Q.1. In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. [9]

1. “I may retain my vow of naishtik brahmacharya.”
   A) Nilkanth to Suryanarayan
   B) When Nilkanth performed austerities at Pulhashram. Nilkanth spent 2.5 months in austerities and on the 11th day of the bright half of the moon of Kartik, Suryanarayan appeared. Nilkanth asked Suryanarayan for a boon that he retains his naishtik brahmacharya and to have His darshan (p. 26).

2. “Where is that ascetic with whom you were talking?”
   A) Narsinh mehta to Kalyanji
   B) When Nilkanth went to Piplana and saw Narsinh Mehta and his son, Kalyanji. Nilkanth wanted food, but Kalyanji said the food wasn’t ready and will be ready soon (p. 90)

3. “You recite the Ramayan, but why don’t you follow dharma?”
   A) Nilkanth to Bawas
   B) Nilkanth went to the Ramji temple, Nilkanth noticed that the men and women were sitting together. After the assembly, Nilkanth questioned the bawas about renouncing wealth and women (p. 44)

Q.2. Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). [6]

1. The bear will attain Akshardham.
   A) Nilkanth wanted Tamboli to take Him to the lake near his house, so that evening Nilkanth and Jairamdas met Tamboli at the lake and Tamboli had a raft ready for them. Nilkanth told them that they should all get off and rest, but Jairamdas and Tamboli were scared. As they entered the forest, they encountered a black bear. As soon as it saw Nilkanth, it calmed down. Nilkanth told the bear that he will be redeemed. Nilkanth explained that the bear was Jambuvan in a previous life. He could not recognize Ram so had to pass through cycles of births but today he met Nilkanth and recognized him to be God. (p. 49)

2. Bawas in Butolnagar became extremely jealous.
   A) Nilkanth decided to stay at Butolnagar. The King Mahadutt and his sister Mayarani bowed down to Nilkanth and urged him to stay at the palace. Nilkanth stayed, and everyone realized his true greatness compared to the bawas. They begged Nilkanth not to leave because they had loved and worshipped Him. Nilkanth slipped out during the night, but the royal family became liberated. (p. 30)
3. The telangi Brahmin’s whole body turned black and ugly.
   A) In Sirpur, Gopaldas served Nilkanth. Evil bawas made him unconscious and told the king to tell Nilkanth who he worships and if he can bring him back to normal. Nilkanth easily brought back his consciousness, and everyone realized His greatness. A greedy Telangi Brahmin came and turned to black when he received a kalpurush as a gift. He begged Nilkanth Varni for forgiveness, and he said he will if he cherishes His true form. (p. 35)

Q.3. Write short notes on any ONE of the following. (In 15 lines.) [5]

1. Meeting Ramanand Swami.
   A) On the evening of Jeth vad 10, Kurji Dave brought a message that Ramanand Swami was to arrive in Piplana and had invited Nilkanth Varni and all the sadhus to come for his darshan. Muktanand Swami was immensely pleased with the good news and as a token of appreciation presented his pagh to Kurji Dave. The other sadhus too presented him with whatever they had as gifts. The news brought tremendous joy on Nilkanth’s face. Since he had nothing to give to Kurji Dave he said, “Dave, I shall give you My Akshardham as a gift” (p. 112). That very same evening, Nilkanth Varni, Muktanand Swami and other sadhus departed for Piplana. Ramanand Swami was staying at Narsinh Mehta’s home. The day of this historic meeting was 19 June 1800 (Jeth vad 12, Samvat 1856). News was conveyed to Ramanand Swami that Nilkanth Varni and sadhus had arrived in Piplana. (p. 111)

2. Destruction of ghosts and deliverance of yogis.
   A) Nilkanth sat under a banyan tree for meditation, as Hanumanji partook in darshan from the branches above. A little past midnight, loud noises and flames were seen from a distance. Hanumanji noticed that a group of ghosts being led by KalBhairav was coming towards them. KalBhairav shouted “Come on, jump on that boy and monkey, and devour them at once!” (p. 22). Hearing this, Hanumanji got enraged, jumped towards the ghosts, and began lashing them out by whipping his tail. With one pounce, Hanumanji hit him hard on the head severely, thus ending the fight. The next morning, Nilkanth got up, bathed, and performed his worship. Hanumanji brought some sweet fruits. Nilkanth ate a few and gave the rest to Hanumanji. He was very pleased with Hanumanji and, gave him his blessings, then continued his journey through the dense vegetation of a mountain. There were several yogis performing penance in the middle of the forest. Varni blessed the yogis with liberation in the near future along with the nav lakh yogis. (p. 21)

