

GCE

Gujarati

Advanced GCE

Unit F884: Listening, Reading and Writing 2

Mark Scheme for June 2013

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This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

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11. Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Tick
√ +	Development of point
×	incorrect
□R.	Irrelevant (material which does not answer the question)
λ	Caret sign to show omission
C	Opinion
J	Just/Justification
L	Good language
PE	Poorly expressed
P	Past tense correctly used
F	Future tense correctly used
Pro	Present tense correctly used
AL.	Accurate language
П	Inaccurate language

Abbreviations	Meaning		
/ Alternative and acceptable answers for the same marking point			
()	Words which are not essential to gain the mark		
_	Underlined words must be included to gain the mark		

12. Subject-specific Marking Instructions

- You should print out a copy of the paper and work through it yourself (using the transcript for the Listening activities which you can find at the end of the Mark Scheme, if the audio version is not available on the portal.) You will need a copy of the written texts to refer to during the marking process in order to spot excessive lifting in tasks 6 and 7. The texts will not appear automatically on your marking screen.
- The award of marks is not necessarily dependent on the specific wording in the detailed sheets which follow. Other wordings will score the marks, provided they are semantically equivalent. If the language used by the candidate conveys meaning and also answers the question, then the mark(s) should normally be credited for comprehension (c.f. "sympathetic native speaker/sympathetic examiner"). Use your professional judgement to apply the marking principles given in this mark scheme but if you are still in doubt about the validity of any answer, then consult your Team Leader by phone, the messaging system within scoris or email.
- Language marks: These are assessed separately Grids C1, C2 and F2 see guidance in the detailed sheets below.
- Where candidates give alternative answers, only the first one written or the one on the line should be marked.

Section A: Listening and Writing

Task 1

Task specific guidance:

- Each question will be scanned in individually (questions with more than one element will appear twice / three times as appropriate)
- For single mark questions no annotation is necessary just enter 1, 0 or NR.
- There is no need to use a cross (**X**) for an answer that is clearly incorrect. Use it when you have had to think and decided not to award the mark or when a word in the response invalidates an otherwise acceptable answer.
- You may also use the highlighter tool to show harmless additions.
- Answers in Gujarati get no marks.

Q	uesti	on	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1	(a)		Fit strong locks to doors and windows	1	A suitable verb and strong required in the answer
	(b)	(i)	(Gold) jewellery	1	Do not accept wedding dresses
		(ii)	Cash	1	Do not accept wedding dresses
	(c)		When weddings are being celebrated	1	
	(d)		The house is in a mess/contents of cupboards everywhere/ the thief has ransacked the house	1	
	(e)		Either stolen goods are sold for cash quickly or jewellery is melted down	1	
			Total	6	

Task 2: મનુભાઈનો પ્રકૃતિ પ્રેમ

Task specific guidance:

- Each question will be scanned in individually (questions with more than one element will appear twice/three times as appropriate)
- For single mark questions no annotation is necessary just enter 1, 0 or NR.
- There is no need to use a cross (**X**) for an answer that is clearly incorrect. Use it when you have had to think and decided not to award the mark or when a word in the response invalidates an otherwise acceptable answer.
- You may also use the highlighter tool to show harmless additions.

