



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2024-25)

CLASS – X

QUESTION BANK – GLIMPSES OF INDIA

I. A Baker from Goa-by Lucio Rodrigues

SUMMARY

It is a story that relates to the time when there was Portuguese rule in Goa. The story is of a baker living in a Goan village. During those times people ate loaves of bread. These were made in big furnaces. The bakers known as paders would come to deliver the bread making a jingling sound with the bamboo staff. Although, nowadays we may not see these loaves but may sometimes see the furnaces and some bakers carrying on the traditional business of their forefathers. The author remembers the coming of the baker twice a day during his childhood days. He was the author's friend and guide. The servants in the author's house would buy loaves of bread which they ate with tea. During those days, bread was an important part of any occasion especially the sweet bread, Bol etc. Also, the baker had a peculiar dress, Kabai. It was a single-piece frock that would reach up to knees. Baking was a profitable business at that time.

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

Question 1: What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

Answer: The elders in Goa are nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days and their love for the famous bread loaves. The writer also mentions that although the eaters of loaves have vanished, the bread makers still do exist. They ponder over the past and tell them that though the Portuguese have left Goa but the bakers still exist, if not the original ones, their legacy is being continued by their sons.

Question 2: Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

Answer: Yes, bread-making is still popular in Goa. It is evident from the fact that the bread makers still exist, though the eaters have gone away. The presence of the mixers, moulders, the ones who bake the loaves and the time-tested furnaces are a proof of their existence. The legacy of bakers is being continued by their sons. You will find a bakery in every Goan village as bread is an important part of the Goan culture.

Question 3: What is the baker called?

Answer: A baker is popularly known as a pader in Goa.

Question 4: When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him?

Answer: The baker would come twice every day during the narrator's childhood days. Once in the morning to deliver the loaves of bread and secondly, in the evening on his return after emptying his huge basket by selling all his bread. The children would run to meet him as they loved to eat loaves and longed to have bread bangles which they chose carefully. Sometimes it was sweet bread of special make.

Question 5: Match the following. What is a must-

- (i) as marriage gifts? – cakes and bolinhas
- (ii) for a party or a feast? – sweet bread called bol
- (iii) for a daughter's engagement? – bread
- (iv) for Christmas? – sandwiches

Answer:

- (i) as marriage gifts? – sweet bread called bol
- (ii) for a party or a feast? – bread
- (iii) for a daughter's engagement? – sandwiches
- (iv) for Christmas? – cakes and bolinhas

Question 6: What did the bakers wear:

- (i) in the Portuguese days?
- (ii) when the author was young?

Answer:

- (i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers were usually dressed up in a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees.
- (ii) During the author's childhood days, he saw the bakers wearing shirt and trousers that were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

Question 7: Who invites the comment - "he is dressed like a pader"? Why?

Answer: During the narrator's childhood days, the bakers had a peculiar dress. Any person who wears a half-pant that reaches just below the knees invites this comment- "he is dressed like a pader". This is because the bakers, who are popularly known as paders in Goa, used to dress in a similar fashion.

Question 8: Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?

Answer: The bakers usually collected their bills at the end of the month and their monthly accounts were recorded on some wall in the house with a pencil.

Question 9: What does a 'jackfruit-like appearance' mean?

Answer: A 'jackfruit-like appearance' means a plump physique. A baker used to have such a physique since it was believed that he and his family never starved. Baking was a lucrative profession and the baker, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous with their physical appearance.

Question 10: Which of these statements are correct?

- (i) The pader was an important person in the village in old times.
- (ii) Padars still exist in Goan villages.
- (iii) The padars went away with the Portuguese.
- (iv) Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.
- (v) Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.
- (vi) Padars and their families starve in the present times.

Answer:

- 1. Correct
- 2. Correct
- 3. Incorrect.
- 4. Correct
- 5. Correct
- 6. Incorrect. Baking happens to be a profitable business in Goa.

Question 11: Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?

