1.

```
def merge_alternately():
    word1 = input("Enter the first string: ")
    word2 = input("Enter the second string: ")
    merged = []
    i, j = 0, 0
    while i < len(word1) and j < len(word2):
        merged.append(word1[i])
        merged.append(word2[j])
        i += 1
        j += 1
    while i < len(word1):
        merged.append(word1[i])
        i += 1
    while j < len(word2):
        merged.append(word2[j])
        j += 1
    return ''.join(merged)

result = merge_alternately()
print("Merged string:", result)
```

2.

```
flowerbed = list(map(int, input("Enter the flowerbed as space-separated values :
").split()))
n = int(input("Enter the number of flowers to plant: "))
count = 0
length = len(flowerbed)
i = 0
while i < length:
    if flowerbed[i] == 0 and (i == 0 or flowerbed[i - 1] == 0) and (i == length - 1 or
flowerbed[i + 1]== 0):
        flowerbed[i] = 1
        count += 1
        if count >= n:
            print(True)
```

```
            break
        i += 1
i += 1
if count < n:
    print(False)
```