

## GLIMPSES OF INDIA

### I

#### A BAKER FROM GOA

#### I. Extract based questions:

1. *"Maybe the father is not alive, but the son still carries on the family profession."*

a) Which family profession is being referred to here?

- i) Baker    ii) grocer    iii) textiles    iv) doctor    ans: i)

b) The family profession belonged to which place?

- i) The Portuguese of Mahi    ii) the Portuguese of Goa  
iii) the Portuguese of Mumbai    iv) the Portuguese of Puducherry

ans: ii)

c) What are the elders of this place nostalgic about?

The elders of this place are nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days and their famous loaves of bread.

d) The age old, time tested \_\_\_\_\_ of this profession still exists.

Ans: furnaces.

2. *"We kids would be pushed aside with a mild rebuke and the loaves would be delivered to the servant."*

a) When would the kids be pushed aside?

The kids would be pushed aside when the baker arrived with his basket of bread.

b) What woke up the children from their sleep?

- i) The alarm clock    ii) the bell of the baker's cycle  
iii) the jingling thud of the baker's bamboo    iv) none of these

ans: iii)

c) The baker used to be their friend, companion and guide.

d) Which word in the extract means 'an expression of disapproval or scolding'?

Ans: rebuke.

#### II. Answer in 30-40 words:

1. Is bread making still popular in Goa? How do we know?

Bread making is still popular in Goa as they still have amongst them the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. The fire in the age old, time tested furnaces have not yet been extinguished.

**2. What heralds the arrival of the baker and what is he called?**

The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo heralds his arrival in the morning. He is known as 'pader' in Goa.

**3. When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him?**

The baker came twice every day. Once when he set out in the morning on his selling round and when he returned after emptying his huge basket.

The children ran out for the bread bangles or for the sweet bread of special make.

**4. Why weren't the children able to peep into the basket initially? How did they manage to do so?**

The baker would place his basket on the bamboo pole, making it impossible for the children to peep into it. However, they would climb a bench or a parapet and peep into the basket, somehow.

**5. Why didn't the children brush their teeth? How did they justify their action?**

Since the children were eager to have the bread bangles, they didn't have the patience to pluck the mango leaves for the tooth brush. Their explanation was that the tiger never brushed his teeth. Moreover, they believed that hot tea could wash and clean up everything.

**6. Describe the pader's traditional dress in the olden days. How had it changed during the writer's childhood?**

The pader's traditional dress was the 'kabi', which was a single piece frock, reaching down to the knees. During the writer's childhood, the bakers started wearing a shirt and trousers which were shorter than full length ones and longer than half pants.

**7. Who invites the comment—'he is dressed like a pader'. Why?**

Anyone who wears a half pant that reaches just below the knees invites the comment—'he is dressed like a pader', because during the later years, the bakers used to wear trousers that reached just below the knees.

**8. When did the baker collect his bills? Where was it recorded?**

The baker collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil.

**9. What does a jackfruit like appearance mean? Why are people with such appearance compared to a baker?**

Jackfruit like appearance means a very plump physique. The baker and his family, who were very prosperous and never starved, had such a plump physique. So people with a plump appearance were compared to a baker.

**III. Answer in 100-150 words:**

**1. The presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential. Explain.**

Marriage gifts were meaningless without the sweet bread known as *bol*. A party or a feast lost its charm without bread. The lady of the house had to prepare sandwiches for her daughter's engagement, and cakes and *bolinhas* were a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus the baker played an indispensable role in a Goan village.

Moreover, a baker was a regular visitor in every household and shared a close bond with the family. The children would eagerly look forward to his visit and he was considered as their friend, companion and guide.

