

Now available from
Sanskrit @ St James

15 Videos taking you up to the Option A IGCSE Sanskrit Examination

Sanskrit @ St James has now published a series of 15 videos which are all available without charge on the International Sanskrit Examination Resource website <http://www.sanskritexams.org.uk>, 'Video Learning' on the main menu. They are designed to take the student step by step from learning the alphabet to the Option A (basic) level IGCSE Sanskrit examination. These videos cover the first stage of learning the alphabet, followed by the grammar required and the set texts. Finally, they explain the form of the examination and provide hints on examination preparation and technique. Just click on the ISER link on the website to request the password.

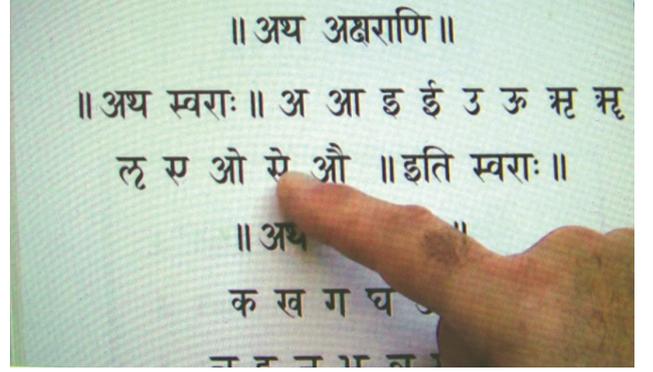
The videos are designed to be used in conjunction with the St James Sanskrit textbooks, now published by Motilal Banarsidass. Also in preparation is a further series of videos for the Option B (higher) examination. These videos will be available as soon as the relevant textbooks are published. Direct access to a Sanskrit teacher is irreplaceable, and these videos are not intended to replace a teacher but if followed carefully, and with the books used to practise what is learnt, then it will be possible to acquire sufficient knowledge of Sanskrit to tackle the Option A foundation examination.

Watch this space!

Sanskrit spreads to UK Schools – An exciting new development

The Sanskrit Teacher Training Days we hold at the Nehru Centre, London – an outpost of the ICCR – engage the enthusiasm of the teachers, particularly the Classics teachers, who come to these sessions. As one participant said, "That day last year in London has opened up a whole new area of interest for both me and my students."

In order to provide the opportunity of introducing Sanskrit as part of the curriculum in UK schools, we have promoted these Training Days, and some



enthusiastic teachers are finding ways of starting the subject. For instance, King Edward's School, Southampton, has initiated Sanskrit classes as a regular lunch break activity, as has St Paul's Girls school, as an after school event. "The alphabet, as ever, has been a challenge, but the Sanskrit 'playing cards' and Stories of Krishna have proved an entertaining way of working." The next Training Day is scheduled for 3rd November – see sanskritatstjames.org.uk for details. May these small beginnings lead to larger things!

Sanskrit in India – A welcome renaissance

Over the past five years there has been observed in India a significantly increased interest in Sanskrit, undeniably a flower of human language, and almost a forgotten heritage. People are being reminded that Sanskrit is one of the oldest Indo-European languages, a family which includes the greatly acclaimed classical languages of the west – Greek and Latin – as well as important modern languages such as English and German. If one has some understanding of Sanskrit with its clearly structured grammar, one will not only understand one's own language better, but also have access to a remarkable literature. A vital attribute in today's world!

The present Indian Government headed by Narendra Modi has taken very direct measures to help ensure that Sanskrit is taught in more Indian schools, from primary school right up to and through university level.

Sanskrit @ St James is helping this renaissance to flourish by freely providing teaching and learning resources and by openly sharing our practical Sanskrit teaching experience gathered over the past 40 years.

Sanskrit @ St James is a charitable organisation whose aim is to promote and support the teaching of Sanskrit on a global basis. It is voluntarily managed by Paul Palmarozza, Helen Harper & Martin Bloomfield, with great support from current and ex-teachers of Sanskrit from the St James Schools. The present focus is on the promotion of the Cambridge Sanskrit examinations worldwide, especially in India & Nepal.

This Newsletter is published periodically to inform our friends and supporters of the current status of our work.

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We are part of the Independent Education Association Limited (IEAL) Registered charity No 270156

The International Sanskrit Examination Resource website

All your examination questions answered!

www.sanskritexams.org.uk

This website provides support for Sanskrit students in general, but also provides specific materials for candidates working towards IGCSE, AS and A Level examinations.

