THE FREE RADIO

1. The narrator’s concern for Ramani results in his blaming the thief’s widow for everything in Ramani’s life. Discuss.
2. Getting sterilized at the peak of his youth is a small price to pay for Ramani, considering the two rewards it would yield. Discuss.
3. Discuss ‘The Free Radio’ as a story set in the backdrop of the emergency that critiques one of the coercive acts practiced by the government.
4. Ramani’s life is so much about fantasizing and dreaming that he rises above the distress of real living. Discuss.
5. Does the narrator retain the same anxieties about Ramani till the end of the story? Discuss.
6. Discuss the title of ‘The Free Radio.’
7. Write short notes on
8. The thief’s widow
9. The dream radio
10. The depiction of sterilization in the story
11. The relationship between the narrator and Ramani

SWIMMING LESSONS

1. Why is the story called ‘Swimming Lessons?’ Discuss both the literal and figurative connotations of ‘swimming.’
2. The narrator’s nostalgia about his past life gives us a socio-cultural portrait of the life of a Parsi community in Bombay. Discuss.
3. Discuss the narrative technique of the novel.
4. The mother and father’s discussions around their son often demonstrates their opposing views. Discuss.
5. Was it necessary to have a third person narrative in the story? Discuss.
6. Discuss how the idea of ‘swimming’ is developed in the novel.
7. Does the narrator ‘come of age’ by the end of the story? Discuss.
8. Discuss the sordidness of the narrator’s life in Canada. Do you think he adjusts to and accepts his environment by the end of the story?
9. How does the narrator weave his past with his present in the story?
10. Write short notes on
11. The narrator’s relationship with the old man
12. Cause and effect as discussed in the story
13. The mother and father’s discussion of fact and fiction
14. The autobiographical element in the story as well as in the stories the narrator writes
15. The father’s change of views about his son at the end of the story
16. The narrator’s letters to his parents