Answer: Yes, bread is an important part of Goan life. It is often used for marriage gifts and feasts. Bread is also used by mothers for preparing sandwiches during their daughters' engagement. The author mentions that the fragrance of fresh loaves is loved by everyone in Goa. The elders are served loaves and the youngsters long for bread bangles. Therefore, it is necessary to have bread for all occasions in every household. Baking is therefore considered a profitable business in Goa as people have loved tasty bread since the Portuguese days.

Question 12: Tick the right answer. What is the tone of the author when he says the following?

- (i) The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo can still be heard in some places. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- (ii) Maybe the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- (iii) I still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. (nostalgic, hopeful, naughty)
- (iv) The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all. (naughty, angry, funny)
- (v) Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. (sad, hopeful, matter-of-fact)
- (vi) The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous. (matter-of-fact, hopeful, sad)

Answer:

- (i) nostalgic
- (ii) hopeful
- (iii) nostalgic
- (iv) funny
- (v) matter-of-fact
- (vi) matter-of-fact

COMPETENCY BASED QUESTIONS

QI- How does the author create a sense of nostalgia in the story 'A Baker from Goa'? Support your answer with one piece of evidence from the story in 40-50 words.

Sample Answer: The author creates a sense of nostalgia in the story by talking fondly of his childhood in Goa. He recollects his childhood memories of the pader. He revisits the joyous days when they would eagerly await bread bangles and peep into the pader's basket the slightest opportunity.

QII. With reference to 'A Baker from Goa', describe any two aspects of Goan lifestyle which show Portuguese influence. In 100-120 words, support each aspect with evidence from the text.

Sample Answer: Portuguese influence finds its way into many aspects of Goan life. In particular, it can be observed in the age-old baking practices and cultural traditions. The narrator mentions that even today, the mixers, moulders, and makers of loaves are carrying forward the Portuguese legacy of bread baking in Goa. They still use the old furnaces and go on rounds with a bamboo, selling their bread. These bakers are still known as 'pader' in Goa, which is originally a word used in Portuguese language. The culture around bread also spreads to marriages and other ceremonies. The Goans gift the sweet bread called bol during weddings.

Q III-Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

In our childhood we saw bakers wearing shirt and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a pader! The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.

Q: 1 The author mainly focuses on the physical appearance of the baker in the above extract. Which of these lines from the extract justifies the above opinion?

- (a) The baker and his family never starved.

- (b) The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month.
- (c) Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil.
- (d) He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous.

Q: 2 Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil.

Which of this best explains the author's purpose for using 'some wall' in the above line?

- (a) to convey that bakers were very organised in their job
- (b) to show that bakers were not very worried about their income
- (c) to indicate that bakers had more customers than they could service
- (d) to show that bakers were not too advanced in the systems they used

Q: 3 Select the option which best describes the relationship between the following statements from the extract.

- (1) He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous.
- (2) Their plump physique was an open testimony to this.

- (a) (2) gives a summary of (1)
- (b) (2) explains the meaning of (1)
- (c) (2) is an inference drawn from (1)
- (d) (2) supports the point made in (1)

Q: 4 Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a pader!

Which of these best describes the author's tone in the above line?

- (a) neutral
- (b) playful
- (c) reflective
- (d) welcoming

Q: 5 Based on the extract above, what type of text is 'A Baker from Goa'?

- (a) a factual essay on past practices
- (b) a diary entry about one's life events
- (c) a research article which analyses a concept
- (d) a historical account written based on personal knowledge

Q: 6 Which of this best explains why the author chose 'A Baker from Goa' as the title for the text?

- (a) The author discusses his journey as a baker to describe the cuisines of Goa.
- (b) The author details the adventures of a baker to explore the cultural issues of Goa.
- (c) The author narrates the life of a baker to paint a vivid picture of Goa's cultural history.
- (d) The author recounts his childhood memories of home-baking to show Goa's rich traditions

Answers:

Q1- (d) He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous.

Q2- (b) to show that bakers were not very worried about their income

Q3- (d) (2) supports the point made in (1)

Q4- (b) playful

Q5- (d) a historical account written based on personal knowledge

Q6-(c)The author narrates the life of a baker to paint a vivid picture of Goa's cultural history.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?

