

Oral Comprehension Check

Question 1:

What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

Answer:

The elders in Goa were nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese, and their famous loaves of bread.

Question 2:

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

Answer:

Yes, bread-making is still popular in Goa. The author says that the mixers, moulders, and those who bake the loaves were still present in Goa. The age-old, time-tested furnaces still existed. The 'thud' and 'jingle' of the traditional baker's shampoo, marking his arrival in the morning, could still be heard in some places. It was a family profession, which was carried out generation after generation.

Question 3:

What is the baker called?

Answer:

The bakers are known as *pader* in Goa.

Question 4:

When would the baker come everyday? Why did the children run to meet him?

Answer:

The baker came twice every day, once when he set out in the morning on his selling round, and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basket. The children ran to meet him not because of their love of the loaf, which was bought by the maid-servant of the house. They actually longed for the bread-bangles, which they chose carefully. Sometimes, it was a sweet bread of special make.

Question 1:

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 2:

What did the bakers wear: (i) in the Portuguese days? (ii) when the author was young?

Answer:

- (i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers had a peculiar dress known as the *kabai*. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees.
- (ii) When the author was young, he saw the bakers wearing a shirt and trousers, which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

Question 3:

Who invites the comment – “he is dressed like a *pader*”? Why?

Answer:

Anyone who wears a half-pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that “he is dressed like a *pader*”. This was so because the bakers were known as *pader* and they wore such half pants.

Question 4:

Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?

Answer:

The monthly accounts of the baker were recorded on some wall in pencil.

Question 5:

What does a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ mean?

Answer:

A ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ means a plump physique. Such a physique was linked to the bakers because they never starved. Baking was a profitable profession. The baker, his family, and his servants always looked happy and prosperous and had a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’

Thinking About the Text

Question 1:

Which of these statements are correct?

- (i) The *pader* was an important person in the village in old times.
- (ii) *Paders* still exist in Goan villages.
- (iii) The *paders* went away with the Portuguese.
- (iv) The *paders* continue to wear a single-piece long frock.
- (v) Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.
- (vi) Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.
- (vii) *Paders* and their families starve in the present times.

Answer:

(i) The *pader* was an important person in the village in old times.

Answer: Correct

(ii) *Paders* still exist in Goan villages.

Answer: Correct

(iii) The *paders* went away with the Portuguese.

Answer: Incorrect. The *paders* still exist in Goan villages.

(iv) The *paders* continue to wear a single-piece long frock.

Answer: Incorrect. The *paders* wear shirts, and trousers that are shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

(v) Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.

Answer: Incorrect. Bread and cakes are still an integral part of Goan life.

(vi) Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.

Answer: Correct

(vii) *Paders* and their families starve in the present times.

Answer: Incorrect. Baking is still a very profitable business in Goa.

Question 2:

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

Answer:

Bread is an important part of Goan life. Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the bol. For a party, bread is a must, while for Christmas, cakes and bolinhas are a must. Sandwiches must be prepared by the lady of the house on her daughter's engagement. The author says that everybody loves the fragrance of loaves. The elders were given loaves and the children were given bread-bangles, which they longed for. Also, the fact that bakery is a profitable profession shows that the love for bread is enormous in Goa.

Question 3:

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)

The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo can still be heard in some places.

Answer: Nostalgic

(ii)

Maybe the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession.

Answer: Nostalgic

(iii)

I still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves.

Answer: Nostalgic

(iv)

The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all.

Answer: Funny

(v)

Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals.

Answer: Matter-of-fact

(vi)

The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous.

Answer: Matter-of-fact

Thinking About the Text

Question 1:

Where is Coorg?

Answer:

Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka, located midway between Mysore and Mangalore.

Question 2:

What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

Answer:

According to the author, the fiercely independent people of Coorg are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. A part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast. They settled there when return became impractical. These people married amongst the locals and their culture is evident in the martial traditions, marriage and religious rites, which are distinct from the Hindu mainstream.

The Kodavus wear a long, black coat, with an embroidered waist-belt, known as *kuppia*. It resembles the *kuffia* worn by the Arabs and the Kurds, hence supporting the theory of their Arab origin.

Question 3:

What are some of the things you now know about

- (i) the people of Coorg?
- (ii) the main crop of Coorg?
- (iii) the sports it offers to tourists?
- (iv) the animals you are likely to see in Coorg?
- (v) its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?

Answer:

(i) The people of Coorg are fiercely independent. They are of Greek or Arabic descent. They have a tradition of hospitality. They enjoy recounting numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. Kodavus are the only people in India

permitted to carry firearms without a license. The author has described the people of Coorg as a proud race of martial men and beautiful women.

(ii) Coffee is the main crop of Coorg. The coffee estates stand tucked under tree canopies in prime corners.

(iii) The sports that Coorg offers to tourists are river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, mountain biking, and trekking.

(iv) The animals that one is likely to see in Coorg are birds, bees, butterflies, macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs, loris, and wild elephants.

(v) The distance between Coorg and Bangalore is around 260 km. There are two routes to Coorg from Bangalore and both are of the same distance. The most frequented route is the one via Mysore. The other route is via Neelamangal, Kunigal, and Chanrayanapatna.