Qu	estion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2	a/8	(૧) દાદીમા તેમને આભના તારાઓ બતાવતાં.	1	
		(૨) દાદાજી તેમને જાનવરો અને પક્ષીઓ બતાવતા.		
		(3) માતાપિતા વૃક્ષોનું ધ્યાન રાખવાનું શીખવતાં.		
	b/୴	(૧) ખેતીકામનો / ખેડ્ડતનો	1	
		(૨) કોલેજમાં ખેતરના કામ વિશે ભણ્યા.	1	
	c/ગ	(૧) જમીનને હ્રાનિ થાય એવું ખાતર ન વાપરતા.	1	
		(૨) ફવા પ્રદૂષિત થાય એવી જંતુનાશક દવા છાંટતા નફિ.	1	
	d/ધ	તેમના ખેતરમાં મીઠાશવાળો / સ્વાદવાળો પાક થતો.	1	
	e/ય	તેઓ બીજા ખેડૂતોને તેમની રીત શીખવતા.	1	
	f/੪	(૧) તેમની પાસે નાણાં ફતાં.	1	
		(૨) તેઓ તંદુ રસ્ત ફતા.	1	
	g/%	તેમના દીકરાઓ ખેતીનું કામ સારી રીતે કરતા ફતા.	1	
	h/अ	લોકો ઝાડો કાપી નાખતા ફતા તે કાર્યથી	1	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
S\i	(૧) તેઓ ઝાડો પર રમતો રમતા	1	
	(૨) ગામમાં / ઝાડીમાં પંખીઓ ઓછાં થયાં ફતાં.	1	
j/δ	(૧) ધરની આગળ ફૂલો / ફૂલછોડ વાવ્યાં.	1	
	(૨) ધરની પાછળ ફળોનાં ઝાડ વાવ્યાં.	1	
k/S	તેમણે ઝાડોની દેખરેખ રાખવાનું માથે લીધું.	1	
ا/ه	બિયાંના થેલા લઈને ગયા / સૌને બિયાં આપ્યાં / બિયાં	1	
	વેરવાનું કહ્યું.		
m/ણ	તેમના દીકરાઓએ છોડોને ખાતર-પાણી આપ્યાં.	1	
n/d	(૧) પક્ષીઓ ઝાડોમાં રફેવા લાગ્યાં.	1	
	(૨) પતંગિયાં ઊડવાં લાગ્યાં.	1	
	Total	22	

QoL: Read response again and assess for language.

- Annotations: you may use the underlining tool (--) to show language errors if you find it makes it easier to apply Grid C.2, but it is not essential.
- **Grid C.2:** Key words have been highlighted in the Grid. Remember that this grid is also used to assess accuracy at A2. Identify the band which best matches the performance. If you identified the band without hesitation you must award the higher of the two marks.

GRID C.2	QUALITY OF LANGUAGE – ACCURACY 10 marks AO3
9–10	Characterised by a high and consistent level of accuracy in use of complex structures, although there may be some errors.
7–8	Language generally accurate. Shows a sound grasp of AS (and/or A2) structures, as appropriate. Generally correct use of complex structures. Tenses and agreements good, although there may be some inconsistency and errors in more complex areas.
5–6	Shows evidence of fair understanding of grammatical usage . Generally accurate use of simple sentence structures. Some correct use of complex sentence structures. The performance is likely to be patchy and inconsistent .
3–4	Evidence of gaps in basic grammar . Frequent errors of an elementary kind (endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns, adjectival agreements) but evidence of correct use of simple sentence structures . Vocabulary and structures may be quite strongly influenced by the candidate's first language.
0–2	Little evidence of grammatical awareness. Persistent, serious and elementary errors (endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns). Frequent first language interference.

Section B: Reading and Writing

In Section B there are 10 marks for Quality of Language.

Task 3: ગુજરાતના તફેવારો અને ઉત્સવો

Qu	estion	n Answer		Guidance
3	a/8	S	1	Multi-choice Marks entered individually. No need for annotation. Enter 1, 0
	b/ખ	8	1	or NR as appropriate.
	c/ગ	9	1	
	d/ધ	9	1	
	e/ચ	X	1	
	f/9	e	1	
		Total	6	

Task 4: ગુજરાતના તફેવારો અને ઉત્સવો

Qu	estion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4	a/8	રોજિંદા	1	1 mark for each correct answer The marks are awarded individually. No annotations are
	b/ሣ	અનેરો	1	necessary.
	c/ગ	પ્રભુ	1	
	d/ધ	એકતા	1	
	e/ચ	આબાલવૃદ્ધ	1	
	f/੪	ભાવના	1	
	g/४	વિશાળતા	1	
	h/33	પ્રેરણા	1	
	5\i	જતન	1	
		Total	9	

Task 5: ગુજરાતના તફેવારો અને ઉત્સવો

Qι	estion	Answer		Guidance	
5	a/8	મળતા / મેળવાતા / લૂંટાતા	1	Gap-fill No annotation is necessary. Enter 1, 0 or NR as appropriate.	
	b/ખ	ઉપયોગી / ફાયદાકારક / લાભદાયક	1	Ignore mis-spellings.	
	c/ગ	તંદુરસ્ત / બળવાન / ખડતલ	1		
	d/ધ	કરવા / થવા દેવા	1		
	e/ચ	આપીને / કરીને	1		
		Total	5		