A. Bread is an important part of the Goan culture and it is evident from its presence at every important occasion. From sweet breads at marriages to sandwiches at engagement parties and cakes and Bolinhas at Christmas as well as other occasions, makes the presence of a baker in every village, very essential.

Q2. How would the baker let everybody know about his presence in the village?

Ans. The baker had been the guide, friend, and companion of the narrator. He would come to the village daily two times; at first in the morning and then again after selling all his stuffs. In the morning, the children of the village used to wake up by the jingling sound of the baker's bamboo.

Q3. How is making bread a family tradition?

Ans. The marriage gifts, the parties, or the feasts are meaningless without the sweet bread which is known as the 'bol'. The mothers prepare sandwiches a necessary item for her daughter's engagement. Cakes and bolinhas are also quite essential items for Christmas. In this way, bread is a family tradition and thus the presence of a baker's house in the village is quite essential.

Q4. Who were Paskine or Bastine? What was their role in a family and with bread?

Ans. Paskine or Bastine were the maid-servants of the house. When the baker would arrive, one of them would buy those loaves of bread.

Q5. What was a baker's musical entry? How would it attract the younger ones and all?

Ans: The baker used to arrive on the spot with the 'jhang-jhang' sound that was being made his bamboo. The sound would wake the children up and they would run to him in excitement. The children were highly interested in those bread -bangles.

Q6. Tell us about the bamboo and the basket of the bakers.

Ans: The baker arrived on the scene by making the jingling thud which would make the children wake up from sleep. He held the basket on his head and supported it by one of his hands and would use the other hand for banging the bamboo on the ground.

Q7. How would the author and other children be very interested in the baker's basket? How would they try to look at that?

Ans. The author and the other children were highly interested in the baker's basket. When the loaves of bread were delivered to the servant, the children were made aside with light rebukes. But they didn't stop. Then they used to stand up on a bench and would look on to the basket. This shows their interest in the baker's basket. They used to climb a bench or parapet in order to look at that.

Q8. What would the author share about brushing teeth?

Ans: The author didn't care to brush his teeth or wash his mouth properly. According to him, it was a troublesome matter to pluck the mango -leaf for the toothbrush. And it was not at all necessary as the tigers never brush their teeth. Moreover, he thought that hot tea was enough clean after eating the bread.

Q9. What is Kabai? What kind of dresses are being discussed here of the bakers?

Ans. The bakers used to wear a peculiar dress named Kabai which was a single -piece long frock reaching down to the knees. It was actually a type of long frock of a single piece that reaches down to the knees.

Q10. How would a baker be rich, prosperous and healthy in a village?

Ans: A baker's profession was indeed a profitable one in the old days. The baker and his family lead

happy and prosperous life. They had a plump physique as an open testimony of it.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. “Life without bread in a village of Goa is almost impossible.” -Discuss.

Ans. In the story “Glimpses of Past” by Lucio Rodrigues shows that life without bread in a village of Goa is almost impossible. People cannot imagine their lives without it. The children waited eagerly for bakers every day. At times, they get so much excited that they do not even care to brush their teeth. Any occasion or festival cannot be imagined without breads. Marriage gifts are meaningless without sweetbreads. The lady of the family prepared sandwiches for her daughter’s engagement as it is very important. Cakes and bolhinhas are quite essential items for Christmas. A baker’s profession was indeed a profitable one. The baker and his family led a prosperous life. Their physique was plump that shows that they lead a prosperous life. Party or a feast too is meaningless without bread.

Q2. Give a pen-portrait of the baker or the pader highlighting the changes that came in his fortune and dress with the passage of the time.

Ans. The baker or the pader used to be an essential part of the Goan life. The baker or bread seller had a peculiar dress during the Portuguese days. It was known as the kabai. It was a single piece long frock reaching down the knees. With the passage of time, he started wearing shirt and trousers which were just longer than the short pants. The baker and his family always looked happy and prosperous in the good old days. Their plump physique was an open testimony of their happiness and prosperity. However, as the time changed, the bakers continued their profession but with their reduced fortune and importance. The thud and jingle of the traditional bamboo of the baker are heard in the streets of Goa even now. Sweet bread or the bols are still the part of feasts, marriages and Christmas in Goa. However, the old charm and craze have become rather dim in recent days.

