

Bhakti Sastri Examination
ISKCON Vrindavan 1995

Part One : Short Answer Questions
3 hours - 300 marks

1. Please write your answers in clear hand-writing. If we can't read your answer, we will mark it wrong.
2. Answer all questions 1-103.
3. Marks for each question is shown at right end in bracket.
4. Please read the question carefully and make sure answer is short, clear and complete.

Bhagavad-gita (170)

1. Give the name of chapters : 7,8,16.
(3)

Chapter 1

2. Why was Duryodhana confident of the full support of Bhishma and Dronacarya?
(2)
3. Give Srila Prabhupada's comments on the significance of 3 of the following 4 names of Krsna: Hrsikesa; Acyuta; Govinda; Madhusudana.
(6)
4. Explain the significance of Krsna driving Arjuna's chariot.
(2)
5. List the six aggressors one can kill without sinful reaction.
(3)

Chapter 2

6. Krsna states, "Never was there a time when I did not exist, nor you, nor all these kings; nor in the future shall any of us cease to be". Srila Prabhupada then explains how this verse defeats Mayavada philosophy. Krsna is stressing individuality, both past and future. However mayavadi's may counter that the individuality Krsna is speaking of is not spiritual but material. Prabhupada in turn defeats this counter argument in two ways. Give both of them.
(4)
7. Explain the analogy of two birds on a tree. What does the tree refer to?
(3)
8. Explain the two sva-dharmas (specific duties).
(2)

9. Briefly explain what we are to learn about sense control from the stories of Visvamitra muni and Haridas Thakur.

(2)

10. Describe how one falls down from spiritual life.

(3)

11. Explain the analogy comparing a man's intelligence to a boat on water.

(2)

12. Explain the analogy of the rivers entering into the ocean.

(2)

Chapter 3

13. Based on Arjuna's inquiry in 3.1, what was his understanding of buddhi-yoga?

(2)

14. "The spirit soul has to be engaged in the good works of Krsna consciousness, otherwise it will be engaged in occupations dictated by the illusory energy". Explain.

(3)

15. A self realized person has no duty. Why does Krsna recommend that one perform duties anyway? (2)

16. What example is used to describe the way love of Krsna is transformed into lust?

(2)

Chapter 4

17. What was Arjuna's question in the beginning of Chapter four and why did he ask it?

(3)

18. What is the main reason for the descent of the "Krsna avatar".

(2)

19. In 4.10 Krsna says that we must overcome attachment, fear, and anger. Give a short explanation of each.

(3)

20. What does Srila Prabhupada say is "the secret of advancement in spiritual life"?

(2)

Chapter 5

21. Explain the analogy of the lotus leaf.

(2)

22. When I lift my arm, I am not really lifting it. Explain.

(2)

23. What does Krsna say are “the sources of misery”?

(2)

24. Explain the analogy beginning with the quote, “By vision, by meditation, and by touch only do the fish, the tortoise and the birds maintain their offspring”.

(3)

Chapter 6

25. What is the difference between

(a) karma-kanda and sakama karma yoga

(b) sakama karma yoga and niskama karma yoga

(3)

26. “He [the yogi] sees everything - whether it be pebbles, stones or gold - as the same”. Who does Krsna say is more advanced than this?

(2)

27. Arjuna says that to control the mind is more difficult than controlling the wind. What is Krsna’s response?

(2)

28. What is compared to trying to ignite a fire while pouring water on it?

(2)

29. Explain the example of a riven cloud.

(3)

Chapter 7

30. Krsna glorifies one of the four types of “pious” men. Who is he and why, according to Srila Prabhupada, is he special?

(3)

31. What does Satvata tantra explain about Purusa incarnation?

(3)

32. Even when Krsna was present on the earth five thousand years ago, some people could not understand who He was. What is Krsna’s explanation of this?

(2)

33. Who does Krsna say is able to engage in His service with determination?

(2)

Chapter 8

34. Why did Maharaja Kulasekhara pray that he die immediately?

(2)

35. In human years, how long is a day of Brahma?

(2)

36. Why does a devotee not have to worry about the different yogic paths at the time of death?

(2)

Chapter 9

37. Explain the analogy comparing a man smelling the aroma of a flower to Krsna's connection to this world.

(2)

38. Explain how Krsna is equal to everyone but partial to His devotees.

(2)

39. Krsna says that His devotee should not be criticized for an accidental fall down. What reason does He give for this?

(2)

Chapter 10

40. Give two reasons why Arjuna asks Krsna to describe His opulences.

(2)

41. Choose the correct alternatives:

Among beasts (animals) I am _____. (Airavata, Uccaihsrava, lion, tiger)

Of mountains I am _____. (Meru, Himalayas)

Among perfected beings I am _____. (Narada, Vyasa, Kapila, Bhrgu, Sukracarya)

Of poetry I am _____. (Brhat_sama, Gayatri, Sama)

Among great thinkers I am _____. (Sukracarya, Vyasa, Kapila, Bhrgu)

Among seasons I am _____. (Margasirsa, Kartika)

(6)

42. Srila Prabhupada in his purport to verses 4-5 defines many qualities. Define any three of the following five: intelligence; non-violence; self-control; fame; truthfulness.

