Section 1

1: Spiritual Master and Disciple

1. Who is a bona fide spiritual master? (2)
2. What are the qualifications of a bona fide spiritual master? (2)
3. What is the necessity for accepting a spiritual master? (2)
4. What are the qualifications of a disciple? (2)
5. What are the responsibilities of a disciple? (2)
6. How does a bona fide spiritual master transmit the spiritual knowledge to his disciple? (2)
7. A bona fide spiritual master acts as a transparent via media between the disciple and Krishna. How? (2)
8. Explain: vapu seva and vani seva. Which of these two kinds of services is more important? Why? (4)

2: Devotional Service

9. List the various stages of development of Bhakti as explained by Srila Rupa Gosvami. (5)
10. What are the weeds that grow along with the creeper of Bhakti? (3)
11. Mention three differences between bhakti yoga and ashtanga-yoga? (3)
12. What are the six things that destroy our devotional service? (3)
13. What are the six things that are favorable to the execution of pure devotional service? (3)
14. What are the nine types of bhakti described by Prahlada Maharaja? (5)
15. What are the six principles of surrender? (3)
16. Lord Krishna says, “This confidential knowledge may never be explained to those who are not austere, or devoted, or engaged in devotional service, nor to one who is envious of Me.” What does the ‘confidential knowledge’ refer to? (2)

3: Devotional Practices

17. If chanting of Hare Krishna mantra is enough for Kali yuga, what is the necessity of Deity worship? (2)
18. What are the five most important devotional practices recommended by Lord Caitanya? (5)
19. What is vaishnava-aparadha? What happens if one commits vaishnava-aparadha? (2)
20. What are the 12 parts of the body where we apply tilaka? Write also the corresponding mantras chanted. (12)
21. How does the chanting of Hare Krishna mantra differ from the performance of pious activities? (3)
22. What are the ten offenses to be avoided while chanting the holy names of the Lord? (10)
23. What are the considerations in choosing the foodstuff to be offered to Krishna? (5)
24. What is the procedure for offering bhoga to Krishna? (5)

4: Bhagavad-gita

25. Why do you accept Krishna as the Supreme Personality of Godhead? (2)
26. What is the position of demigods? Why did Krishna condemn the worship of demigods? (3)
27. Mention three important differences between material body and soul? (3)
28. What is the right process of understanding Bhagavad-gita? (2)
29. What are the analogies given by Krishna to demonstrate that the body is temporary and the soul is eternal? (2)
30. Explain how contemplation on sense objects leads to material entanglement. (8)
31. What are the five basic truths comprehended by the study of Bhagavad-gita? Which of them are eternal? (5)
32. Write three differences between impersonal realization and bhagavan realization of the Supreme Lord? (3)
5: Miscellaneous

33 Name the four Vaishnava sampradayas and their principal acharyas. (4)
34 Name the acharyas in our sampradaya from Srila Prabhupada upward for five generations. (4)
35 What are the four yugas? What is the duration of each? What is the process of self realization in each? (8)
36 What are the four pillars of dharma? What are the activities that destroy them? (4)
37 Name any 6 of the 14 planetary systems in this universe. (3)
38 What is the time duration of one kalpa? How many kalpas does a Brahma live? (2)
39 What is the correct attitude one should have with ISKCON’s spiritual authorities (Temple President etc.)? (3)
40 What are your plans to increase your faith and surrender to Srila Prabhupada? (3)

6: State True or False (10)

41 One must follow his spiritual master sincerely. If the disciple follows some one else, it is a great offense.
42 After accepting a bona fide spiritual master, one should follow his orders in this life and even life after life.
43 One should consider his spiritual master as good as God.
44 The spiritual master has to physically meet disciples in order to initiate them.
45 Srila Prabhupada's own disciples who never physically met him are not his initiated disciples.
46 Without meeting Srila Prabhupada personally, many were initiated as his disciples even before 1977.
47 Srila Prabhupada never taught that he must be physically present to initiate the disciples.
48 Without physical presence of guru, the 'disciplic succession' will be stopped.
49 Srila Prabhupada says “This movement will go for ten thousand years without any impediment.” Till then Srila Prabhupada will remain the Guru to carry on the ‘disciplic succession’.
50 “Parampara means to hear the truth from the spiritual master.” Does it mean that by listening to Prabhupada and by reading his books, the parampara is still being continued?

