First Initiation Candidate Pre-requisites

Cover Sheet Check List
Candidate's Name:
Temple/Namahatta Recommending:
 Recommendation Sheet (new version with bio-data) Practical Check list. [To Review Sections:] Philosophical Test/Check list. [To Review Sections:] Personal Questionnaire. [To Review Sections:] Essay on why they have faith/inspiration in diksa guru of choice [OK / Review] Initiation Oath ISKCON DISCIPLES' COURSE certificate Disciple Census Form/bio-data and address (if not on recommendation) Interview appearance [See notes below, if any.] Spiritual Name Preference: [Krishna-lila / Gaura-Lila / Rama Lila / As Gurudeva wishes] Photo (digital or hard copy)
Name of the Examiner/Reviewer:
Examiner's/ Reviewer's Approval: Complete / Incomplete. Signature
 Spiritual Master's Decision after Interview: Accepted/ Okay for receiving initiation. [Any additional points given below) Unaccepted for current initiation. Should improve in following area(s): 1. 2. 3. 4. Thank you.
Spiritual Master's Initial

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder-Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Center:		Date:	
<u>OFF</u>	ICIAL RECOMMENDATION	FOR HARINAMA INITIATIO	<u>N</u>
To (Name of Diksa Guru):			
Please accept my humble	e obeisances. All glories to Srila	Prabhupada. It is my pleasure to	recommend:
my understanding. Speci service, has chanted sixte sufficiently knowledgeab for initiation, as evidence accepted your shelter for	ifically, for the last twelve mon een rounds of japa daily, and ha le in the philosophy of Krsna co ed by passing an examination	he necessary qualifications for in ths he/she has been engaged in as adhered to the four regulative insciousness and the structure ar as prescribed under ISKCON Lan lifications have either been observable.	favorable devotional e principles. He/she is nd purpose of ISKCON w. The candidate has
Your servant,	(N	lame)	(Title)
	(Place)	(Date)	
Date of birth:/	/; Gender: Male/ Fema	FAMILY NAME:le; Age: Nationality: Occupation:	
Present Address:			
City:		Country:	
Postal Code: Email (Personal/contac	Home phone: ct):	Office Phone: Mobile:	
Permanent Address:			
City:	State/Province:	Country:	
		Mobile No Fax:	
Name of the spouse (if Name of children and Is child of ISKCON Deve Is in contact with Krish temple or temple com a member of a Namah Chants Hare Krishna ja	their birth year/ age:	/ Separated / divorced / Widow; Spouse KC Status: [emple/lives in a rs/months. Months/Years

COMPREHENSIVE CHECK-LIST FOR 1ST INITIATION CANDIDATES

Note: Sheltered Candidates may study the check list to understand the requirements for the 1st initiation and should prepare themselves for the same by taking help and guidance from their Siksa/Senior Disciples.

Place of shelter

This check list is to be filled in by the recommending authority scrutinizing and should write their comments.

Date of Shelter

Name:

	1 st Initiation recommended byDesignation	of	
	Temple / Nama Hatta. Date of recommendation	·	
	PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE & BEHAVIOR:	Yes No	Date (dd,mm,yy)
1.	Taken shelter from the guru practicing KC for the last 3 /6 /9 /12 months		
2.	Following the four Regulative principles for the last 6 / 9/ 12/ 24 /36 /48 months		//
3.	Has been regularly chanting the 16-rounds of Hare Krsna maha mantra japa for the last 6 / 9/ 12/ 24 /36 /48 /60 months	İ	//
4.	Regularly attends/performs Mangal Arati everyday rising early (can be at own home)		//
5.	Knows the mantras and procedure for offering bhoga to Lord Krsna.		//
6.	Knows guru's & Srila Prabhupada's name & pranam mantras.		//
7.	Can recognize and give proper names of guru-parampara on altar.		//
8.	Knows places & mantras for applying Vishnu tilaka and wears tilaka.		//
9.	Regularly attends temple or nama hatta meetings or does Krsna-seva.		//
10.	Has demonstrated steady commitment to devotional service for 12 months+		
11.	Regularly baths early in the morning and otherwise maintains cleanliness.		//
12.	Read Srila Prabhupada's small books		/ /
	& his biography (small)[if not literate he should get general knowledge of these topics*		
13.	Read Bhagavad Gita As It Is with purports 2/3/4 times		//
	[if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		
14.	Read Srimad Bhagavatam First Canto at least one time with purports. [if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		_/_/_
15.	Read Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu's Life & Teachings small book.		//
	[if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		
16.	Read Nectar of Devotion first part once.		//
	[if not literate they should get general knowledge of these topics]*		
17.	Passed an approved philosophical exam for First Initiation with 60%+ grade. [Otherwise they should complete 90% of philosophical check list.*]		
18.	Avoided offending vaisnavas and un-constructive criticism of devotees.		//
19.	One's cook is properly initiated, or at least a vegetarian.		
20.	Avoids eating anything but Krishna prasadam (except in emergencies)		//
21.	Doesn't have occupation or activities which are contrary to vaisnava principles. (selling non-vegetarian items or intoxicants, prostitution, gambling activities etc.)		//
22.	Only listens to ISKCON authorized spiritual lectures & preaching.		//_
23.	Knows guru-puja, "samsara davanala" kirtans and tulasi pranam mantra.		
24.	Has kept in communication with spiritual master at least once in three months either through writing or personal contacts.		_/_/_
25.	Has received written recommendation from local Temple President for first initiation.		//
26.	Has completed a vaisnava etiquette course (wherever available).		
27.	If other than grihastha knows rules of renounced asram and is personally trying to follow them appropriately.		_/_/_
28.	If grihastha: knows the rules of grihastha life and is personally trying to practise them and is raising minor children in a Krishna conscious manner.		_/_/_
29	Observes all Ekadasi Days and vaisnava festivals mentioned in ISKCON Vaisnava Calendar		_/_/_
30	Have completed ISKCON Disciples' Course		/ /

	_ , ,		_			- 11 1 .	2
ISKCON	Comprehensive	Check-list	tor	lst	Initiation	Candidates.	2

		Grade	Date
	NOTE → Who writes the philosophical test need not answer this.		
	PHILOSOPHICAL CHECKLIST (those who are not competently literate need to answer 90%-100% accurately to the following questions.		
1.	What are the qualifications of a bonafide spiritual master?		//
2.	After accepting Harinam initiation from a bonafide guru from whom should one accept further mantras?		_/_/_
3.	Why does one worship the guru like God? Is the guru God?		//
4.	How does the bonafide guru see himself in relation to Lord Krsna and the disciple?		//
5.	Do you believe that the spiritual master speaks the Absolute Truth? How is it possible that the same message spoken by Lord Krsna 5,000 years ago is represented by the spiritual master today?		_/_/_
6.	When should the spiritual master be rejected according to sastra?		//_
7.	What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a disciple?		//_
8.	What is the unique position of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON? It is said that by accepting initiation one is connected with the guru parampara. Are you committed to serving according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions? Why?		_/_/_
9.	Why do you accept Lord Krsna as the Supreme Godhead?		//
10.	What are some of the glories of the holy name of Lord Krsna? Why do we chant Hare Krishna maha-mantra?		//_
11.	Why do we follow the four regulative principles?		//_
12.	Why do we chant Hare Krsna rather than other pious activities? What is the difference between chanting Hare Krishna and Punya Karmas?		
13.	What is the position and responsibilities of the GBC body?		//
14.	Explain the difference between the body and the soul.		//
15.	What is ISKCON and why should one remain under it's shelter?		//
16.	It is said that at the time of accepting Harinam initiation the disciple is to follow the orders of the spiritual master in this life and even life after life. Do you believe this? Does one need to accept a spiritual master?		_/_/_
17.	Can you explain the ten offenses against the holy name?		//
18.	Why are you convinced to assist the spiritual master in spreading the Hare Krsna Sankirtan movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu?		
19.	After initiation is it alright to chant less than 16 rounds when there is a lot of service? If one misses ones rounds, what should one do?		_/_/_
20.	What is your "goal in life" which you finally want to achieve at life's end?		/ /

The candidate is expected to answer in detail covering all the basic philosophical points. The examiner should grade as A,B,C,D,E or F. A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2 E=1 and F= 0. against each question and give final %.

