*The Summative Exam will consist of 20 Questions drawn from the question bank below.*

*You will answer 8 questions of around 3-4 paragraphs each (approx. 300 words each)*

*The exam should be completed within 4 hours.*

The Exam will include:

5 Thematic questions from which you will answer any 3.

8 questions from Bhagavad-gita from which you will answer any 2.

3 questions from Nectar of Devotion from which you will answer any 1.

2 questions from Nectar of Instruction from which you will answer any 1.

2 questions from Sri Isopanisad from which you will answer any 1.

## Thematic (10 Questions)

1. Srila Prabhupada writes in the introduction, “Isvara (the Supreme Lord), jIva (the living entity), prakrti (nature), kala (eternal time) and karma (activity) are all explained in the Bhagavad-gita.”. Explain these 5 topics with reference to appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gita.
2. Explain the science of transmigration of the soul with appropriate reference to Bhagavad Gita.
3. Explain the process of sense and mind control, through Krishna consciousness, with reference to the Bhaktisastri texts.
4. Establish, in your own words, the superiority of bhakti over the other yoga systems with reference to verses and purports (*optionally)* from Bhagavad-Gita, Chapters 2-6.
5. Defeat the impersonalist philosophy with reference to key verses from the Bhagavad Gita and Sri Isopanisad.
6. Summarize Krishna’s teachings on demigod worship with reference to appropriate verses from specifically from Bhagavad Gita Chapters 3,7 and 9, and other Bs texts as appropriate
7. Explain, how the living entities are conditioned by the modes of material nature and how to transcend them, with reference to Bhagavad Gita Chapters 13-18.
8. Explain how bhakti is the conclusion of the Bhagavad Gita, with reference to appropriate verses and purports (*optionally).*
9. Explain appropriate and appropriate practice of vairagya (detachment) with reference to the Bhaktisastri texts.
10. Describe how the practice of sadhana-bhakti brings one to the stage of bhava and prema-bhakti, with reference to appropriate statements from Nectar of Devotion and Bhagavad Gita in your response.

## Bhagavad-gita (24 Questions)

1. Explain at least 4 of Arjuna’s reasons for not fighting with reference to the appropriate verses from Bhagavad-gita Chapters 1 & 2. Discuss the relevance of Arjuna’s dilemma in the practice of Krishna consciousness.
2. With reference to Bhagavad-gita 1.40, *adharmabhibhavat krsna,* explain the statement “women are generally not very intelligent and therefore not trustworthy” (Purport Bhagavad-gita 1.40). In your response discuss the consequences of misunderstanding this statement, within ISKCON and our preaching to society in general.
3. Describe the significance of surrender to a guru in order to solve the perplexities of one’s life, with reference to Bhagavad-gita 2.6-11, *karpanya doso upahata svabhava* verses and purports (*optionally)*.
4. With reference to specific Sanskrit words and phrases, from at least four verses from Bhagavad Gita 2.11-30, explain the principles of atma tattva.
5. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 2.31: “As long as one is not liberated, one has to perform the duties of his particular body in accordance with religious principles in order to achieve liberation.” Explain the relevance of this statement in relation to personal and preaching application. Give reference to Bhagavad Gita Chapters 2 and 3, verses and purports (*optionally)*, in your response.
6. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to 3.26: “a slightly developed Kṛṣṇa conscious person may directly be engaged in the service of the Lord without waiting for other Vedic formulas.” Discuss the significance of this statement for the development of the Krishna consciousness movement. Give reference to Bhagavad Gita Chapter 3, verses and purports (*optionally)*, in your response.
7. Draw general principles from Krishna’s analysis of lust in 3.36-43 and discuss, in your own words, the application of these principles in your personal practice of Krishna consciousness. Give references to Bg 3.36-43, verses and purports (*optionally)*, in your response
8. Establish the transcendental nature of Krishna’s birth and activities with reference to Bhagavad Gita 4.5-9, *yada yada hi dharmasya, etc.*
9. Discuss how application of the principles found in 6.16-17, *yuktahara-viharasya, etc.* verses and purports, can enhance your practice of Krishna consciousness.
10. Identify points from Krishna’s instruction to Arjuna on ashtanga yoga applicable for the practice of bhakti yoga. Give reference to Bhagavad Gita Chapter 6, verses and purports (*optionally)*, in your response.
11. Give three examples of how Krishna can be perceived through His energy, as described in  Bhagavad Gita ​​7.4-12, and discuss how remembering them can help you in relationships with vaisnavas, and in your daily life in general.
12. Explain how living entities are deluded by the three modes of material nature and the process of crossing beyond it. Give reference to 7.13-14 verses and purports (*optionally),* in your response.
13. Explain, with specific reference to Sanskrit words in Bhagavad Gita 7.15-16, and examples cited in the purports, the 4 classes that surrender to Krishna and 4 classes who don’t.
14. Summarize Krishna’s instructions on leaving the body with reference to  Bhagavad Gita 8.4-7 verses and purports (*optionally)*.
15. Present a comparison of material and spiritual worlds with reference to 8.15-22, abramha bhuvanal-loka,etc… verses and purports.
16. Explain Krishna’s relationship to the material world with reference to the sanskrit verses*, maya tatam idam sarvam etc.,* Srila Prabhupada’s purports (*optionally)* and analogies and given in Bhagavad Gita 9.4-7.
17. Summarize Krishna’s instructions regarding ananya-bhakti (pure devotional service), with appropriate reference to Bhagavad-gita Chapters 7-9 verses and purports (*optionally)*.
18. Discuss points relevant for your personal application and preaching of Krishna consciousness with specific references to the Sanskrit verses, and Prabhupada’s purports (*optionally)*, from Bhagavad-Gita 10.8-11
19. Select 4 vibhutis, opulences, mentioned in 10.19-42, specifically useful for preaching and discuss their significance.
20. Explain how Krishna establishes the superiority of bhakti over the impersonal path with reference to BG 12.1-7, verses and purports (*optionally)*.
21. Discuss at least 3 points, relevant for preaching, from Bhagavad-Gita 15.15, sarvasya caham hrdi sannivisto..
22. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to Bhagavad-Gita 16.24, “One has to raise himself at least to the mode of goodness before the path to understanding the Supreme Lord can be opened. Without raising oneself to the standard of the mode of goodness, one remains in ignorance and passion, which are the cause of demoniac life.” Discuss this statement, in relation to the practice of Krishna consciousness, with reference to Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 16.
23. Discuss the relevance, for personal and preaching application, of Krishna’s analysis of 3 of the following; worship, food, sacrifices, austerities and charity in the modes of nature with reference to Bhagavad-Gita Chapter 17.
24. Summarize Krishna’s concluding instructions in Bhagavad-Gita 18.55-72, *mana mana mad bhakto, etc..* with reference to appropriate verses and purports (*optionally).*

