Ozymandias : Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) “The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed”. Whose hand and heart has the poet referred to in this line?
Ans. The hand and heart referred to, here, is that of the sculptor. The sculptor’s hands, seemingly an instrument of the state, have “mocked” the all-powerful chieftain, meaning both to imitate and ridicule. Lines 6 to 8 are grammatically ambiguous, and different meanings are possible, but one interpretation is that the artist’s “heart,” his sense of compassion and morality, still throbs in the otherwise lifeless head. In other words, love and truth ultimately triumph over cruel, autocratic intelligence.

(b) “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings”. Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as ‘king of kings’? What quality of the king is revealed through this statement?
Ans. Ozymandias was very mighty, conceited, arrogant and was intoxicated with power. He was very boastful and proud. Hence he considered himself to be even greater than other kings. He thought himself to be above all on the world. He was very confident of his might and extraordinary power.

(c) “Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair “! Who is Ozymandias referring to when he speaks Mighty? Why should they despair?
Ans. Ozymandias is referring to anyone who considers himself to be mighty and powerful. He throws a challenge to him that he should look at the work of Ozymandias and then consider their might. Others will despair because none can ever equal Ozymandias’ achievements and powers.

(d) Bring out the irony in the poem.
Ans) The irony of “Ozymandias” cuts much deeper as the reader realises that the forces of mortality and flexibility, described brilliantly in the concluding lines, will wear down and destroy all our lives. There is a special justice in the way tyrants are subject to time, but all humans face death and decay. The poem primarily depicts an ironic picture of Ozymandias and other rulers like him, but it is also a prominent thought on time-bound humanity: the traveler in the ancient land, the sculptor-artist who fashioned the tomb, and the reader of the poem, no less than Ozymandias, inhabit a world that is “boundless and bare.”

(e) ’Nothing beside remains.’ What does the narrator mean when he says these words?
Ans) When the narrator says these words, he emphasises on the fact that human life is time bound. The power and popularity of the ruler descended with the descent of the ruler. Nothing is immortal and immutable in this world.

(f) What is your impression of Ozymandias as a king?
Ans) Ozymandias seems to be a very powerful tyrannical ruler, who was extremely boastful of himself and his kingdom.
(g) What message is conveyed through this poem?

Through this poem a very important message is conveyed which explains the ultimate truth of human lives that nothing is important. Everything in this world is time-bound and not immortal. The immutability of time has been explained through this poem. However, the poet also conveys the power of art, which can outlive its creators and becomes immortal.