

Introduction

Closed Book Short Answer Questions

1. What is the meaning of Veda as mentioned by Srila Prabhupada in the Introduction?
2. List the 4 defects of a conditioned soul and give two examples of them from the Introduction.
3. List three pramanas.
4. Give the meaning of pratyaksa.
5. List the two systems of knowledge in the material world.
6. What is the meaning of aroha?
7. What are the two qualifications of a bona fide guru?

Open Book Essays

1. "The Vedas are not compilations of human knowledge." Explain this statement with reference to the introduction.
2. Explain why sabda-pramana is a superior means of acquiring transcendental knowledge. Give evidence from Sri Isopanisad Introduction and Bhagavad Gita.
3. Discuss the Vaisnava theory of knowledge (epistemology) in relation to Srila Prabhupada's explanation of inductive and deductive systems of knowledge. Discuss the relevance of this in relation to knowing the form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Give reference to Sri Isopanisad Introduction in your response.
4. Explain, with reference to the Introduction of Sri Isopanisad and optionally other Bhaktisastras, why a personal living guru is important for your Krishna consciousness development.
5. Why does Srila Prabhupada discuss the importance of accepting a guru when speaking on the topic of the Vedas? Give reference to the Introduction of Sri Isopanisad in your response.
6. Discuss the relationship between the Vedas and Srimad Bhagavatam? Give reference to the Introduction of Sri Isopanisad.
7. Give a brief overview of the Vedic literature and explain Vyasadeva's role in their production.
8. Respond to the challenge "The Vedas are also limited knowledge from one culture, India..." with reference to Srila Prabhupada's explanation of the Vedas in the Introduction.
9. Explain, with reference to the Introduction of Sri Isopanisad, how the material energy helps the jiva realize ones relationship with the Complete Whole, Bhagavan.

Invocation

Closed Book Short Answer Questions

1. Explain the Sanskrit phrase sat-cit-ananda-vigraha.
2. Explain the analogy of the severed hand.
3. What does the living entity have to do to realize his completeness, according to Srila Prabhupada's purport on the Invocation?

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1. On the basis of the statement Om purnam adah, give reasons that indicate the existence of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.
2. Explain with at least two examples, the complete nature of this phenomenal world in terms of purnam idam.
3. Explain the principle of purnam evavasisyate in relation to refuting mayavada philosophy.

4. Srila Prabhupada writes in the Invocation purport: “The human form of life is a complete manifestation of the consciousness of the living being....” In relation to this statement explain the significance of the human form of life.
5. "Krishna is complete; He is not less than His creation." Discuss the conclusion Srila Prabhupada establishes on the basis of this principle. Give reference to specific Sanskrit words from the Invocation verse in your response.
6. Considering the Sri Isopanisad’s explanation of the Lord’s complete energies, explain why we see “bad things happen to good people”?

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1. Srila Prabhupada writes in the Invocation purport: “Because we do not know that there is a complete arrangement in nature for our maintenance, we make efforts to utilize the resources of nature to create a so-called complete life of sense enjoyment.” Give examples of how illusioned souls make such efforts and, with reference to the invocation verse, discuss how it can be rectified.
2. Explain to a Sanskrit scholar Srila Prabhupada’s translation of the Invocation in which he mentions directly the Supreme Personality of Godhead, but it is not apparent in the original Sanskrit.

Mantra 1-3

Closed Book Short Answer Questions

1. Give the English meaning of the terms:
 - a. isavasya (Mantra 1)
 - b. para and apara prakrti (Mantra 1)
 - c. apauruseya (mantra 1)
2. The Isopanisad is a part of which Veda? (Mantra 1)
3. What sound do the Communists and Capitalists make when they argue with each other? (mantra 1)
4. Which analogy does Prabhupada use to explain that just because we have manufactured something, it doesn’t mean it belongs to us? (Mantra 1)
5. Define karma, akarma and vikarma. (Mantra 2)
6. What is the greatest danger in life and how can one be saved from it? (Mantra 2)
7. Define the words sura and asura. (Mantra 3)
8. Give the English meaning of the term atma-ha. (Mantra 3)
9. To what is the human body and material world compared to in this purport? Describe and explain the analogy. (Mantra 3)
10. What determines if we take birth as suci or srimat, in family of rich people, of wise people? (Mantra 3)

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1. Discuss of the role of tena tyaktena bhunjitha in the practical application of the Isavasya principle. (Mantra 1)
2. Discuss the principle of accepting only one’s quota in relation to one’s position in terms of varnasram. (Mantra 1)
3. Discuss possible results, for practitioners of Krishna consciousness, of misapplication of the Isavasya principle, for example, in terms of collecting and distributing money, and explain its appropriate application. (Mantra 1)
4. Discuss examples from Srila Prabhupada’s life showing his application of the Isavasya principle. (Mantra 1)
5. Explain the analogy illustrating the facilities offered by the human form of life. (Mantra 3)
6. With reference to Mantras 1 to 3, verses and purports, Explain the conceptual flow between mantras 1-3.

