Christmas Meeting:

1. **How do you think the narrator spent Christmas when she was a teenager?**
   The narrator spent her teenaged Christmas with parents unhappily. She remembered the war and the bitter cold. This suggests that she didn't spend the Christmas happily.

   2. "So, I'm greatly relieved when the Youngman walks in." Why do you think the narrator feels relieved?
   The narrator is spending her first Christmas alone in a rented house. She feels lonely and her head is full of ghosts. She really needs somebody's company on that day. At this time a young man walks into her room. She feels greatly relieved (of her loneliness).

   3.Why do you think the young man apologize to the narrator?
   The young man Francis Randel bursts into the narrator's room even without knocking. So he apologized to her.

   4. "I'm glad you made the mistake.. Why is the narrator glad?
   The narrator is glad that the young man Francis Randel enters her room by mistake.

   5. Does the young man like being alone at Christmas? Why isn't he with his family for the festival?
   The young man doesn't like being alone at Christmas. He is a busy writer, it will hold up his work if goes to his family for the festival.

   6. 'I'm disappointed. Why is the narrator disappointed?
   Francis Randel, after having a pleasant talk with the narrator, suddenly disappears, making her lonely again. So she is disappointed.

   7. "They don't appreciate urgency"… What is this a reference to?
   This refers to Francis Randel's urgency to become a creative writer at a young age. However this is urgency is not appreciated by his family. They are indifferent to his becoming a writer at a young age.

   8. Why does the landlady charge a bit less for the narrator's room?
   The landlady has kept the bookshelf with full of books in the narrator's room. It may be an inconvenience to any tenant who occupies that room. So she charges a bit less rent for that room.

   9. In what way is the narrator's Christmas meeting similar to Francis Randel's Christmas meeting in 1851. In what way is it different?
   Both spent Christmas lonely and without much interest. Both had ghost as their guests. Francis Randel died of heart-attack on the same night however the narrator was well.

Comprehension Passages (1 Mark questions):

Read the passages carefully and answers the questions that follow:

Passage 1:

"So I'm greatly relieved when the young man walks in. There's nothing romantic about it."

Now answer the questions:

1. Who was greatly relieved and Why?
2. Who was the young man referred to?
3. Why did the speaker think there's nothing romantic?

Answers:

1. The narrator was greatly relieved because the young man i.e. Francis Randel (his ghost) walks into her room. She was feeling lonely and really wanted to have somebody to talk.
2. The young man referred to was Francis Randel (his ghost)
3. The narrator was a spinster and a school teacher. Whereas Francis Randel was a kid of twenty. So she thought there was nothing romantic about meeting him.

Passage 2:

"He burst in without knocking, then pauses, and says: I'm so sorry. I thought this was my room." He begins to go out, then hesitates and says: Are you alone?

Now answer the questions:

1. Who burst in?
2. Why do you think he didn't knock?
3. Why did he feel sorry?
4. Who is the speaker speaking to?

Answers:

1. Francis Randel (his ghost) burst in to the narrator's room.
2. He didn't knock at the door because he thought he was entering his own room.
3. He felt sorry that he had made a mistake. He entered the narrator's room thinking his own room.,
4. The speaker i.e. Francis Randel (his ghost) is speaking to the narrator.

Passage 3:
I'm glad you made the mistake. But you're a very young person to be alone at Christmas time."

Now answer the questions:
1. Who was glad and Why?
2. Who made the mistake? What was the mistake?
3. Why was the young man alone at Christmas time?

Answers:
1. The narrator was glad by the mistake made by Francis Randel. She was feeling lonely and needed somebody's company so that she could talk.
2. Francis Randel made the mistake. His mistake was that he entered the narrator's room thinking it was his own room.
3. The young man i.e. Francis Randel is a busy writer. If he went to his family for the festival it would hold up his work. So he was alone at Christmas time.

Passage 4:
"No not a moment! That's what my family won't see. They don't appreciate urgency"

Now answer the questions:
1. Whose urgency is referred here? What was his urgency?
2. Why do you think his family wouldn't appreciate his urgency?
3. Who is the speaker speaking to?

Answers:
1. Francis Randel's urgency is referred here. His urgency was that he wanted to become a creative writer at a young age.
2. His family thought that he was too young to become a writer. They wouldn't appreciate his urgency.
3. The speaking i.e. Francis Randel (his ghost) is speaking to the narrator.

Passage 5:
"Hope you don't mind the books, miss, but my husband won't given them away, and there's nowhere to put them. We charge a bit less for the room for that reason.

Now answer the questions:
1. Who is the speaker in the above lines?
2. Who does the word 'miss' refer to?
3. Why do they charge a bit less for the room?

Answers:

1. The speaker is the landlady.
2. The word ‘miss’ refers to the narrator.
3. They charge a bit less for the room because they have kept a book-shelf, with full of books in that room. It may be a kind of inconvenience to the tenant of that room.

Passage 6:

“When I went back to my lodgings after a walk there was a middle-aged woman in my room. I thought, at first, I’d walked into the wrong room.

Now answer the questions:

1.Who do you think “I” refers to in the above passage?
2. Who was middle-aged woman mentioned above?
3. Had he really walked into the wrong room?

Answers:

1. “I” refers to Francis Randel?
2. The middle-aged woman was a ghost.
3. No, he had walked into his own room.