



## BHAKTIVEDANTA RAJAVIDYALAYA

### Bhakti Sastri – Open book assessment questions

#### Unit 1: Bhagavad Gita chapters 1-6

1. Explain, in your own words, the process of sense control by Kṛṣṇa consciousness with reference to verses, purports, analogies and examples from Bhagavad-gītā 2.54-68 and 3.4-8. How is this relevant for:
  - Arjuna's situation on the battlefield of Kurukṣetra?
  - Your own practice of Kṛṣṇa consciousness?  
(Personal Application)
2. Establish, in your own words, the superiority of bhakti over the other yoga systems with reference to verses and purports from Bhagavad-gītā, Chapters 2-6, and comments from Prabhupāda's lectures.  
In your answer explain the following:
  - The impracticality of yoga systems, other than bhakti-yoga, in Kali-yuga.
  - How bhakti-yoga contains all the components of the other yoga systems.
  - How bhakti-yoga can be practiced without having practiced other yoga systems.  
(Preaching Application)

#### Unit-2 Bhagavad Gita Chapters 7-12

3. Explain, in your own words, the proper understanding of demigod worship with reference to appropriate verses, purports and analogies from Bhagavad-gītā 3.10-16 and 7.20-23, 9.20-25. (Preaching Application)
4. Present, in your own words, points relevant for your personal application with specific references to Sanskrit words and phrases, and Prabhupāda's purports, from catuḥ-śloki-gītā. (Personal Application)

#### Unit-3 Bhagavad Gita Chapters 13-18

5. With reference to Bhagavad-gītā Chapter 14, verses and purports discuss, in your own words :
  - ways you are personally influenced by the modes of passion and ignorance
  - practical ways you can develop the mode of goodness.  
(Personal Application)

6. Select statements from Prabhupāda's purports to chapters 14 and 16 of Bhagavad-gītā that reflect aspects of his mission and discuss, in your own words, the significance of these aspects for ISKCON's future. (Mood and Mission)

#### **Unit-4 Nectar of Devotion**

7. In your own words, explain the definition of pure devotional service with reference to the svarūpa and taṭastha lakṣaṇa, Prabhupāda's comments, examples and specific Sanskrit words. (Understanding)
8. Describe in your own words, with reference to Prabhupāda's statements in Chapter 10 of Nectar of Devotion, the appropriate attitude towards suffering in one's life. Discuss, with relevant personal examples, how development of this attitude can help you deal with suffering in your life. (Personal Application)

#### **Unit-5 Isopanishad**

9. Describe in your own words, practical ways, and the benefits therein, of applying the īśāvāsya principle in:
- society in general
  - ISKCON
  - your own life

Give reference to Sri Īsopaniṣad Mantras 1 -3 and purports in your response.

(Personal / Preaching Application)

10. Establish, in your own words, with appropriate evidence from Sri Īsopaniṣad verses, purports, analogies and Prabhupāda's Sri Īsopaniṣad lectures, the personal form of the Lord. (Preaching Application)

#### **Unit-6 Nectar of Instruction**

11. Explain the importance of avoiding ' atyāhāra ' and ' prayāsa ' in one's practices of devotional service. How can you avoid these tendencies? Give appropriate reference to Śrī Upadeśāmṛta Text 2, verse and purport, in your response. (Personal Application)

12. Discuss the challenges you are facing in developing enthusiasm and confidence in your practice of devotional service. What steps are you taking to overcome these challenges? Give appropriate reference Śrī Upadeśāmṛta Text 3 in your response. (Personal Application)