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1. Explain how the concept of ownership, as propounded by either the capitalists or communists, does not create peace. Discuss with reference to Mantra 1 verse and purport.
2. Discuss the misconception that simply by becoming a vegetarian one can avoid transgressing the laws of nature? Give reference to Sri Isopanisad 1 mantra & purport in your response.
3. Explain, with reference to Sri Isopanisad, the concept of atma-ha, as described in Mantra 3 of Sri Isopanisad. In your response, compare the concept of atma-ha, as described in Mantra 3 of Sri Isopanisad, with the understanding of the soul as eternal. Give reference to Sri Isopanisad and Bhagavad Gita Chapter 2, in your response.
4. Explain the relationship between Mantras 1-3 and the principle of simple living and high thinking. Give reference to Mantras 1-3 verses and purports.
5. Prepare an outline for presentation, on Sri Isopanisad Mantras 1-3, to Economics and Political Science students at a reputed University. Give reference to Mantras 1-3 verses and purports in your presentation.

Mantras 4-9

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1. What is antaryami? (Mantra 5)
2. Give the English meaning of the phrase tad dure tad v antike.(Mantra 5)
3. What contradictions are given to prove the Lord's potencies are inconceivable? (Mantra 5)
4. What is the meaning of Anupacyati, as described in Mantra 6 Purport?
5. As described in the purport to Mantra 6, what four categories of people does the Madhyama-adhikari see?
6. Give the English meaning of the terms:
 - a. ekatvam anupasyatah (Mantra 7)
 - b. suddham apapa-viddham (Mantra 8)
7. Cite two analogies cited in Mantra 9 purport regarding the advancement of education by a godless people.
8. What is the definition of Veda-vata-rata? How and for whom are they leaders? (Mantra 9)
9. Define Karmi, Veda-vata-rata and Mayapahrta-jnana. What "knowledge do they cultivate? (Mantra 9)

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1. Explain the analogy from Vishnu Purana cited in Mantra 4 purport, regarding the Absolute Personality of Godhead and His different energies.
2. Describe the common thread running through the verses and purports of Mantras 4, 5 & 8.
3. Explain the significance of the contradictory descriptions of the Supreme Lord given in Mantra 5.
4. What is the meaning of the terms Saguna and Nirguna? (Mantra 5)
5. Describe the behaviour which is in imitation of the Uttama-adhikaris vision as mentioned by Srila Prabhupada in the purport to Mantra 6.
6. Explain ekatvam with reference to the analogies Prabhupada gives in his purport to Mantra 7.
7. Explain the significance of the valuable jewel on the hood of a cobra analogy. (Mantra 9)

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1. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to Sri Isopanisad Mantra 4: Sri Isopanisad warns us to be very careful to play the part designated for us by the Lord. This does not mean that the individual soul has no initiative of his own. Because he is part and parcel of the Lord, he must partake of the initiative of the Lord as well." Explain this statement with reference to Sri Isopanisad Mantra 4, verse and purport, and at least 3 related verses from Bhagavad Gita.

2. Explain what is proper initiative for the part and parcel living entity, with reference to Srila Prabhupada's statements in Mantra 4 purport?
3. Reconcile being careful to play the part designated for us by the Lord and utilizing one's own initiative, with reference to Srila Prabhupada's statements in Mantra 4 purport.
4. Describe the common thread running through the verses and purports of Mantras 4, 5 & 8.
5. Refute the misconception that deity-worship is idol-worship, with reference to Mantras 5 & 8 and purports.
6. Discuss characteristics of the kanishta devotee as described in Mantra 6 purport.
7. What four categories of people does a madhyam adhikari see, as described in Mantra 6 purport?
8. Assess your advancement in Krishna consciousness according to the description of the madhyam and kanishta adhikaris given in the purport to Mantra 6.
9. Explain how is Mantra 6 is a description of a mahabhagavat.
10. Explain the analogies given in Mantra 7 purport illustrating the qualitative oneness and quantitative difference oneness and difference between the living entities and the Supreme Lord. Give reference to Mantra 7 purport in your response.
11. Explain how the Lord can appear in the form of the archa-vigraha with reference to Mantra 8, verse and purport, and at least 3 related verses from Bhagavad Gita.
12. Discuss the significance of the Lord being referred to as Shuddham (antiseptic) and apap-viddham (prophylactic) with reference to with reference to Mantra 8, verse and purport, and at least 3 related verses from Bhagavada Gita.