Task 6: ગુજરાતના તફેવારો અને ઉત્સવો

Qu	estion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6	a/8	આવે છે	1	Sentence Completion Accept ફોય છે.
	b/₩	ભરેલાં હ્રોય છે	1	Marks entered individually. No need for annotation. Enter 1, 0
	c/ગ	લેવી ફ્રોય / ખરીદવી ફ્રોય	1	or NR as appropriate.
	d/ધ	કરાવે છે / કરાવી આપે છે	1	
	e/ચ	થયું છે / બન્યું છે	1	
		Total	5	

Task 7: ગુજરાતના તફેવારો અને ઉત્સવો

Task specific guidance

- 1. Each question will be scanned in individually (questions with more than one element will appear twice / three times as appropriate).
- 2. Familiarize yourself with the text and have a copy to hand so that you can easily spot instances of lifting from the original. The text will not appear on the screen.
- 3. Go through all the responses and assess every question for **comprehension**.
 - Marks are awarded on a point by point basis, according to the mark scheme.
 - Minimal (additional) irrelevance can be ignored BUT mindless copying (often long chunks) results in no marks for comprehension or QoL
 - For comprehension / content, remember that you are a "sympathetic native speaker / sympathetic examiner". If language interferes slightly but it is clear that the candidate has understood, give the mark for content / comprehension (unless there is ambiguity or it is gibberish). Limited ability to use language will be reflected in the mark awarded under grid C2. If appropriate, candidates may answer with single words / short phrases.

Annotations:

- Award 1, 0 or NR without annotation.
- Use a tick (✓) to indicate a mark awarded on any question where the answer is more than one mark.
- Use a cross (X) when a word in the response invalidates an otherwise acceptable answer.
- Even if the answer is lifted verbatim from the text, as long as it is a direct answer, award the comprehension mark but highlight and exclude from Quality of Language assessment.

Task 7

Qu	estion	Answer		Guidance
7	a/8	તે વખતે ભાવ વધારી દેવામાં આવે છે / ઊંચા ભાવે ખરીદી કરવાનું	1	Do not accept only 'not enough money'
		પોસાતું નથી.		
	b/ሣ	વધારે પડતા પૈસા ખર્ચી નાખે છે અને પછી ચિંતા થાય છે.	2	
	c/ɔl	ફટાકડા / ધુમાડાથી હ્વા ગંદી થાય છે.	2	
		સગાં કે મિત્રોના મન દુખાય છે.		
	d/ધ	તેઓ (છેલ્લી ઢબના કપડાં માટે) ફરીફાઈ કરે છે.	1	ફરીફાઈ – or a synonym required in the answer
	e/ચ	અસભ્ય લાગે તેવાં કપડાં પફેરીને	1	
	f/੪	લોકોને રીતરિવાજ જાણવા મળે છે.	3	
		કામદારોને કામ મળે છે.		
		દેશના લોકો વચ્ચે સંપની લાગણી પ્રગટે છે.		
		Total	10	

Task 8 Transfer of Meaning

Qı	uesti	on	Answer	Marks	Guidan	ce
					Content	Levels of response
8	8 1		The history of the development of communication is very interesting	2	Award two marks per translated section according to the grid below. This grid assesses Transfer of Meaning into English. Note that this grid integrates Quality of Written Communication Strand	GRID H.2 TRANSFER OF MEANING 2
	2		In the stone age men sent messages to each other only by travelling on foot.	2	(i) descriptors. Accurate transfer of mean Faultless or virtually faultless.	Accurate transfer of meaning. Faultless or virtually faultless grammar, punctuation and spelling in English.
	3		As society developed communication also developed	2	Candidates may answer in faultless English but may not transfer meaning accurately. Award either 0 or 1 mark, depending on level of inaccuracy in meaning.	Inconsistent transfer of meaning. Mostly accurate but there are errors and/or missed details. There are instances of error in grammar,
	4		People have been contacting each other by post and telephone for years	2	The transfer of meaning is accurate but contains significant spelling and/or grammar errors. Award 0 or 1 mark, depending on level of inaccuracy of English.	punctuation and spelling in English. O Very limited transfer of meaning. A substantial number of elements
	5		Now the internet is widely used	2	level of illacedracy of Eligibil.	misunderstood or missing. Significant error in grammar, punctuation and spelling in English.
			Total	10		

Task 9: ઈન્ટરનેટ – એક વરદાન?