Benefits available are:

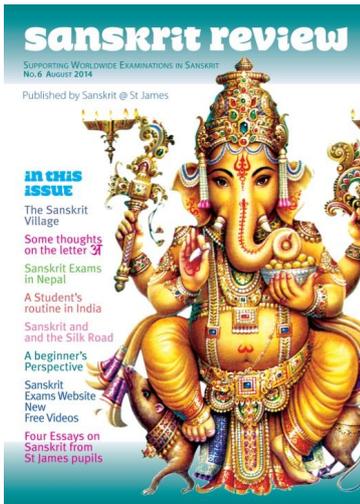
- Vocabulary
- Audio recordings
- Free course books
- Examination syllabi

All our resources are free and are currently accessed world-wide, particularly by students from India, the US, Germany, Russia, South Africa, Malaysia and, of course, the UK, thanks to funding from our patrons – see below – the ISER Society and individual donors.

The Sanskrit Review

Supporting students worldwide

The Newman Education Trust provides funding for this 46 page magazine and its distribution worldwide. Containing all the help you might need to work for the Cambridge Sanskrit examinations, it includes a range of articles about Sanskrit from around the world.



If you would like to be sent a copy, email martin@sanskritatstjames.org.uk with your address.

Sanskrit Text Books – An essential aid to learning

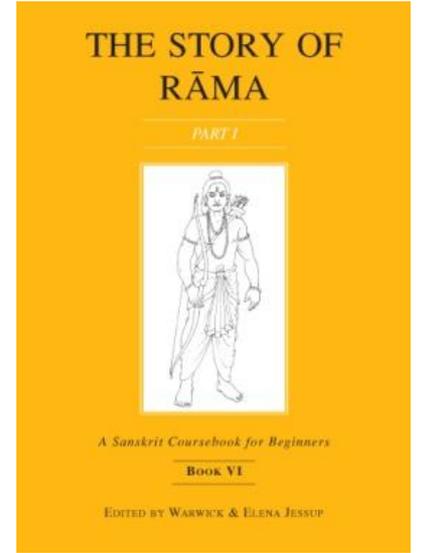
From the time of the launch of the St James Schools in 1975, the St James Sanskrit teachers have been working on the development of a series of seven Sanskrit text books designed to present the basics of the subject. The books have been used throughout the Junior School from the ages of 4 to 11 and the contents revised several times, based on actual teaching experience. They are now very effective instruments for learning.

This was recognised by Motilal Banarsidass, the established Indian publisher, who in 2012 began publishing them on a global basis. Today, more than 1000 copies of each book have reached schools.

The next stage of the text book programme, aiming at ages 11 – 13, will provide for three books entitled

'Stories from the Mahabharata'. The content, which has already been used in classes for more than ten years, has been suitably refined and the books will be ready for publication by Motilal within the next six months.

Following this will be the publication of a series of text books supporting CIE Sanskrit examinations to help students of all ages prepare for IGCSE, AS & A Level grades.



Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)

Examinations giving worldwide recognition of achievement

The public examinations in Sanskrit at IGCSE, AS & A Level have been developed over a 20-year period by St James Schools' Sanskrit teachers and are now administered by CIE. These examinations are taken each year by students worldwide. In addition to providing teaching and learning resources, **Sanskrit @ St James** has established a charitable fund to contribute towards the fees for those in need. With support provided by **Sanskrit @ St James** 70 students from India and Nepal were able to take these examinations last year.

Why Funding is needed

The St James Schools' Sanskrit examinations are fully validated by CIE, but in order for them to be supported by CIE it is necessary that St James guarantees a minimum number of Sanskrit examinations fees each year. Initially, this was just for the IGCSE examination, but two years ago the sum was increased substantially as a result of a decision by CIE that the AS & A Level examinations also needed to be guaranteed.

Due to generous financial support from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the SREI Foundation, the Chetana Trust, the Newman Education Trust and a group of individual Sanskrit supporters, St James Schools have been able to meet the CIE costs as well as develop new teaching materials, run teacher training courses and raise awareness about the value of the study of Sanskrit. A Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed with the ICCR confirming that their funding will continue into 2017. Further funding is still needed to enable us to continue this work.

Sanskrit @ St James is managed entirely by volunteers.

Can you support us in this work of promoting the teaching of Sanskrit and its formal examinations world wide? See the 'About Us/Donate' page at www.sanskritatstjames.org.uk, or write or email us at the address overleaf.