(6)

Chapter 11

43. Give two reasons why Arjuna wanted to see Krsna's Universal form.

(2)

44. Srila Prabhupada writes that there is a specific plan being carried out in this material world. What is this plan?

(2)

Chapter 12

45. Explain the comparison of the mailbox to deity worship.

(3)

46. Krsna gives a sequence of recommendations to Arjuna. Give the first four. (Do this; if you can't, do this; etc)

(4)

Chapter 13

47. Give the Sanskrit and English explanation of the five stages of Brahman realization (beginning with anna-maya).

(4.5)

48. Which two items in the process of knowledge does Srila Prabhupada say are most important?

(2)

49. Explain the analogy comparing the soul in the body to the sun in the universe.

(2)

Chapter 14

50. What does the example of the scorpion laying it's eggs in rice illustrate?

(2)

51. What does Krsna say about the three modes that indicates that it is not possible to be permanently situated in any one of them?

(2)

Chapter 15

52. What does Krsna compare to a banyan tree? With what weapon should one cut down the banyan tree?

(3)

Chapter 16

53. Which of the following does Srila Prabhupada say are especially meant for sannyasis? Which are meant

especially for grhasthas?

Study of the Vedas; purification of existence; fearlessness; self control; austerity; cultivation of spiritual knowledge; cleanliness; charity; aversion to faultfinding; performance of sacrifice. (6)

54. According to Krsna, what is the basic difference between the activities of those who are divine and those who are demoniac.
(2)

Chapter 17

55. List three characteristics of austerity of the mind.
(3)

56. List three characteristics of charity in the mode of ignorance.
(3)

Chapter 18

57. What is Krsna's conclusion about sannyasa (the renounced order of life) and tyaga (renunciation)?

(3)

58. List the five factors of action?
(2.5)

59. How is the understanding in the mode of goodness different from that of mode of passion and ignorance?
(4.5)

60. How does Krsna define happiness in the mode of goodness, passion and ignorance?
(4.5)

61. "By following his qualities of work, every man can become perfect". How does Krsna say this can be done?
(2)

62. Krsna tells Arjuna, "If you do not fight under My direction, you will fight in some other situation". Why is this?
(2)

63. Who does Krsna say is most dear to Him?
(1)

Nectar of Devotion (75)

64. Explain the analogy comparing devotees to sharks.
(2)

65. List Rupa Goswami's six characteristics of pure devotional service and mention in which stage of devotional service does they appear?
(6)

66. Which of the following are NOT mentioned by Rupa Goswami while discussing the “auspiciousness of devotional service”.

Devotional service is auspicious because it:

- (a) is the highest welfare activity for everyone.
- (b) is all attractive.
- (c) brings immediate happiness to the devotee.
- (d) brings about all good qualities in the devotee.
- (e) allows one to conquer death.

(2)

67. What does Rupa Goswami say is the only way to be given the opportunity for devotional service?

(2)

68. According to Rupa Goswami why does Krsna easily give liberation but so rarely grant pure devotional service?

(2)

69. What is the essence of sadhana bhakti and what is the principal duty of spiritual master?

(2)

70. Explain the example comparing a child learning to walk to sadhana-bhakti.

(2)

71. Give Rupa Goswami’s definition of sadhana bhakti.

(3)

72. “All other rules and regulations should be treated as assistants or servants to this one basic principle”. What principle is being spoken of?

(1)

73. Four kinds of pious men who approach Krsna are mentioned in the Bhagavad Gita. List the four devotees (or groups of devotees) who Rupa Goswami gives as examples of approaching Krsna in each of these four ways.

(2)

74. What two desires are compared to being haunted by witches?

(1)

75. Give the Sanskrit and English of the five types of liberation.

(5)

76. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur fought to establish that devotional service is open to all, and that one engaged in devotional service is higher than a brahmana. Which of the six characteristics of devotional service substantiate the second of these two points?

(2)

77. Many of the rules and regulations found in the nectar of devotion come from a book written by Sanatana Goswami. What is the name of this book?

(1)

78. Before listing all the items of devotional service, Rupa Goswami first lists twenty important ones. Of these twenty list the three he says are the most important.

(3)

79. Of the sixty-four items of Sadhana Bhakti, list the five he says are most potent.

(5)

80. Besides the above eight, list an additional ten items of Sadhana Bhakti.

(5)

81. Besides the ten offenses to the holy name, list ten general offenses to be avoided.

(5)

82. If one hears blasphemy of Krsna or a devotee what three options does Rupa Goswami say we have?

(1.5)

83. Define the following types of submission:

(4.5)

1. samprarthanatikā, 2. dānyavodhikā, 3. lāsamayī.