Question 4:

Here are six sentences with some words in italics. Find phrases from the text that have the same meaning. (Look in the paragraphs indicated)

(i) During monsoons it rains so heavily *that tourists do not visit Coorg*. (para 2)

(ii) *Some people say that* Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled there. (para 3)

(iii) The Coorg people *are always ready to tell* stories of their sons' and fathers' valour. (para 4)

(iv) *Even people who normally lead an easy and slow life get smitten by* the high-energy adventure sports of Coorg. (para 6)

(v) The theory of the Arab origin *is supported by* the long coat with embroidered waist-belt they wear. (para 3)

(vi) Macaques, Malabar squirrels *observe you carefully* from the tree canopy. (para 7)

Answer:

(i) keep many visitors away

(ii) as one story goes

(iii) are more than willing to recount

(iv) the most laidback individuals become converts to

(v) draws support from

(vi) keep a watchful eye

Question 1:

Here are some nouns from the text.

culture monks surprise experience weather tradition

Work with a partner and discuss which of the nouns can collocate with which of the adjectives given below. The first one has been done for you.

unique terrible unforgettable serious ancient wide sudden

(i) culture : unique culture, ancient culture

(ii) monks: : _____

(iii) surprise: : _____

(iv) experience : _____

(v) weather : _____

(vi) tradition : _____

Answer:

(i) culture : unique culture, ancient culture

(ii) monks: : serious monks

(iii) surprise: : unique surprise, terrible surprise, unforgettable surprise

(iv) experience : unique experience, terrible experience, unforgettable experience

(v) weather : terrible weather

(vi) tradition : unique tradition, ancient tradition

Question 2:

Complete the following phrases from the text. For each phrase, can you find at least one other word that would fit into the blank?

(i) tales of _____

(ii) coastal _____

(iii) a piece of _____

(iv) evergreen _____

(v) _____ plantations

(vi) _____ bridge

(vii) wild _____

You may add your own examples to this list.

Answer:

From the text

(i) tales of valour

(ii) coastal town

(iii) a piece of heaven

(iv) evergreen rainforests

(v) coffee plantations

(vi) rope bridge

(vii) wild elephants

Other than the text

(i) tales of morality

(ii) coastal food

(iii) a piece of cake

(iv) evergreen hero

(v) crop plantations

(vi) sturdy bridge

(vii) wild beasts

Thinking About Language

Question 1:

1. Look at these words: *upkeep, downpour, undergo, dropout, walk-in*. They are built up from a verb (*keep, pour, go, drop, walk*) and an adverb or a particle (*up, down, under, out, in*).

Use these words appropriately in the sentences below. You may consult a dictionary.

(i) A heavy _____ has been forecast due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

(ii) Rakesh will _____ major surgery tomorrow morning.

(iii) My brother is responsible for the _____ of our family property.

(iv) The _____ rate for this accountancy course is very high.

(v) She went to the Enterprise Company to attend a _____ interview.

2. Now fill in the blanks in the sentences given below by combining the verb given in brackets with one of the words from the box as appropriate.

over	by	through	out	up	down
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(i) The Army attempted unsuccessfully to _____ the government. (throw)

(ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major _____ in cancer research. (break)

(iii) The State Government plans to build a _____ for Bhubaneswar to speed up traffic on the main highway. (pass)

(iv) Gautama's _____ on life changed when he realised that the world is full of sorrow. (look)

(v) Rakesh seemed unusually _____ after the game. (cast)

Answer:

1.

(i) A heavy downpour has been forecast due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

(ii) Rakesh will undergo major surgery tomorrow morning.

(iii) My brother is responsible for the upkeep of our family property.

(iv) The dropout rate for this accountancy course is very high.

(v) She went to the Enterprise Company to attend a walk-in interview.

2.

(i) The Army attempted unsuccessfully to overthrow the Government.

(ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major breakthrough in cancer research.

(iii) The State Government plans to build a by-pass for Bhubaneswar to speed up traffic on the main highway.

(iv) Gautama's outlook on life changed when he realized that the world is full of sorrow.

(v) Rakesh seemed unusually downcast after the game.

Question 1:

1. Think of suitable –ing or –ed adjectives to answer the following questions.

How would you describe

(i) a good detective serial on television? _____

(ii) a debate on your favourite topic 'Homework Should Be Banned'? _____

(iii) how you feel when you stay indoors due to incessant rain? _____

(iv) how you feel when you open a present? _____

(v) how you feel when you watch your favourite programme on television?

(vi) the look on your mother's face as you waited in a queue?

(vii) how you feel when tracking a tiger in a tiger reserve forest?

(viii) the story you have recently read, or a film you have seen?

Answer:

(i) a good detective serial on television? Interesting

(ii) a debate on your favourite topic 'Homework Should Be Banned'? Exciting

(iii) how you feel when you stay indoors due to incessant rain? Bored

(iv) how you feel when you open a present? Excited

(v) how you feel when you watch your favourite programme on television?
Interested

(vi) the look on your mother's face as you waited in a queue? Tired

(vii) how you feel when tracking a tiger in a tiger reserve forest? Thrilled

(viii) the story you have recently read, or a film you have seen? Boring