Qu	estion	Answer	Marks	Guidance
9	a/8	આખી દુનિયા	1	Sentence Completion Marks entered individually. No need for annotation. Enter 1, 0
	b/ખ	મફત્ત્વનું સ્થાન જમાવ્યું	1	or NR as appropriate.
	c/ગ	જુદા જુદા લોકોને	1	
	d/ધ	આપણી સભાઓ	1	
	e/ચ	દૂર દૂરના દેશો	1	
	f/੪	ખૂબ ઝડપથી	1	
		Total	6	

Task 10: ઈન્ટરનેટ – એક વરદાન?

Question		Answer	Marks	Guidance
10	a/8	પફેલો ફેતુ / પફેલું ધ્યેય	1	Multi-choice Marks entered individually. No need for annotation. Enter 1, 0
	b/ሣ	ખૂબ આગળ વધી ગયું છે / ખૂબ પ્રગતિ કરી છે	1	or NR as appropriate.
	c/ગ	નવું નવું શોધતા રફે છે	1	
	d/ધ	જે લોકોને મળવાનું રસદાયક છે તે લોકો	1	
	e/ચ	જિંદગીભર સાથે રફેનાર	1	Accept - જેની સાથે લગ્ન કર્યા હોય તે
	f/੪	રોજબરોજ / દરરોજ / રોજ	1	
		Total	6	

Task 11: ઈન્ટરનેટ – એક વરદાન?

Task specific guidance

- 4. Each question will be scanned in individually (questions with more than one element will appear twice / three times as appropriate).
- 5. Familiarize yourself with the text and have a copy to hand so that you can easily spot instances of lifting from the original. The text will not appear on the screen.
- 6. Go through all the responses and assess every question for **comprehension**.
 - Marks are awarded on a point by point basis, according to the mark scheme.
 - Minimal (additional) irrelevance can be ignored BUT mindless copying (often long chunks) results in no marks for comprehension or QoL
 - For comprehension / content, remember that you are a "sympathetic native speaker / sympathetic examiner". If language interferes slightly but it is clear that the candidate has understood, give the mark for content / comprehension (unless there is ambiguity or it is gibberish). Limited ability to use language will be reflected in the mark awarded under grid C2. If appropriate, candidates may answer with single words / short phrases.

Annotations:

- Award 1, 0 or NR without annotation.
- Use a tick (\checkmark) to indicate a mark awarded on any question where the answer is more than one mark.
- Use a cross (X) when a word in the response invalidates an otherwise acceptable answer.
- Even if the answer is lifted verbatim from the text, **as long as it is a direct answer**, award the comprehension mark but highlight and exclude from Quality of Language assessment.

Task 11

Question		Answer	Marks	Guidance
11	a/8	એક વાર ચાલુ કર્યા પછી મૂકાતું નથી	1	
	b/ሣ	આપણો સમય વેડફાય છે. આપણું સ્વાસ્થ્ય બગડે છે.	2	Accept આપણે બેઠાડુ થઈ જઈએ છીએ.
	c/ગ	આપણી અંગત / નિજી વિગતો સુરક્ષિત રાખવી જોઈએ.	1	
	d/ધ	લોકો ભોળવાઈને અંગત વિગતો આપી દે છે. લોકો કમ્પ્યૂટર પરના ફુમલાને આમંત્રે છે.	2	
	e/ચ	ફાર્ડ ડિસ્કને બગાડી નાખે છે. બધી માફિતી ખોવાઈ / ભૂંસાઈ જાય છે.	2	
	f/8	ઈન્ટરનેટ પર આવતી ખરાબ માફિતી તેમના પર અવળી અસર કરી શકે.	1	
	g/४	સલામતીના સલાહ્-સૂચનો પાળવાં જોઈએ.	1	
		Total	10	

Assessing Quality of Language across Section B

- You will get a separate screen which will be the whole page for exercise 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 (unannotated). Read all the answers again. You may use the green L marking tool to highlight good language to assist you in the application of Grid C.2. but it is not essential.
- Apply Grid C.2 and enter the mark.
- PE to provide specific guidance on which exercises in Section B will provide best evidence for Quality of Language.