Q3. How would a baker be a common friend, guide and a man to be expected twice every day with his usual business?

Ans. The bakers used to visit the village two times a day. Early in the morning, the baker would arrive for selling his stuffs. The children would wake up by the jingling thud. The children would wait eagerly for him and when the baker would arrive, they used to run up to him. Again, after everything was sold, he would return to the village. The baker was a very respected person in the Goan society because he would guide the children about good behaviour (when he mildly rebuked them for peeping into his basket and giving respect to the elders). He was very informal with the children. The children of Goa considered the baker as a friend and companion. In the author's childhood days in Goa, the baker held a significant place in the community. He was not only known for his delicious bread but also for his friendly nature. The baker was a companion who listened to people's problems and provided guidance. The author remembers him fondly as a friend and guide.

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

1. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

“We kids would be pushed aside with a mild rebuke and the loaves would be delivered to the servant. But we would not give up. We would climb a bench or the parapet and peep into the basket, somehow. I can still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. Loaves of the elders and the bangles for the children.”

- (a) Who are ‘we’ in the extract?
- (b) Why were the children pushed aside?
- (c) Which word/phrase in the extract means the same as “an expression disapproval/a scolding”?
- (d) What was there in the basket?

Answers:

- (a) 'We' in the extract refers to the narrator and his friends.
- (b) The children were pushed aside, so that the bread can be delivered to the servants.
- (c) The word is 'rebuke'
- (d) There were loaves for the elders and some bread bangles for the children.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

"The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker."

1. Which word from the passage means the same as 'proof'?

- (a) Trouble
- (b) Testimony
- (c) Physique
- (d) Fragrance

2. Identify the tone of the extract.

- (a) Ignorant
- (b) Wise
- (c) Impatient
- (d) Informative

3. Which title best suits this extract?

- (a) The Stingy Baker
- (b) The Charming Baker
- (c) The Jealous Baker
- (d) The Prosperous Baker

4. What can we conclude based on the extract?

- (a) The baker was indifferent towards his servants.
- (b) The baker took good care of his servants.
- (c) The baker provided shelter to his servants.
- (d) The baker didn't pay his servants well.

5. Which sentence is not true in the context of the extract?

- (a) The baker collected his earnings at the end of the month.
- (b) The baker's account was recorded on a wall.
- (c) The baker's family was well-fed.
- (d) The baker's business was thriving.

Answers:

- 1. (b) Testimony
- 2. (d) Informative
- 3. (d) The Prosperous Baker
- 4. (b) The baker took good care of his servants.
- 5. (a) The baker collected his earnings at the end of the month.

3. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

"Those eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still here. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places. Maybe the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession."

1. Who does the author refer to as ‘those eaters of loaves’?
 - (a) The Spanish
 - (b) The Dutch
 - (c) The English
 - (d) The Portuguese
2. What is the author’s tone in these lines?
 - (a) Dissatisfied
 - (b) Nostalgic
 - (c) Anxious
 - (d) Regretful
3. What does the author mean by the line, ‘the fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished’?
 - (a) The baker’s role in the Goan community is not important.
 - (b) The baker’s role in the Goan community has changed.
 - (c) The baker’s role in the Goan community has become irrelevant.
 - (d) The baker’s role in the Goan community is still essential.
4. Which of these words is a synonym of ‘heralding’?
 - (a) Announcing
 - (b) Hearing
 - (c) Hiding
 - (d) Showing
5. Which sentence is true in the context of this extract?
 - (a) The profession of baking is not well-respected.
 - (b) The profession of baking is unprofitable.
 - (c) The profession of baking is losing its appeal.
 - (d) The profession of baking is passed down from generation to generation.

Answers:

1. (d) The Portuguese
2. (b) Nostalgic
3. (d) The baker’s role in the Goan community is still essential.
4. (a) Announcing
5. (d) The profession of baking is passed down from generation to generation.

@@@@@@@