Comments By the Examiner:

Name of the Examiner Date:	Designation :	Signature:

^{*}Note: Those who are illiterate (class 4 and below are absolved from compulsory reading, but should in that case hear the sastra as far as possible and can answer simplified tests verbally. They should know the basic philosophy properly.

Essay for First Initiation

"Why I want to take initiation from Jayapataka Swami"

Write an essay to the spiritual master explaining why you want to take initiation from him and why you want him to accept you as his disciple. You may explain personally what has fixed or strengthened your faith in him. Kindly also explain in which ways after initiation you intend to serve the spiritual master in his devotional service of fulfilling Srila Prabhupada's mission of spreading the Harinama Sankirtana movement all over the world. How do you intend to further develop and maintain a strong and proper relationship as a disciple with him. You can use the space below or write on a separate sheet of paper.

INITIATION ACCEPTANCE OATH

It is my sincere, voluntary and loving desire and request to be accepted by His Divine Grace Om Visnupada Srila Jayapataka Swami (disciple of His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada) as his initiated disciple. To clarify what this signifies to me and to all concerned, I make the following declarations and I HEREBY SOLEMNLY MAKE THE FOLLOWING VOWS:

- 1. I accept Srila Jayapataka Swami to be my initiating (diksa) and instructing (siksa) spiritual master (Guru) forever, even life after life. It is my desire and commitment to help Srila Jayapataka Swami in his devotional service to His Divine Grace Srila A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and the previous acaryas in the guru-parampara.
- 2. I vow to follow throughout my life the instructions, etiquette, and principles prescribed according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions, Bhagavata-dharma sastras (Bhagavad-gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, Caitanya Caritamrta, etc.) and ISKCON Law in my dealings with my spiritual master Srila Jayapataka Swami.
- 3. I vow to follow the four regulative principles of avoiding the following sinful activities:
 - (a) Eating meat, fish, eggs, onion, garlic and any non-vegetarian food products;
 - (b) Taking all forms of intoxication including alcohol, drugs, tobacco, caffeine, coffee, tea, etc.;
 - (c) Doing gambling, highly speculative business investments and frivolous sports;
 - (d) Engaging in illicit sex in any form.
- 4. I vow to chant 16 rounds (16×108 mantras) of Hare Krishna Maha-mantra japa every day.
- 5. I vow that I shall follow the general and specific individual instructions given to me by my spiritual master His Divine Grace Srila Jayapataka Swami. I accept these instructions as representing Srila Prabhupada's Lord Krishna's will.
- 6. As an initiated disciple I understand that I am accepted as a member of and under the eternal shelter of the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya-(ISKCON) disciplic succession coming through His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and I vow to accept my further spiritual instructions and initiation from Srila Jayapataka Swami and in such circumstances where he is not present in this world to give them I shall accept the same only from bona fide ISKCON spiritual master representing Srila Prabhupada.
- 7. I shall always remain loyal to ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) as an extension of Srila Prabhupada and I shall avoid doing anything detrimental to the mission of my spiritual master and to ISKCON.

Name of Initiate:				
Signature of Initiate:				
Place of Initiation:		Date:	/	/
Witnesses: (1)	(2)			