GRID C.2	QUALITY OF LANGUAGE – ACCURACY 10 marks AO3
9–10	Characterised by a high and consistent level of accuracy in use of complex structures, although there may be some errors.
7–8	Language generally accurate. Shows a sound grasp of AS (and/or A2) structures, as appropriate. Generally correct use of complex structures. Tenses and agreements good, although there may be some inconsistency and errors in more complex areas.
5–6	Shows evidence of fair understanding of grammatical usage . Generally accurate use of simple sentence structures. Some correct use of complex sentence structures. The performance is likely to be patchy and inconsistent .
3–4	Evidence of gaps in basic grammar . Frequent errors of an elementary kind (endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns, adjectival agreements) but evidence of correct use of simple sentence structures . Vocabulary and structures may be quite strongly influenced by the candidate's first language.
0–2	Little evidence of grammatical awareness. Persistent, serious and elementary errors (endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns). Frequent first language interference.

Task 12-16

Task specific guidance

Mark one essay using the grids N, O, C.2 and F.2.

If a candidate has written more than one essay mark both essays in the normal way but enter the mark for the essay which has earned most marks over all.

Question	Indicative Content	Marks	Guidance
Question Task 12– 16	Indicative Content No indicative content – personal response	Marks 25	Guidance 3-4 - No specific example from TL = cap 4 5-6 - Demonstration of originality and/or imagination - applies mainly to imaginative 7-8 - Imaginative and/or original response to task - applies mainly to imaginative Grid O guidance 6-9 - Straight narration = more 6/7 Evidence of some argument = more 8/9

Task 12–16 – Language (QOL) – Grids C.2 and F.2: [20 marks]

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
Task 12– 16	Assess for Quality of Language using Grids C.2 and F.2 Appendix 1	20	Read the whole response again and assess for Range (Grid F.2) first – i.e. vocabulary and structures. Then assess for Accuracy (Grid C.2). Key words have been highlighted in the grids below. Ignore final sentence of 3-4 band in Grid C.2, because vocabulary and structures have already been assessed under Grid F.2. If you wish, you may use the underlining tool (—) to show language errors if you find it makes it easier to apply Grid C.2, but it is not essential. Enter your mark. Grid C.2 guidance 0-2 - Errors ([e.g.] endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns). Frequent first [= other] language interference. 3-4 - Errors ([e.g.] endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns, adjectival agreements). Candidate's first [= other] language. Meaning may be unclear; more wrong than right. 5-6 - Wrong/right = 50/50 7-8 - More right than wrong. Grid F.2 guidance 5-6 - [A range of] syntax and sentence structures appropriate to the [register of the] task. 7-8 - Effective = good. Reads easily. 9-10 - idiom ≠ idioms.

APPENDIX 1

GRID N	RELEVANCE AND POINTS OF VIEW 10 marks AO2	GRID O	STRUCTURE AND ANALYSIS 15 marks AO2
9–10	Consistently relevant information that supports points of view and opinions. Shows genuine insight in responding to the task.	13–15	The response displays genuine control and clarity. A very well-developed argument. Confident ability to develop an argument, analyse and evaluate, and draw conclusions.
7–8	Relevant information that responds to the requirements of the task and is used to support points of view and opinions. Produces an imaginative and/or original response to the task.	10–12	Coherently structured and organised response. Points of view are linked in a logical sequence . Able to develop an argument , analyse and evaluate, and draw conclusions.
5–6	The information given is mainly relevant to the task. Points of view and opinions are generally supported by some factual evidence. May demonstrate some originality and/or imagination.	6–9	Structured and organised response. Points of view are mostly linked in a logical sequence . Shows some ability to develop an argument, analyse and evaluate and draw conclusions.
3–4	Includes some relevant information but does not always address the requirements of the task. May have some difficulty in expressing points of view and/or narrating events and/or communicating factual information.		Shows some ability to structure and organise the response. Limited ability to develop an argument , analyse and evaluate, and draw conclusions.
0–2	The response to the task is likely to be very short and/or irrelevant and/or very superficial.	0–2	Random organisation of the response. Limited attempt to develop an argument, analyse and evaluate, and draw conclusions.