84. Define ragatikā bhakti.

(3)

85. Give six of Rupa Goswami's nine characteristics of one in bhava.

(3)

86. Explain the analogy of honorary degree?

(3)

87. List the Sanskrit and English of the nine stages of spiritual life as given by Rupa Goswami.

(9)

Isopanisad (28)

88. Explain the analogy of boat in ocean with its detail.

(4)

89. According to Srila Prabhupada, what is the purpose of the "contradiction" given in Mantra Five while describing the Lord?

(2)

90. What four principles do Madhyama adhikaris observe?

(4)

91. Explain why in Mantra Nine vidya (knowledge) is said to be more dangerous than avidya.

(2)

92. What point is illustrated by the following example? If a man buys a ticket to Calcutta, he will not end up in Bombay.

(2)

93. Define asambhuti, hiranmayena patrena, veda-vada-rata.

(3)

94. For each of the nine processes of devotional service, give an example of a devotee who attained perfection by that process.

(9)

95. Why is the Lord addressed as “powerful as fire”?

(2)

Nectar of Instruction (27)

96. Why is atonement without sense control useless?

(2)

97. Give the Sanskrit and English explanation of the three types of miseries of this world.

(3)

98. For what purpose does Srila Prabhupada say that he established ISKCON?

(4)

99. Explain the example of the pollution in the Ganges.

(3)

100. Explain the example of taking sugar candy to cure jaundice.

(3)

101. Summarize Rupa Goswami’s “essence of all advice”.

(4)

102. List the progression of places of Krsna’s pastimes that Rupa Goswami gives, and explain why each one is higher than the last.

(6)

103. What reason does Rupa Goswami give for the gopi’s being exalted above all the advanced devotees?

(2)

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**Part Two : Essay Questions and Verses
3 hours - 300 marks**

- 1. Each essay should take about 15 minutes and should be no longer than 150 words.**
- 2. Each essay is of 30 marks .**
- 3. Please write in clear hand-writing, otherwise it will not be graded.**
- 4. You need to attempt only six essays [four in Bhagavad-gita and two from rest books].**

Essay Questions

Bhagavad gita (answer 4 out of 6)

(4 x 30)

1. Using at least five verses from the Bhagavad gita (translations only), defeat the Mayavada argument that the jiva becomes one with Krsna after liberation.
2. What is Arjuna's inquiry in second chapter of Bhagavad gita? What in actuality did Arjuna wants to know? Summarise Krsna's answer.
3. Explain Lord Krsna's opinion about demigod worship.
4. Why is working in a mood of detachment from the results of ones work better than renouncing ones work?
5. What is the role of jnana in the development of our spiritual life?
6. Many degrees of knowledge are described in the Bhagavad gita. Describe the most confidential knowledge and explain why it is superior to all the other types of knowledge.

Choose any two essays out of the following four essays, but not from the same book.
(2 x 30)

Isopanisad

7. Explain the philosophical thread running through Mantra 13 to Mantra 18 of Sri Isopanisad.

Nectar of Instruction

8. Summarize the information given in the Nectar of Instruction about how to associate with devotees.

Nectar of Devotion Essays

9. Compare and contrast vaidhi, raganuga, bhava and prema bhakti.

10. Explain why the verse beginning with “anyabhilasita....” exemplifies the main theme of Nectar of Devotion.

Verses

**I. Write the Sanskrit transliteration(verse only,not word-to-word meaning) and English translation for the following slokas:
(10 x 8)**

Bhagvad-gita:

- (1) 1.1(verse spoken by Dhrtarastra)
- (2) 2.14(matra-sparsas...)
- (3) 4.34(tad viddhi...)
- (4) 8.5(anta-kale...)
- (5) 9.3(asradda...)
- (6) 10.9(mac-citta...)
- (7) 14.4(sarva...)

NOD:

- (8) 1.2.255(anasaktasya...)

NOI:

- (9) Text 2(items unfavorable)

Sri Isopanisad

- (10) Mantra 5(tad ejati...)

II. Write the Sanskrit verse(Roman transliteration) of the following slokas):
(5 x 4)

Bhagavad gita:

- (a) 11.55(mat-karma...)
- (b) 15.1 (about imperishable banyan tree)
- (c) 16.23(result of discarding scriptural injunctions)

NOD:

- (d) 1.1.12(definition of bhakti acc. To Narada Pancaratra)

NOI:

- (e) Text 3(items favourable to d.s.)

III. Write the English translation of following verses:
(5 x 4)

Bhagavad gita:

- (a) 3.43(evam buddheh...)
- (b) 6.47(yoginam api...)
- (c) 10.41(yad yad vibhuti...)
- (d) 18.57(cetasa sarva...)

NOD:

- (e) 1.2.187(iha yasya...)