECTION-2: SATSANG READER PART-2, 4th Edition February - 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. "To me, your command is the festival." (7/57)
 Jaga Bhakta - to Swami (Gunatitanand Swami)
 In the meadows of Sankhdavadar there were nearly eighty thousands bundles of hay. so Swami asked some of the devotees to go to Sankhdavadar and stay there. But who would agree to go when in the presence of Acharya Maharaj, there would be religious discourses and delicious rich food daily? so when Swami asked Jaga Bhakta he said the above statement.
2. "Is it true that Durvasa had eaten everything cooked by the Gopis all by himself?" (6/48)
 Laduba - to Maharaj

- ⇒ Once Laduba had a doubt so she asked Maharaj the above sentence, "Is it true that Durvasa had eaten everything cooked by the Gopis all by himself?"
- 3. "Still I feel like listening to more." (2/15)
- ⇒ Shriji Maharaj - to Premanand Swami
- ⇒ Premanand Swami became engrossed in the divine murti of Maharaj and continued to sing the bhajan one after another a late night. At dawn when he put aside his sarangi and stopped singing he heard the soothing voice of Maharaj, he turned around and fell at the feet of Maharaj. Maharaj, how is it that you are here?

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

1. In Junagadh, Kamalnayan Shastri experienced divine peace. (7/64)
A. In Shastriji Maharaj's company, all worldly desires and pleasures of Kamalnayan Shastri were subdued. He experienced divine bliss which he never experienced even when he had pilgrimaged throughout the whole India and been to many big mandirs. so he thought that Shastri Yagnapurushdasji must be a God-realized sadhu and he must have met a powerful God-realized guru.
2. To Acharya Maharaj both sugar and salt were alike. (4/33)
A. The devotees of Gamdi village accorded a grand reception to the Acharya Maharaj. That was offered to Thakorji and then Acharya Maharaj was served food with great love. Dudhpak had been prepared and Acharya Maharaj was served with great insistence. When Acharya Maharaj had finished his meals, the devotees sat to eat. Then they discovered to their embarrassment that instead of sugar, salt had been added to the dudhpak. All the devotees felt sorry and apologized to Acharya Maharaj.

Q.9 Write short notes on 'Maharaj Tests Mulji Brahmachari. (3/25)' (in 15 lines). (Total Marks: 5)

Once in Bhadra, Maharaj gave his shoes to Mulji Brahmachari and said, "You apply oil to this pair of shoes. Don't give this work to anybody else." At that time Vashrambhai came there and said, "You serve Maharaj everyday, so let me do this service." With these words he snatched the shoes away from the Brahmachari and started applying oil. Just at that time Maharaj passed by that spot and He declared, Go! You are excommunicated. From today you should not wear shoes. And do not eat sweet or oily food. Brahmachari came to Dabhan and stayed with Ramdasbhai. He walked barefooted in the intense summer heat to Gadhada with a basket of mangoes about 30 kg prepared by Ramdasbhai. There, he laid the basket of mangoes at the feet of Shriji Maharaj, prostrated and greeted Maharaj, saying, "Jai Swaminarayan." Maharaj turned his face and did not respond. When a carpenter woman hearing Brahmachari, She told Maharaj, why have you become so unkind to the Brahmachari? In this blistering heat he walked 90 miles barefooted, carrying the basket of mangoes for you, and you didn't even say 'Jai Swaminarayan' to him! Shriji Maharaj smiled and said, 'I haven't refused him. Call him to me.' On hearing this, the Brahmachari appeared before Maharaj and started serving him. He knew that although he was not at fault, Maharaj had insulted him and driven him away and had forbidden him from taking sweet and oily food. Still, without any grudge, he had continually kept his mind on Maharaj and had worshipped him.

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

 **Note : mark of right half answer not to be given.**

1. Which other name was Dada Khachar known as? (5/37)
A. Dada Khachar's other name was uttam.
2. What did Bhaktimata say after giving darshan to the women devotees? (6/47)
A. Bhaktimata told the women that "I was very pleased by your sincere service during the Annakut. so I have personally come to give you darshan."

3. Which three things did Jaga Bhakta say we should not look at? (7/60)
A. Jaga Bhakta said, "Never judge others actions, figures or flaws."
4. What did Krishnaji Ada, during his last moments, say to Yogiji Maharaj? (8/74)
A. Krishnaji Ada said Swami always keep the company of Shastriji Maharaj and act according to his wishes.

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

Topic: Dada Khachar (5/37)

- (1) Write the correct sentence numbers

2	4	5	8	10	12
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- (2) Correct sequence of sentences

2	10	8	12	4	5
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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:** Answer is written in any serial numbers form but all numbers are correct then you given full 3 marks otherwise no marks will be given.
(2) **Correct sequence of sentences:** Sequence of sentence numbers is written as answersheet then you given correct 3 marks otherwise no marks will be given.