PERSONAL QUESTIONAIRE FOR HH SRILA JAYAPATAKA SWAMI'S 1ST INITIATION CANDIDATES {VER. #11}

This is the version to take with HN Check List.			6. Do you regularly bathe early in the			
1.	Wh	ich apply to you? (Check all that apply)	morning and otherwise maintain cleanliness (fingernails, hair, clothes,			
	I li	ve at a Temple Asram doing seva there.	etc.) {□-Yes/ □-No}			
		ve at home regularly offering (full-time art-time) devotional service at: The ISKCON Temple. {If yes, Temple	7. Are you implicated or involved in any dishonesty such as theft, breaking state laws etc. during the past two years? Are you guilty of child abuse?			
	_	Name: }	{□-Yes/ □-No} If Yes, give detail			
		The local Nama Hatta {If yes, Nama Hatta Name:}				
		I also belong to a local Bhakti Branch (Cell) group and regularly attend.	8. Have you told untruth to a senior devotee during the past 2 years? {□-Yes/ □-No}			
2	□ Hav	Other: e you regularly chanted 16-rounds of	9. How many times have you read the following books:			
Ha	re K	rsna mahamantra japa during the past ars or since taking Harinama Initiation	a. Bhagavad Gita as it is			
	•	ever is shorter)? (Yes/No)	b. Srimad Bhagavatam first canto			
a) In a month how many did you miss on the average?			c. Srimad Bhagavatam 2 to 5 cantos (or which cantos) d. Srimad Bhagavatam 6 to 9 cantos (or			
b) Did you make up missed rounds:□Yes/□No						
 a) Do you regularly attend temple Mang Arati everyday? (□Yes/ □No) 			which cantos)			
		How many days missed in a month on	e. Krsna book			
	the	average? Days.	f. Caitanya Charitamrta (which volumes if not all)			
4.	Hav	e you had a fixed or steady devotional service during the past 12-months? (□Yes/ □No)	g. Teachings of Lord Caitanya			
	۱۸/۱	nat have been your services?	h. Nectar of Devotion			
			i. Which other BBT books have you read?			
			10. Are you prone to depression and material			
5.		Have you ever left the temple, stopped	anxiety? {□-Yes/ □-No}			
p s	per ser	ettending Nama Hatta or stopped performing your responsibilities and services without permission of the spiritual authorities? (□Yes/ □No)	11. Have you ever considered committing suicide or leaving ISKCON during the previous 24-months? {□-Yes/ □-No}			
	neg mas	Have you ever willfully disobeyed or lected to follow an order of the spiritual ster since your first initiation? (No); if Yes, give details [time, place,]:	12. Are you presently particularly agitated by any of the senses to the extend that you fear that you are in eminent danger of falling down? { •-Yes/ •-No} If yes, mention source(s) of agitation:			
			1			

i. Do you contribute any percentage or

service?

amount from your income to Lord Krsna's

{□-Yes/ □-No} If so, give details:.....

QUESTIONS FOR GRIHASTHAS LIVING WITH WIFE (NOT TOTALLY CELIBATE):

(Leave blank if not Grhastha) [NOTE:This can be presented to the guru in a closed envelope since it is personal details not suitable for everyone's vision.]

- 17. PRACTICING REGULATED FAMILY LIFE:
- a. Vaisnava Grihastas who practice sex-life according to vedic literatures for the purpose of procreation of Krishna conscious children are doing a devotional service to Lord Krishna and are considered to be "grihastha brahmacaris". There is no hard and fast rule limiting how many children a grihasta may have, but it is recommended that they only try to have children one day per month. That day "garbhodhana samskara" is practised by increasing spiritual activities and chanting extra rounds and praying to Guru and Krishna for sending a pure devotee child. Do you practice this standard of grihasta life? [Yes / No/ Trying]
- b. If you have not been following the above standard at present are you prepared to do so [YES / NO / Will try / ______]
- c. If you are not able to commit to following the above standard due to any extenuating circumstances, after initiation are you committed to practicing a regulated sexlife using only natural methods of planning a family and to avoid excesses? [Yes / No / See Note]
- d. If you are not able to practice standard "a." above kindly explain what obstacle(s) you face that prevent you from doing so. Do you face any of the following obstacles in practicing regulated family life [Check all that apply, or indicate if you prefer explaining personally to the Guru.]
 - □ 1. My spouse (marriage partner) is not a practicing devotee which makes it difficult.
 - 2. We cannot have children (more children), but cannot remain fully celibate.
 - □ 3. We do not want more children but cannot remain fully celibate.
 - ☐ 4. In order to preserve the marriage more relations are required.
 - □ 5. I am personally not able to commit to that level of celibacy.