3. The glory of Nilkanth.
   A) There was a village named Shekhpat. Lalji Suthar, a disciple of Ramanand Swami, lived there. He went to see Ramanand Swami in Kutch and Ramanand Swami inquired as why he had come there when he had sent a letter for everyone to go to Loj. Lalji then
asked Ramanand Swami about the greatness of Nilkanth. Ramanand Swami calmly replied, “They are all great. But Shri Krishna is greater than all of them. And Nilkanth Varni is the greatest of them all. He is the incarnation of all incarnations. However much we may extol his greatness, it will be inadequate. Even the greatest of yogis and munis meditate on him. Why did you come to Kutch without having Varni’s darshan? Now, go to Lojpur, have the darshan of Nilkanth and pay your respects to him” (p. 111). Lalji Suthar was surprised to hear this. Overwhelmed with joy, he left enthusiastically for Loj. He felt blessed at Varni’s darshan. After Ramanand Swami passed away, Lalji Suthar was initiated into the sadhu-fold and named Nishkulanand Swami. (p. 110)

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

1. Who was the successor of the gadi of Ramanujacharya?
   A) Ramanand Swami was the successor of the gadi of Ramanujacharya, he was given Vaishnav diksha in a dream by Ramanucharya. (p. 61)

2. Whom did Nilkanth Varni see before him when he opened his eyes from meditation?
   A) Nilkanth sat outside the ashram in deep meditation on deer skin, when a lion appeared and roared before him. (p.12)

3. What did Amichand say to Nilkanth Varni on hearing about the future?
   A) Nilkanth told the merchant, “I wish to take your service in future.” Amichand said with folded hands, “But what guarantee is there about my existence in future?” Nilkanth replied, “To keep you alive till then is in my hands.” And so saying Nilkanth smiled and added, “You have the murtis of Lakshminarayan buried in your house. I will send my sadhus, when I need them from you.” (p. 74)

4. Which questions did Nilkanth Varni ask in every pilgrim place, ashram and religion he visited?
   A) Nilkanth Varni asked 5 questions in every pilgrim place, ashram and religion he visited: “What is jiva? What is ishvar? And what is maya? Explain to me the characteristics of Brahm and Parabrahm.” (p. 94)

5. Who told King Satradharma about the greatness of Nilkanth Varni?
   A) The gardener told King Satradharma about the greatness of Nilkanth Varni. (p. 54)
Q.5. From the given options, place a tick (✔) in the box next to the correct ones. [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. Uplift of nine hundred thousand yogis.

(1) (✔) Kept Nilkanth Varni with them for three days.
(2) ‘Please do not leave me.’
(3) Stayed for two days.
(4) (✔) ‘Your murti does not disappear from our hearts.’

2. Nilkanth Varni meeting Gopal Yogi.

(1) From the worldly viewpoint, I am the son of a Vanik.
(2) (✔) “Bhagwan! You kept me waiting for a long time.”
(3) ‘I have propitiated Lakshminarayan.’
(4) (✔) “My mind has never been drawn to anyone.”


1. For 10 months Nilkanth Varni perceived the devotion and deception of the priest of Jagannath mandir. (p. 54)

2. Sage Vashishtha used to sit on a high seat, while Bhagwan Ramchandra sat down beside him. (p.115)

3. Mulji Sharma had offered respects to Sahajanand Swami by performing pujan and donating a cow. (p. 122)

4. In Bochasan, Nilkanth Varni asked Nanibai to first bring ladu. (p. 75)

Q.7. In the sentences below, state who is speaking to whom and when. [9]

1. “You’re still here talking?”
   A) Yagnapurushdasji to Pujari
   B) The clock struck four. The pujari had come to the mandir for mangala arti. Taking a look behind the mandir, he saw Shastri Yagnapurushdasji talking with Jethabhai of Pij. (p. 53)