Mantra 10-13

Closed Book Short Answer Questions

1. Give the English meaning of the name Hiranyakasipu. (Mantra 11)
2. What analogy does Srila Prabhupada give in Mantra 13 purport illustrating the fallacy of the theory "all paths will take one to the supreme goal"?
3. Texts 9-11 & 12-14 have amazing symmetry except for which two concepts?

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1. Present an overview of Mantras 9-14.
2. Texts 9-11 and 12-14 have amazing symmetry except for which two concepts?
3. Explain the analogy of a coconut given in Mantra 12 purport.
4. Discuss the tendency, in yourself and others, to become an 'asambhutim' worshipper. Give reference to Mantra 12, verse and purport, in your response.

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1. Summarize, with appropriate references, Srila Prabhupada's statements regarding the advancement of education in his purports to Mantras 9 & 10. Discuss the relevance of these statements for ISKCON and modern education.
2. Discuss practical steps you are taking to cultivate the eighteen items, by which real knowledge can be developed, as listed in Mantra 10.
3. Discuss how ISKCON can facilitate the development of the eighteen items, by which real knowledge can be developed, as listed in Mantra 10, for its members, and society at large.
4. Explain with reference to Mantra 10, verse and purport, and examples from modern society, how "universities are, so to speak, centers of nescience only."
5. Explain how Sri Isopanisad instructs us not to make one-sided attempts to win the struggle for existence with reference to Sri Isopanisad Mantra 11 verse and purport.

6. With reference to Sri Isopanisad Mantra 11 verse and purport, explain in your own words, how the process of spiritual life as given to us by Srila Prabhupada, enables us to achieve a balanced program of spiritual and material knowledge.
7. Explain how worshipers of demigods and, still more so, worshipers of the impersonal Absolute, enter into the darkest region of ignorance. Give reference to Sri Isopanisad Mantra 12, verse and purport, in your response.
8. Discuss statements from Mantra 12 regarding demigod-worship and impersonalism which express Srila Prabhupada's mood and mission.

Mantra 15-18

Closed Book Short Answer Questions

1. Give the English meaning of the term hiranmayena patrena. (Mantra 15)
2. What does the word mukham mean in Mantra 15?
3. Which of the three forms of the Supreme, brahman, paramatma or bhagavan is emphasized in Mantras 15-16?

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1. Discuss the significance of the statement, in Mantra 15, satyasyapihitam mukham for preaching to impersonalists.
2. Explain how Mantra 15 and Bhagavad Gita 15.15 can be used to combat the idea that the Upanisads, Vedas, present and impersonal idea of God.
3. Discuss the devotional attitude expressed in the phrase from Mantra 17, Om krato smara krtam smara.
4. Explain, with reference to Mantra 17, verse and purport, why the position of the bhaktas is superior to that of the impersonalists at the time of death?
5. Explain why, according to Mantra 17, even if at the time of death a devotee does not remember his service to the Lord, he still has hope for escaping form the material world.

Sri Isopanisad Thematic Questions

Closed Book Thematic Questions

1. Explain to a Sanskrit scholar Srila Prabhupada's translation of the Invocation in which he mentions directly the Supreme Personality of Godhead but it not apparent in the original Sanskrit.
2. Which Texts of Sri Isopanisad are cited or paraphrased in Nectar of instruction?
3. Select appropriate verses from Bhagavad Gita and explain how they confirm the sruti mantra statement satyasyapihitam mukham. (Mantra 15)

Open Book Thematic 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. Compare, with appropriate reference to the specific texts, Prabhupada's explanation of the 18 items of knowledge in Bhagavad Gita Chapter 13 and Sri Isopanisad Mantra 10.
3. Select verses from Sri Isopanisad which you feel would appeal Christians, Muslims and Jews et al. and explain why.
4. In your own words establish the personal form of the Lord with evidence from Sri Isopanisad verses and purports.
5. Srila Prabhupada subtitles the Sri Isopanisad as "The knowledge that brings one nearer to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna" With reference to relevant verses and purports form Sri Isopanisad, discuss how you have come closer to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krishna, as a result of your study.