THE INTRUSION

1. Discuss the appropriateness of the title of the story.
2. Do you agree that the story is a critique of a socially expedient marriage? Give reasons for your answer.
3. The story is told entirely from the first person narrator’s point of view. Discuss.
4. How does the narrator react to her role in ‘propagating the human race’ as a part of institutionalized marriage? Discuss.
5. The narrator’s idea of marriage is based on mutuality, compatibility and consensus and not on the consecrated ceremony. Discuss.
6. Discuss the different settings of the story – the narrator’s home, the hotel and the sea.
7. The narrator believes herself to be a victim of the male insensitivity of a marital rape. Is she also making a larger point about gender roles? Discuss.
8. Discuss the sea as an image and symbol in the story.

A HORSE AND TWO GOATS

1. Discuss Muni as a typical representative of poverty-stricken rural India who has seen better times.
2. Discuss the marital relationship of Muni’s wife and him.
3. Compare and contrast the grand, inanimate horse and the wretched, living goats in the story.
4. Muni and his goats are the most worthless creatures in the story. Discuss.
5. Describe in detail the gap in communication between Muni and the red-faced man and what it contributes to the story.
6. The red-faced man is so one track minded that he is blind to all else. Discuss.
7. Write short notes on
8. The Big House
9. Muni’s encounter with the grocer
10. R.K.Narayan’s eye for humour in human wretchedness
11. The red-faced man’s personal life