## Nectar of Devotion (8 Questions)

##### Explain the definition of pure devotional service with reference to the verse, anyabhilasita sunyam and Prabhupada’s comments and examples from the Introduction.

##### Explain the six characteristics of pure devotional service, and how they manifest at different stages, with appropriate references to Chapter 1 of Nectar of devotion. Include in your explanation reference to the four kinds of reactions to sinful activities, their root cause, and how pure devotional service has the power to nullify them.

##### Explain the process of sadhana-bhakti, devotional service in practice and elucidate the two specific analogies mentioned in chapter 2. In your answer include the distinction between vaidhi and raganuga sadhana-bhakti.

##### With reference to Nectar of Devotion Chapter 3, describe the three classes of devotees and their characteristics.

1. Srila Prabhupada writes: “It is on the basis of his (Rupa Goswami) position that anyone can now become a Gauḍiya Vaisnava from any part of the world or any part of the universe.” Discuss the significance of this statement in relation to Srila Prabhupada’s mission. Give reference to Nectar of Devotion Chapter 5, and the Bhakti sastras in general, in your response.
2. Discuss the importance, for your practice of Krishna consciousness, of accepting a spiritual master, with reference to Chapter 7 Nectar of Devotion and Bhagavad Gita.
3. Discuss the importance of five most important items of sadhana-bhakti in your life and for ISKCONs future in general .
4. Describe the stage of Raganuga Bhakti, and its practice in ISKCON, in terms of the progressive path of Sadhana, Bhava and Prema Bhakti. Describe the role of Raganuga Sadhana Bhakti in achieving Goloka. How is Raganuga Bhakti different from sahajiya practices.

## Nectar of Instruction (4 Questions)

1. Briefly explain the six activities which Srila Rupa Goswami recommends to avoid. Discuss how they spoil one’s devotional service and how they spoil society at large. Include in your response, an explanation of the principle of ‘simple living and high thinking’ and discuss its relevance and application within ISKCON.
2. Explain the importance of associating with devotees and appropriately avoiding the association of non-devotees in the practice of devotional service, with reference to Sri Upadesamrta Texts 2 and 3, verses and purport.
3. Discuss appropriate application of the six loving exchanges with the three categories of devotees. Include a discussion on the significance of Srila Prabhupada’s statement ‘a disciple should be careful to accept an uttama-adhikari as a spiritual master’. Give reference to Nectar of Instruction text 4, 5 and 6 verses and purports (*optionally)*, in your response.
4. Explain the progression of different levels of devotees from vikarmis to Srimati Radharani and describe the appropriate attitude of ISKCON devotees towards Radha Kunda. Give reference to Nectar of Instruction 9 to 11 verses and purports (*optionally)*.

## Sri Isopanisad (4 Questions)

1. Srila Prabhupada writes in the Introduction: “This Krishna consciousness movement is completely authorized from Vedic principles.” With reference to mantras and purports of Sri Isopanisad, give examples of how the philosophy and practices of the Krishna consciousness movement are authorized by Vedic principles.
2. Explain sabda-pramana in relation to pratyaksha and anumana as methods of acquiring knowledge, with reference to Sri Isopanisad Introduction and optionally other bhakti sastras.
3. Discuss the misconception that simply by becoming a vegetarian one can avoid transgressing the laws of nature? Give reference to Sri Isopanisad mantra 1 & purport in your response.
4. Refute the misconception that deity-worship is idol-worship, with reference to Mantras 5 & 8 and Bhagavad Gita verses and purports (*optionally)*.