Section 2

1. Answer the following questions:

It is said that “One should approach a spiritual master and inquire from him submissively, render him all kinds of service. All the scriptures recommend that it is by pleasing the spiritual master and serving him directly that one can attain the highest perfectional stage of devotional service.” Also, a disciple should worship the spiritual master daily to get his blessings and should beg forgiveness for his offenses.

A A disciple should surrender fully at the lotus feet of the spiritual master. What is your understanding of this? (2)

B Since Srila Prabhupada is physically not present, as a disciple (8)

a How do you approach him? e How do you receive instructions from him?

b How do you serve him? f How do you take guidance from him?
c How do you please him? g How do you offer worship to him?
d How do you inquire from him? h How do you beg forgiveness for the offenses?

C If physical presence is not compulsory then why can't you take initiation from Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura or Srila Saccidananda Bhaktivinoda Thakura? (2)

2. Read the following excerpt and answer the questions:

[Letter to: Rupanuga, Tirupati - 28 April, 1974]

You are right about Sridhara Maharaja’s genuineness. But in my opinion he is the best of the lot. He is my old friend, at least he executes the regulative principles of devotional service. I do not wish to discuss about activities of my Godbrothers but it is a fact they have no life for preaching work. All are satisfied with a place for residence in the name of a temple, they engage disciples to get foodstuff by transcendental devices and eat and sleep. They have no idea or brain how to broadcast the cult of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. My Guru Maharaja used to lament many times for this reason and he thought if one man at least had understood the principle of preaching then his mission would achieve
success. In the latter days of my Guru Maharaja he was very disgusted. Actually, he left this world earlier, otherwise he would have continued to live for more years. Still he requested his disciples to form a strong Governing body for preaching the cult of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He never recommended anyone to be acharya of the Gaudiya Math. But Sridhara Maharaja is responsible for disobeying this order of Guru Maharaja, and he and others who are already dead unnecessarily thought that there must be one acharya.

If Guru Maharaja could have seen someone who was qualified at that time to be acharya he would have mentioned. Because on the night before he passed away he talked of so many things, but never mentioned an acharya. His idea was acharya was not to be nominated amongst the governing body. He said openly you make a GBC and conduct the mission. So his idea was amongst the members of GBC who would come out successful and self effulgent acharya would be automatically selected. So Sridhara Maharaja and his two associate gentlemen unauthorizedly selected one acharya and later it proved a failure. The result is now everyone is claiming to be acharya even though they may be kanistha adhikari with no ability to preach. In some of the camps the acharya is being changed three times a year. Therefore we may not commit the same mistake in our ISKCON camp.

Actually amongst my Godbrothers no one is qualified to become acharya. So it is better not to mix with my Godbrothers very intimately because instead of inspiring our students and disciples they may sometimes pollute them. This attempt was made previously by them, especially Madhava Maharaja and Tirtha Maharaja and Bon Maharaja but somehow or other I saved the situation. This is going on. We shall be very careful about them and not mix with them. This is my instruction to you all. They cannot help us in our movement, but they are very competent to harm our natural progress. So we must be very careful about them.

a) Can an acharya be nominated by a commission? How an acharya be known? (2)
b) What did Srila Prabhupada say about mixing with Gaudiya math devotees? Why? (2)
c) Why did Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Swami not appoint any of his disciples as successor acharya? (2)
d) What do you understand about the significance of GBC? Can GBC function without a physical acharya? (2)