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 correctly. Otherwise no marks will be awarded.**

1. **Sadguru Nityanand Swami:** Nityanand Swami arrived in Ahmedabad with seven carts full of books. Also, as he himself was so bulky he alone occupied one cart. (1/7)
2. **Acharya Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj:** Shri Keshavprasadji Maharaj, Acharya Maharaj's son who was the heir to the Ahmedabad Gadi, was greatly impressed by Swami's talks. He gave up interest in worldly things and attended the discourses conducted by Swami every night. (4/35)
3. **Bhaktaraj Laduba:** When Maharaj saw the burnt quilt, he said: "This quilt has been burnt. What explanation shall I give? Let us leave from here." (6/51)
4. **Premasakhi Premanand Swami:** Due to certain innate powers and the blessings of Shriji Maharaj, he (the boy) attained mastery in both vocal and instrumental music within a few years. One day he suddenly remembered Maharaj. (2/13)

(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. The following points plus many other sides can be included. For e.g. originality, knowledge of sampraday, special analysis in context to discourses, any other scriptures study points be considered too.**

1. **Nilkanth Varni's Imposing Personality:** (1) Meaning of personality - each individual is different from the other in the entire world - so the individual's speciality is his/her personality - the way Varni himself Purushottam Narayan but it one has to evaluate, then we have to keep his impressive personality in mind. (2) Showed his super-natural powers through childhood which impressed people of all the ages (incidents) (3) The best of his personality was exposed during vanvicharan (forest life) by tolerating hunger, thirst, happiness-sorrow, heat-cold and neglected to take care of body -

crossed the limits of tolerance power - even during the biting cold he used to wander in caupin (a simple piece of loin cloth) - which is totally impossible in the human form. (4) Followed Ahimsa-rules of religious power, etc. strictly and made people recognize. His form by helping the people to come out of the materialistic and life of bondage. (maya) (5) Impressed kings, emperors, ascetics, yogis, big math's mahant, God sun, Himalaya and other Gods and Goddess - even animals, birds, demons were also humble fell at His feet (incident) (6) His personality was not only physically revealed but his penance, glory, purity, mercy kindness, humble nature, saintly virtues etc. were exposed - the devotees recognized Him as Lord. (incidents) (7) In this way Nilkanth Varni established Ekantik dharma through his various aspects of personality.

2. **Uplifting the Lives of Tribals: Pramukh Swami Maharaj:** (1) Foundation for any type of structure is important - foundation for the progress of tribal unity Pramukh Swami Maharaj. (2) The entry of Lord Swaminarayan in Gujarat through Dharampur district - Nilkanth Varni's divine vision and hard work or efforts of Swamishri's brought good results in tribals progress - Swamishri's addressing them itself discloser many things - meaning of Tribals - Adi parmatma - living close to Him is Adivasi - close to God so special blessings or God's grace. (3) From past four decades Swamishri's vicharan in tribal area - visited every hut and lighted their huts (lives) (incidents) without worrying about his health took interest in their progress - it could be either a broken cot or a torn mattress sat on it and pleased them by eating their simple food what they ate only for their simple food what they ate only for their development - He became one with them. (4) Entire Gujarat central Gujarat, North Gujarat and South Gujarat their lives have been purified through satsang, faith, and accepting or adapting religious values. (5) Stopped believing in many Gods and Goddess and kept faith only on Lord and sadhus - In case of curing the disease or in a bad period of life - the colour of satsang was spread - left ediction and superstitious beliefs - they use to make even a team of children to make others follow their traditional rules even such type of tribal became strict devotee or satsangi (incident) (6) Stopped liquor ediction - lakhs of rupees were spent on this now it is used for satsang - by keeping aloof from edictions life brightens - people become financially well off. (7) A child of Bal Mandals returns the bundle of one lakh rupees which is the height of sincerity. (8) Thus the lifes of tribal's are more prosperous due to hard work (excessive work) of Swamishri's. Swamishri see God in everybody's heart. Swamishri uplift the tribal's life with strong foundation.
3. **The Niyams Given by the Satpurush: Protective Shield for the Life:** (1) All the living creatures wish to protect themselves - everybody live in fear which is very common - fearful people fight for protection. (2) But how can one overcome fear? We can overcome fear following rules and religious strictly the norms and condition given by our Ishtdev in shikshapatri is our life - Jacket gift of Two hundred and twelve sudarshan chakra by Shriji Maharaj to the devotees. (3) The satpurush himself also follow the rules framed by our Ishtdev - makes His followers obey the niyams strictly - The rules given by the satpurush itself plays an important role of life-jacket (quote some incident) (4) By following rules there are only advantages not disadvantages. By adapting good thoughts pure diet - good behaviour life will be protected. By controlling diet life will be systematic protects against disease - If a man is physically and mentally strong one can pray peacefully - If your moral values are good then one can lead towards progress without any obstacles - by good thoughts the entire body is purified - mind and body becomes pure and can pray God (quote some incidents) (5) By following rules we are protected not only externally but also internally - senses are protected going towards the incorrect way - so the path of bhakti becomes without any obstacles - in this way life is protected physically-mentally-financially (incidents) (6) Guru provides life saving jacket externally and internally - Conclusion.