GRID C.2	QUALITY OF LANGUAGE (ACCURACY) 10 marks AO3	GRID F.2	QUALITY OF LANGUAGE (RANGE) 10 marks AO3
9–10	9–10 Characterised by a high and consistent level of accuracy in use of complex structures, although there may be some errors.		Effective and confident use of a wide range of vocabulary and idiom with a variety of complex sentence structures.
7–8	Language generally accurate . Shows a sound grasp of AS and/or A2 structures, as appropriate. Generally correct use of complex structures. Tenses and agreements good, although there may be some inconsistency and errors in more complex areas.	7–8	Effective use of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the task, with little repetition. A positive attempt to introduce variety and to use a range of complex sentence structures (though not always able to maintain correct usage).
5–6	Shows evidence of fair understanding of grammatical usage. Generally accurate use of simple sentence structures. Some correct use of complex sentence structures. The performance is likely to be patchy and inconsistent.	5–6	Attempts to extend the range of vocabulary, though still rather repetitive. Attempts to use more complex language with some success in producing a range of syntax and sentence structures appropriate to the task.
3–4	Evidence of gaps in basic grammar. Frequent errors of an elementary kind (endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns, adjectival agreements) but evidence of correct use of simple sentence structures. Vocabulary and structures may be quite strongly influenced by the candidate's first language.	3–4	Use of a restricted range of vocabulary and structures. Frequent repetition of the same words and phrases. Some attempt (not necessarily successful) at the use of more complex sentence structures.
0–2	Little evidence of grammatical awareness. Persistent, serious and elementary errors (endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns). Frequent first language interference.	0–2	Only simple sentence patterns. Very limited vocabulary. Very limited range of structures.

APPENDIX 2

Transcripts of Listening Texts

Task 1: Listening

Burglaries in Gujarati homes

યુ. કે.ના મોટા ભાગના ગુજરાતીઓ તેમનાં ધરોને સુરક્ષિત રાખવા એલાર્મ નખાવે છે અને બારી બારણાં પર મજબૂત તાળાં લગાવે છે. તેમ છતાં ચોર લોકો તેમનાં ધરો તોડે છે કારણ કે તેઓ જાણે છે કે ગુજરાતી સ્ત્રીઓ સોનાનાં ધરેણાંની શોખીન હોય છે અને ગુજરાતી દુકાનદારો રોકડા પૈસા ધરમાં સાચવી રાખતા હોય છે. ચોર લોકો કોઈને ત્યાં લગ્ન પ્રસંગ હોય તેનું ખાસ ધ્યાન રાખે છે અને લાગ જોઈને ધરેણાં અને કોઇ વાર લગ્નના કિંમતી પોષાક પણ ઉઠાવી જાય છે. ધરેણાં શોધવા માટે તેઓ કબાટમાં વ્યવસ્થિત ગોઠવેલી વસ્તુઓ બહાર ફેંકીને આખા ધરને વેરવિખેર કરી મૂકે છે. પ્રસંગના રંગમાં ભંગ પડવાથી ધર માલિક ફેબતાઈ જાય છે. પણ ચોર લોકોને આની ચિંતા થોડી ફોય? તેમને તો આ ધરેણાં વેચવાથી તરત જ ઘણા બધા રોકડા પૈસા મળી જાય છે. ધરેણાંને ગાળી નાખવામાં આવે એટલે ચોરીનો પુરાવો પણ ન રફે.

