



**ENGLISH**

**BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH  
(HINGLISH)**

**GLIMPSES OF INDIA (I. A BAKER FROM  
GOA )**

**Questions**

1. What images of people and of places come to your mind, when you think of our country?



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2. You may know that apart from the British, the Dutch and the French, the Portuguese have also played a part in the history of our country. Can you say which parts of India show French and Portuguese influences?



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3. Can you say which parts of India grow (i), tea, (ii) coffee ?



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## Passages For Comprehension

1. Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves

might have vanished, but the makers are still there. 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. These bakers are, even today, known as pader in Goa.

What are elders often heard reminiscing nostalgically?



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2. Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished, but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves.

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How is the arrival of the baker still heralded in Goa?



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**3.** During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide. He used to come at least twice a day. Once, when he set out in the morning on his selling round, and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basker. The jingling thud of his bamboo woke us up from sleep and we ran to meet and greet him. Why was it so? Was it for the love of the loaf? Not at all. The loaves were bought by some Paskine or Bastine, the maid-servant of the house! What we longed for were those bread-bangles which we chose

carefully. Sometimes it was a sweet bread of special make

How does the narrator describe the baker during his childhood?



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4. During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide. He used to come at least twice a day. Once, when he set out in the morning on his selling round, and then again, when he returned after



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What for the children ran to meet and greet the baker?



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5. Marriage gifts are meaningless without sweet bread known as the bol, just as a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential.

What were the favourites as marriage or party gifts?



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6. Marriage gifts are meaningless without sweet bread known as the bol, just as a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes

and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential.

Why was the presence of the baker's furnace essential in a village?



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7. The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the

knees. In our childhood we saw bakers wearing a 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!

Describe the peculiar dress of the baker or bread-seller of those days.



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8. The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In our childhood we saw bakers wearing a 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!

What comment does a man wearing half-pant invite even today?



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9. 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.

How did the baker record and collect his bills?



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**10.** 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 jackfruir-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.



How would you prove that baking was indeed a profitable profession in those days in Goa?



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## Ncert Textbook Questions Solved

1. What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about ?



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



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3. What is the baker called?



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



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5. Match the following. What is a must?

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



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6. What did the bakers wear: (i) in the Portuguese days? (ü) When the author was young?



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



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8. Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?



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9. What does a "jackfruit-like appearance" mean?



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10. 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. Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days. Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.

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



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**11.** Is bread an important part of Goan life?

How do you know this?



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**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)



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**13.** In the extract, the author talks about traditional bread-baking during his childhood



days. Complete the following table with the help of the clues on the left. Then write a paragraph about the author's childhood days.

Clues	Author's childhood days
the way bread was baked	
the way the <i>pader</i> sold bread	
what the <i>pader</i> wore	
when the <i>pader</i> was paid	
how the <i>pader</i> looked	



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**14.** Compare the piece from the text (on the left below) with the other piece on Goan bakers (on the right). What makes the two

texts so different. Are the facts the same? Do both writers give you a picture of the baker?

Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still there. 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 had not yet been extinguished. The thud and the 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.

After Goa's liberation, people used to say nostalgically that the Portuguese bread vanished with the *paders*. But the *paders* have managed to survive because they have perfected the art of door-to-door delivery service. The *paders* pick up the knowledge of bread making from traditions in the family. The leavened, oven-baked bread is a gift of the Portuguese to India.

[Adapted from  
Nandakumar Kamat's  
'The Unsung Lives of  
Goan Paders']



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**15.** Now find a travel brochure about a place you have visited. Look at the description in the brochure. Then write your own account, adding details of your own experience, to give the reader a picture of the place, rather than an impersonal, factual description.



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**16.** In groups, collect information on how bakeries bake bread now and how the process

has changed over time.



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**17.** There are a number of craft-based professions which are dying out. Pick one of the crafts below. Make a group presentation to the class about the skills required, and the possible reasons for the decline of the crafts.

Can you think of ways to revive these crafts?

(i) Pottery

(ii) Carpentry

(iii) Batik work

(iv) Bamboo weaving

(v) Dhurri (rug) weaving

(vi) Making jute products

(vii) Embroidery

(viii) Handloom



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**Additional Questions Solved**

1. What do the elders reminisce about and why?



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2. How can you say that the makers of the famous Goan loaves are still there?



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**3.** How did the baker make his musical entry on the scene in the morning?



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**4.** Why was the baker, the friend, companion and guide of the children?



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5. What importance did the baker's furnace have in the village in Goa?



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6. Describe the changes in the dress of the baker or the pader with the passage of the time.



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7. What was the attitude of the baker towards

(i) the lady of the house

(ii) the children

(iii) the maid servant ?



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8. How did the children behave when they were pushed aside with a mild rebuke by the pader?



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9. Why would the children didn't even care to brush their teeth or wash their mouths properly?



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10. When did the baker collect his bills and how did he record his monthly accounts?



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11. How would you prove that baking was a profitable profession in the old days in Goa?



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## Long Answer Type Questions

1. What do our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about in Goa? Did the old profession of making the famous loaves of bread end with the Portuguese?



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2. Describe the author's experience during his childhood in Goa? Why was the baker or the pader the guide of children in Goa?



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3. Baking was a profitable profession in the old days in Goa. Prove it by giving examples from the text.



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4. 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.



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