3. Read the following letter, popularly known as the “July 9th Letter”, and answer the following questions.

Vrindaban, 9 July, 1977
To All G.B.C., and Temple Presidents
Dear Maharajas and Prabhus,
Please accept my humble obeisances at your feet. Recently when all of the GBC members were with His Divine Grace in Vrndavana, Srila Prabhupada indicated that soon He would appoint some of His senior disciples to act as "ritvik - representative of the acharya, for the purpose of performing initiations, both first initiation and second initiation. His Divine Grace has so far given a list of eleven disciples who will act in that capacity:

His Holiness Kirtanananda Swami
His Holiness Satsvarupa dasa Gosvami
His Holiness Jayapataka Swami
His Holiness Tamala Krsna Gosvami
His Holiness Hrdayananda Gosvami
His Holiness Bhavananda Gosvami
His Holiness Hamsaduta Swami
His Holiness Ramesvara Swami
His Holiness Harikesa Swami
His Grace Bhagavan dasa Adhikari
His Grace Jayatirtha dasa Adhikari

In the past Temple Presidents have written to Srila Prabhupada recommending a particular devotee's initiation. Now that Srila Prabhupada has named these representatives, Temple Presidents may henceforward send recommendation for first and second initiation to whichever of these eleven representatives are nearest their temple. After considering the recommendation, these representatives may accept the devotee as an initiated disciple of Srila Prabhupada by giving a spiritual name, or in the case of second initiation, by chanting on the Gayatri thread, just as Srila Prabhupada has done. The newly initiated devotees are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the above eleven senior devotees acting as His representative. After the Temple President receives a letter from these representatives giving the spiritual name or the thread, he can perform the fire yajna in the temple as was being done before. The name of a newly initiated disciple should be sent by the representative who has accepted him or her to Srila Prabhupada, to be included in His Divine Grace's "Initiated Disciples" book.

Hoping this finds you all well.

Your servant,
4. Read the following (Declaration of will by Prabhupada) and answer the question below:

The executive directors who have herein been designated are appointed for life. In the event of death or failure to act for any reason of the said directors, a successor director or directors may be appointed by the remaining directors, provided the new director is my initiated disciple following strictly all the rules and regulations of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

What are the qualifications required for a person to be appointed as an executive director in ISKCON? (2)

5. Read the following passage and answer the question:

In this connection, we may inform that our disciples in Krishna consciousness movement, those who are grihasthas, they contribute at least fifty percent of their income. Yes. Most of them, they are full-time engaged. But if one cannot be whole time engaged... Just like we, we have got our disciple, Professor Howard Wheeler. He gives more than fifty percent of his income for developing our New Vrindaban scheme. So we try to follow these principles laid down by Rupa Gosvami, that fifty percent for Krishna or Krishna's devotees, twenty-five percent for personal emergencies and twenty-five percent for the dependent relatives. [NoD Lecture, Vrindavan 16/10/1972]

What do you understand from the above passage? (2)

6. Read the following passage and answer the question:

My first concern is that my books shall be published and distributed profusely all over the world. Practically, books are the basis of our Movement. Without our books, our preaching will have no effect. [Letter to: Mandali Bhadra : 72-01-20]

My ambition is to spread these books far and wide all over the world so that everyone shall read at least one of our books and that will change his life. If only 1% become devotees, that will change the world. [Letter to Karandhara: 72-05-02]

I was very happy to receive the new edition of Bhagavad gita the make up is very nice. Every time I see a new publication of my books it gives me so much enthusiasm that my life is increased by 100 years. [Letter to: Ramesvara Prabhu : 75-11-27]

This, our book distribution is the most important task in our society. Therefore I am giving so much stress and I am working so hard on this. Because this is my life and soul according to the order of my Guru Maharaja. And by his grace it is to some extent successful. And I took it seriously. I take it seriously still now. That is my life and soul. I never tried in India to construct big temples or even in your country we didn’t. I never tried. But I was selling personally books. [Room Conversation Bombay 31/12/1976]

What do you understand from the above passage? (2)