સવાલ ૨ : શ્રવણ

મનુભાઈનો પ્રકૃતિ પ્રેમ

બાળપણથી મનુભાઈ કુદરત પ્રેમી ફતા. દાદીમા તેમને અમાસની અંધારી રાતે આકાશના તારાઓની ઓળખ કરાવતાં. દાદાજી તેમને પશુ-પંખીઓ જોવા નદીકિનારે લઈ જતા અને તેમનાં માતાપિતા વાડીમાં વાવેલાં વૃક્ષોની જાળવણી વિશે તેમને સમજાવતાં. પછીથી યુવાન મનુભાઈ અમદાવાદની કોલેજમાં ખેતી વિશે ભણીને સ્નાતક થયા અને ખેતીમાં જોડાઈ ગયા.

મનુભાઈ પર્યાવરણને નુકસાન ન પહોંચે તેવી રીતે ખેતી કરવાનું શીખ્યા હતા. તેઓ ખેતરમાં કદી પણ ઝેરી રસાયણોવાળું ખાતર વાપરતા નહિ અને હવામાં ગંદકી ફેલાય એવી જંતુનાશક દવાઓ પણ છાંટતા નહિ. આને કારણે તેમનાં વાડી-ખેતરમાં ઊગતાં શાકભાજી, ફળો અને અનાજ મીઠાશથી ભરેલાં રહેતાં અને લોકો તેમનો માલ ખરીદવા પડાપડી કરતા. મનુભાઈ ગામના બીજા જુવાન ખેડૂતોને પણ આ પદ્ધત્તિથી ખેતી કરવાનું શીખવતા.

સિત્તેર વર્ષની વચે મનુભાઈ પૈસેટકે સધ્ધર ફતા અને તેઓ ખૂબ ચપળતાથી ફાલી ચાલી શકતા. જ્યારે મનુભાઈએ જોયું કે તેમના બન્ને પુત્રોએ ખેતીનું સઘળું કામ સારી રીતે સંભાળી લીધું ફતું ત્યારે તેમણે નિવૃત્ત થઈને કુદરત માટે કંઈક કરવાનું નક્કી કર્યું. કિશોરાવસ્થામાં મનુભાઈ ગામની સીમમાં આવેલાં ઝાડો પર મિત્રો સાથે આનંદથી રમતો રમતા અને પંખીઓને નિફાળતા અને અત્યારે લોકો એ જ ઝાડોને કાપી નાખતા તે જોઈને અને પંખીઓને ઓછાં થતાં જોઈને મનુભાઈનું દિલ રડી ઊઠતું. તેથી દીકરાઓની સંમતિથી તેમણે એક યોજના ઘડી કાઢી.

મનુભાઈની પ્રેરણાથી ગામના લોકોએ પોતાના આંગણામાં ગુલાબ જેવાં ફૂલછોડ અને પાછળના વાડામાં જામફળી જેવાં ફળોનાં વૃક્ષો વાવ્યાં. કુટુંબનાં બાળકોએ પોતપોતાનાં છોડવાંની જાળવણીની જવાબદારી લીધી. એક વર્ષમાં તો ગામ રળિયામણું બની ગયું. તે પછી મનુભાઈ વરસાદની મોસમ પફેલાં ગામની સીમમાં ચીકુ, દાડમ, વગેરેનાં બિયાંથી ભરેલા થેલાઓ લઈને ગયા. ગામની સીમમાં ફરવા નીકળેલા દરેક જણને તેમણે મુઠ્ઠી ભરીને બિયાં આપ્યાં અને તેમને સીમમાં અમુક જગ્યાએ વેરી દેવાનું કહ્યું.

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વરસાદ આવતાં ઠેકઠેકાણે નાના નાના છોડ ઊગી નીકળ્યાં. મનુભાઈના દિકરાઓએ તંદુરસ્ત છોડોને ખાતર-પાણી આપી કાળજીથી ઉછેર્યા. જોતજોતામાં ગામની સીમ સુંદર વનરાજીથી શોભી ઊઠી. ફળોથી આકર્ષાઈને કેટલાંય પંખીઓએ વૃક્ષોમાં માળા બાંધ્યા અને રંગબેરંગી પતંગિયાં ફૂલે ફૂલે ઊડવાં લાગ્યાં. મનુભાઈને આસપાસનાં ગામડાંઓમાં પણ આ ફેરફાર લાવવા માટે આમંત્રણો મળ્યાં છે.

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