2. “He is God, the very form of Parabrahman.”
   A) Jivuba to Abhel Kachar
   B) “Set aside this sham,” Abhel Khachar boomed. “If this God of yours is really true, he’ll come this instant and drink that milk. Otherwise, my sword is ready to cut you to pieces.” Suddenly, the room was filled with divine light. God came forth from the murti, giving darshan as Chaturbhuj Vishnu. He then began drinking the milk Jivuba was offering. Dismayed, Abhel Khachar was stunned with fear. His sword fell to the ground. Upon returning to his senses, he fell at the feet of God.” (p. 47)

3. “The Brahmin from Dabhan wants to become a sadhu.”
   A) Somla Kachar to Maharaj
   B) Jagannath stayed with Maharaj in Gadhada. He deeply wished to become a sadhu, but he was hesitant to ask Maharaj himself. So, he requested Somla Khachar, “Ask Maharaj to make me a sadhu.” (p. 23)

Q.8. Give reasons for the following (two to three lines each). [4]

1. Shriji Maharaj himself lifted Jhinabhai’s bier.
   A) “Jhinabhai gave his shoulder to lift Kamalshi Vanjha’s cot, and so I gave my shoulder to lift Jhinabhai today,” Maharaj replied. “With Jhinabhai’s bier in hand, I walked double the number of steps that Jhinabhai had walked while lifting Kamalshi’s cot.” So saying, Maharaj described the blessings one earns by serving God’s devotees. (p. 37)

2. Shriji Maharaj appeared before Nirgundas Swami seated on his Manki.
   A) Once, Nirgundas Swami went with a devotee, Ishwarbhai Patel, to bring Radharamanprasad, Acharya Laxmiprasadji Maharaj’s son, from Chhapaiya. But, Radharamanprasad’s sister refused to let him go and so Nirgun Swami and Ishwarbhai turned back. As he was returning to the train station Nirgun Swami fell off his horse. He suffered intense injuries to his head and abdomen. He truly thought he would go to dham, but he prayed to have Swamishri’s darshan one last time. Shriji Maharaj appeared before him on Manki with a small vessel of milk. Nirgun Swami drank the
nectar-like milk and his pain was relieved. The next day he was completely well and they returned to Gujarat. (p. 59)


A) Nirgun Swami used to travel outside of Gujarat to Khandesh every year to spread satsang and explain to the people of Khandesh Shastriji Maharaj’s greatness. On 5 February 1919 (Maha sud 5, VS 1975), Nirgun Swami arranged for the Vasant Panchmi festival to be celebrated in Khandesh. Swamishri, as well as many other sadhus and devotees, arrived there for the festival. Nirgun Swami once gave a Khandesh devotee a boon that a child would be born to him. The devotee later came to Swamishri, asking him for the same boon again. “Nirgun Swami has already given you the boon, hasn’t he?” Swamishri replied. “His boon will bear fruit, without a doubt” (p. 59). Swamishri’s words helped the devotees of Khandesh understand Nirgunadasji’s true significance. Nirgun Swami also began sending letters about the greatness of Akshar-Purushottam and Shastriji Maharaj to Harmanbhai and Maganbhai, two devotees in Africa. Sometimes his letters were up to one hundred pages in length. Once devotees sent him a few shillings through postal order telling him to use the money for the postage, but Nirgun Swami was displeased. He gave the money to the mandir treasury and replied, “Never send money for me. Anything I need is provided through the mandir” (p. 61)

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

1. Why did Ashabhai obey Swamishri’s wish not to go to Chhota Udepur?
   A) Ashabhai obeyed Swamishri’s wish because Swamishri said, “Your problems will go away. I will slip them right under my cushion.” Ashabhai felt his pains being removed before his very eyes. (p. 66)

2. Write the name of Joban Pagi’s brother.
   A) Joban’s three brothers were Sunder Pagi, Shakaro Pagi and Dalo Pagi. (p. 40)

3. When did Brahmanand Swami pass away to Akshardham? (samvat, month, tithi)
   A) Brahmanand Swami passed away to Akshardham on Jeth sud 10, Samvat 1888 (8 June 1832 CE) (p. 13)

4. Pleased by Dalpatram’s poetic skills, what did Devanand Swami use to say?
   A) Devanand Swami would say, “This is all due to Maharaj’s grace.” (p. 18)

Q.11 Select the SIX correct sentences from below and write them in the correct story sequence in the boxes. [6]
Topic: Ladudanji's four wishes

