

“Matter, sir? O what could be the matter in your service. I’ve eaten your salt for all my years. But sir, on the bicycle now, with my old legs, and with the
60 many injuries I’ve received when heavy machinery fell on me—I cannot any longer bicycle about like a bridegroom from farm to farm, as I could when I first had the good fortune to enter your employment. I beg you, sir, let me go.”

65 “And what’s the solution?” asked Harouni, seeing that they had come to the crux. He didn’t particularly care one way or the other, except that it touched on his comfort—a matter of great interest to him.

“Well, sir, if I had a motorcycle, then I could
70 somehow limp along, at least until I train up some younger man.”

The crops that year had been good, Harouni felt expansive in front of the fire, and so, much to the disgust of the farm managers, Nawab received a
75 brand-new motorcycle, a Honda 70. He even managed to extract an allowance for gasoline.

The motorcycle increased his status, gave him weight, so that people began calling him “Uncle,” and asking his opinion on world affairs, about which he
80 knew absolutely nothing. He could now range further, doing a much wider business. Best of all, now he could spend every night with his wife, who had begged to live not on the farm but near her family in Firoza, where also they could educate at
85 least the two eldest daughters. A long straight road ran from the canal headworks near Firoza all the way to the Indus, through the heart of the K. K. Harouni lands. Nawab would fly down this road on his new machine, with bags and cloths hanging from every
90 knob and brace, so that the bike, when he hit a bump, seemed to be flapping numerous small vestigial wings; and with his grinning face, as he rolled up to whichever tube well needed servicing, with his ears almost blown off, he shone with the speed of his
95 arrival.

1

The main purpose of the first paragraph is to

- A) characterize Nawab as a loving father.
- B) outline the schedule of a typical day in Nawab’s life.
- C) describe Nawab’s various moneymaking ventures.
- D) contrast Nawab’s and Harouni’s lifestyles.

2

As used in line 16, “kicks” most nearly means

- A) thrills.
- B) complaints.
- C) jolts.
- D) interests.

3

The author uses the image of an engineer at sea (lines 23-28) most likely to

- A) suggest that Nawab often dreams of having a more exciting profession.
- B) highlight the fact that Nawab’s primary job is to tend to Harouni’s tube wells.
- C) reinforce the idea that Nawab has had many different occupations in his life.
- D) emphasize how demanding Nawab’s work for Harouni is.

4

Which choice best supports the claim that Nawab performs his duties for Harouni well?

- A) Lines 28-32 (“By his . . . Lahore”)
- B) Lines 40-42 (“The landowner . . . ahead”)
- C) Lines 46-49 (“In your . . . should”)
- D) Line 58 (“I’ve . . . years”)

5

In the context of the conversation between Nawab and Harouni, Nawab’s comments in lines 43-52 (“Sir . . . beg you”) mainly serve to

- A) flatter Harouni by mentioning how vast his lands are.
- B) boast to Harouni about how competent and reliable Nawab is.
- C) emphasize Nawab’s diligence and loyalty to Harouni.
- D) notify Harouni that Nawab intends to quit his job tending the tube wells.

6

Nawab uses the word “bridegroom” (line 62) mainly to emphasize that he’s no longer

- A) in love.
- B) naive.
- C) busy.
- D) young.

7

It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that Harouni provides Nawab with a motorcycle mainly because

- A) Harouni appreciates that Nawab has to work hard to support his family.
- B) Harouni sees benefit to himself from giving Nawab a motorcycle.
- C) Nawab’s speech is the most eloquent that Harouni has ever heard.
- D) Nawab threatens to quit if Harouni doesn’t agree to give him a motorcycle.

8

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 65-66 (“And . . . crux”)
- B) Lines 66-68 (“He didn’t . . . him”)
- C) Lines 75-76 (“He even . . . gasoline”)
- D) Lines 80-81 (“He could . . . business”)

9

The passage states that the farm managers react to Nawab receiving a motorcycle with

- A) disgust.
- B) happiness.
- C) envy.
- D) indifference.

10

According to the passage, what does Nawab consider to be the best result of getting the motorcycle?

- A) People start calling him “Uncle.”
- B) He’s able to expand his business.
- C) He’s able to educate his daughters.
- D) He can spend more time with his wife.