		following:
e.	abo are app	you are not able to follow standard "a." ove then which of the following levels e you able to follow [Check all that oly, or indicate if you prefer explaining esonally to the Guru.]:
		1. Generally follow but only occasionally not able to follow.
		2. Relations once per month (although not necessarily for procreation).
		3. Relations more than once per month (although not necessarily for procreation).
		4. Relations according to the Manu Samhita codes (non-ekadasee, etc.)
		5. Relations without any strict regulation within marriage.
		6. Any other standard:

- ☐ 7. I prefer to explain personally to the Guru.
- 18. Regarding family planning matters: a. Do you use modern family planning techniques, contraceptives or do you intend to use them or have an abortion in the future? {--Yes/ --No}
- b. Have you or your spouse undergone a sterilization operation? {--Yes/ --No}
- c. Are you sure and committed that you will never undergo sterilization in the future or perform an abortion? (If you have any doubt on this then answer NO.) { •-Yes/ •-No}
- 19. a. Are you training your dependent children to be Krsna conscious devotees? {--Yes/ --No}
- b. Do you feed them only prasadam and vegetarian food? (YES/NO)

PHILOSOPHICAL EXAM FOR HH SRILA JAYAPATAKA SWAMI'S 1st Initiation candidates [Includes the GBC made questionnaire]

- 1. What are the qualifications of a bonafide spiritual master? It is said that once one accepts Harinam initiation from a bonafide guru one should accept further mantras from him only (so far he is present), and to accept other initiations from someone else is a great offence. Do you believe this?
- 2. Why does one worship the spiritual master like God? Is the spiritual master God? How does the bonafide guru see himself in relation to Lord Krishna and the disciple?
- 3. Do you believe that the spiritual master speaks the Absolute Truth? How is it possible that the same message spoken by Lord Krishna 5,000 years ago is represented by the spiritual master today?
- 4. Under what circumstances should the spiritual master be rejected?
- 5. What are the qualifications and responsibilities of a disciple?
- 6. What is the unique position of Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON? Why is he respected as Founder Acharya in ISKCON and primary Siksha guru for all of his followers? It is said that by accepting initiation one is connected with the guru parampara. Are you committed to serving according to Srila Prabhupada's instructions? Why?
- 7. Why do you accept Lord Krsna as the supreme personality of Godhead? Explain some of the glories of the holy name of Lord Krishna.
- 8. Why do we follow the four regulative principles?
- 9. Why do we chant Hare Krishna rather than other pious activities? What is the difference between chanting Hare Krishna and Punya Karmas?
- 10. What is the position of the GBC body?
- 11. Explain the difference between the body and the soul.
- 12. What is ISKCON and why should one remain in ISKCON.
- 13. It is said that at the time of accepting Harinam initiation the disciple is to follow the orders of the spiritual master in this life and even life after life. Do you believe this? Does one need to accept a spiritual master? Why?
- 14. If one makes a plan to make sinful acts and counteract them by chanting the holy name of the Lord, will this free one from the sinful reactions? Why?
- 15. After accepting initiation it is said that one should assist the spiritual master in spreading the Hare Krishna Sankirtan movement of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Are you convinced to do this? In doing this, may one preach the glories of the holy name forcibly to envious persons? Explain.
- 16. After accepting initiation what is the duty of a disciple in regard to increasing one's service and surrender to guru and Krishna? After initiation is it alright to chant less than rounds when there is a lot of service? If one misses completing 16 rounds, what should one do?
- 17. Have you read the paper "Harmonizing ISKCON's Lines of Authority"? What have you understood as the most important points of the "Harmonizing ISKCON's Lines of Authority" paper?

 (Ref. http://www.jayapatakaswamioffice.com/?page_id=3206)
- 18. Have you read GBC Resolution 303/2013: GBC Statement on the Position of Srila Prabhupada? (**Ref.** http://www.jayapatakaswamioffice.com/?page_id=3206)