1. The body appears charming because of the deeds done.
2. The Rao of Jamnagar rewarded Ladudanji handsomely and conferred on him the titles of Rajkavitratna, Pingal-vidyacharya, Mahamahopadhyaya, Mahakavishvar and others.
3. ‘The Kathis believe him to be God.’
4. The poet’s mother, Laduba and father, Shambhudanji agreed with the Maharaja’s idea.
5. Ladudanji decided to test Swaminarayan with four wishes.
6. Ladudanji had earned the respect and pleasure of Abhayanandji.
7. The poet saw a distinctive tilak mark and a large round chandlo of vermilion on the goldsmith’s forehead at the royal court in Bhavnagar.
8. Ladudanji bade the Rao of Jamnagar farewell, forever remembering his debt.
9. ‘I have a dilemma that you have to solve.’
10. The young poet Devidanji began to recite several poems he had created himself.
11. Ladudanji’s heart swelled with joy, he spontaneously composed and sang a kirtan, ‘Dhanya ajni ghadi re...’
12. Let him be reading from the Bhagavat wrapped in a black cloth.

Correct sentences: 7, 9, 3, 5, 12, 11
Correct sequence: 7, 9, 3, 5, 12, 11

Q.12. Rewrite the incorrect sentences below in relation to the sentence heading. [4]

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

Example: Swami Yagnapriyadasji: While wandering on the farm, Motibhai’s son, Jethabhai, was bit by a scorpion and Jethabhai soon passed away. Then he came with Shriji Maharaj and said “Narayan” to Motibhai.

Ans. Swami Yagnapriyadasji: While working in the pasture, Ashabhai’s son, Desaibhai, was bit by a snake and Desaibhai soon passed away. Then he came with Bhagatji Maharaj and said “Jai Swaminarayan” to Ashabhai.

1. Bhaktaraj Joban Pagi: In the afternoon, as the village awakened, sadhus began coming to Khodabhai’s house for Maharaj’s darshan. “Maharaj is asleep because he is ill,” he
told them, not knowing that Maharaj had really gone. One hour before he checked the room. Maharaj’s bed was empty and he could not be found anywhere.

   A) Bhaktaraj Joban Pagi: In the morning, as the village awakened, devotees began coming to Joban’s house for Maharaj’s darshan. “Maharaj is asleep because he is tired,” he told them, not knowing that Maharaj had really gone. A little while later he checked the room. Maharaj’s bed was empty and he could not be found anywhere. (p. 43)

2. Bhaktaraj Jivuba: Raibai happened to have a metal pot and some extra clothes with her. Thinking quickly, she had Ladudanji dress as a princess and gave him her clothes to complete the costume. Amongst a group of similarly dressed women, Ladudanji entered the Gadhada, unnoticed.

   A) Bhaktaraj Jivuba: Raibai happened to have a clay pot and some extra clothes with her. Thinking quickly, she had Maharaj dress as a shepherdess and gave him her pot to complete the costume. Amongst a group of similarly dressed women, Maharaj entered the Gadhada, unnoticed. (p. 49)

3. Bhaktaraj Shri Jhinabhai Darbar: Jhinabhai had a great disliking for life. Though being born and brought up amidst the luxury of a rajwadi family, he had a deep liking for material pleasures. In fact, he saw nothing other than misery even in the worst of sense pleasures.

   A) Bhaktaraj Shri Jhinabhai Darbar: Jhinabhai had a great liking for Satsang. Though being born and brought up amidst the luxury of a rajwadi family, he had a deep disliking for material pleasures. In fact, he saw nothing other than misery even in the best of sense pleasures. (p. 29)

4. Sadguru Devanand Swami: Born in Barwala, near Pahelarpur, on Magshari amas, Samvat 1759, his mother name was Laluba.

   A) Sadguru Devanand Swami: Born in Balol, near Dhokla, on Kartik sud Punam, Samvat 1859, his mother name was Benjiba. (p. 15)

SECTION 3: ESSAY

Q.13. Write an essay on any ONE of the following. (In approximately 30 lines.) [10]

1. Divine resolution of building grand mandir in Sarangpur: Shri Hari and Shastriji Maharaj.
   (Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) June 2016, pp. 10 to 11)
2. Unforgettable golden memories from Pramukh Swami Maharaj’s divine life. 
(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) September-October 2016, pp. 18 to 27)

(Swaminarayan Prakash (Gujarati) September-October 2016, pp. 160 to 162)