Short Answer  Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. Where and when does “Who Can Replace a Man?” begin? Complete this chart with three details from the first four paragraphs of the story. Then, answer the question:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time/Place</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
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How does the setting prove that this is a science-fiction story?

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2. In “Who Can Replace a Man?” how have the penner and the field-minder been built to be alike? Explain how what they have in common sets them apart from the other machines.

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3. As “Who Can Replace a Man?” opens, the machines have not received their orders for the day. What does the machines’ reaction suggest about their relationship to humans? How does that reaction provide a clue for readers about the ending of the story?

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4. In “Who Can Replace a Man?” what explanation does the radio operator give for the disappearance of humans? Why don’t the other machines understand that explanation?

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5. Why do the machines in "Who Can Replace a Man?" want to rescue the radio operator from its room? How does that machine's difference make it valuable to the rest of the machines?

6. In "Who Can Replace a Man?" the countryside seems to be a safer place for the machines than the city. Despite that safety, why does it present a challenge for the machines as they travel?

7. Reread the first paragraph that describes the Badlands in "Who Can Replace a Man?" (It follows the penner's announcement of "South it is then!") What is another reason for the disappearance of humans? Cite evidence for your answer from the description of that setting. What do the two reasons, taken together, say about human beings?

8. The machines in "Who Can Replace a Man?" travel south with great plans. How and why do those plans change dramatically when they reach their destination?

9. Only one human appears in "Who Can Replace a Man?" How does he differ from the kind of people who probably built the machines? Why, then, do the machines react to him the way they do? Support your answer with details from the story.
“Who Can Replace a Man?” by Brian Aldiss

**Open-Book Test**

**Short Answer** Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. Where and when does “Who Can Replace a Man?” begin? Complete this chart with three details from the first four paragraphs of the story. Then, answer the question.

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How does the setting prove that this is a science-fiction story?

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________________________________________________________________________
1. Time/Place: morning; Evidence: "Morning filtered into the sky. . . ."
   Time/Place: the future; Evidence: Intelligent machines are busy.
   Time/Place: a farm; Evidence: The field-minder has just "finished turning the topsoil of a three-thousand-acre field"; the Agricultural Station
   The fact that the story is set in a future in which robots are very active proves that it is science fiction.
   Difficulty: Average   Objective: Literary Analysis
2. In “Who Can Replace a Man?” how have the penner and the field-minder been built to be alike? Explain how what they have in common sets them apart from the other machines.

2. Both machines have been built with Class Three brains. That feature makes them superior to other machines in the story, which are expected to follow their leadership. The one exception is the radio operator, which has a Class Two brain. When that machine enters the story, even the penner and the field-minder follow its leadership.

3. As “Who Can Replace a Man?” opens, the machines have not received their orders for the day. What does the machines’ reaction suggest about their relationship to humans? How does that reaction provide a clue for readers about the ending of the story?

3. The reaction is confused noise-making, aimless movement, and overall disruption. Readers can conclude that the machines depend upon orders—orders that originate with humans. That conclusion sets up the ending of the story, where the machines immediately surrender their independence when they receive an order from the first human they meet.

Difficulty: Challenging  Objective: Interpretation
1. In “Who Can Replace a Man?” what explanation does the radio operator give for the disappearance of humans? Why don’t the other machines understand that explanation?

4. The radio operator reports that “a diet deficiency killed them”; in other words, mass starvation killed almost every human. The other machines were not built to be as intelligent as the radio operator. The main reason that they don’t understand, however, is that they do not depend upon a diet of food to survive, as humans do.

**Difficulty: Average  Objective: Interpretation**

5. Why do the machines in “Who Can Replace a Man?” want to rescue the radio operator from its room? How does that machine’s difference make it valuable to the rest of the machines?

5. The machines want to rescue the radio operator because the radio operator has ordered them to do so. They are used to taking orders from it, for it has a superior brain. The other machines value that difference; the penner tells the radio operator, “I admire the way you Class Twos can reason ahead.” The other machines look to the radio operator for leadership.

**Difficulty: Average  Objective: Reading**
6. In "Who Can Replace a Man?" the countryside seems to be a safer place for the machines than the city. Despite that safety, why does it present a challenge for the machines as they travel?

   6. The machines decide that the safest place to go is the place with the fewest machines—the Badlands. Traveling there, however, means crossing rugged land and hills that are hard to climb. Eventually, the penner breaks down there and is left behind.

   **Difficulty: Easy  Objective: Literary Analysis**

7. Reread the first paragraph that describes the Badlands in "Who Can Replace a Man?" (It follows the penner’s announcement of "South it is then!") What is another reason for the disappearance of humans? Cite evidence for your answer from the description of that setting. What do the two reasons, taken together, say about human beings?

   7. The author says that "[a]ncient bomb craters" can be seen in the eroded Badlands. It seems that war, too, has killed many people. The author also says that the region is the product of "man’s talent for war, coupled with his inability to manage forested land." Taken together, these reasons suggest that humans are aggressive, foolish beings, who care only about satisfying their desires of the moment without considering the future.

   **Difficulty: Challenging  Objective: Literary Analysis**
8. The machines in “Who Can Replace a Man?” travel south with great plans. How and why do those plans change dramatically when they reach their destination?

8. The machines plan to start a city in the Badlands. When they arrive in the foothills, they see a man. They abandon their plans when he orders them to get him food, for they were built to follow the commands of humans.

Difficulty: Easy  Objective: Interpretation

9. Only one human appears in “Who Can Replace a Man?” How does he differ from the kind of people who probably built the machines? Why, then, do the machines react to him the way they do? Support your answer with details from the story.

9. The human in the story is naked and starving—barely alive. The people who built the machines probably had no serious physical needs. The human in the story (or his ancestors) may have been much like them at one time. The machines react to him with immediate obedience, however, because humans have programmed them to do so.

Difficulty: Challenging  Objective: Reading