Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

For a cent

Each morning
corner of Pritchard and Joubert
and leaning on a greasy crutch
near a pavement dustbin
and old man begs,
not expecting much.

his spectacles are cracked and dirty
he does not see my black hand
drop a cent into his scurvy palm.

but instinctively he mutters:
‘THANK YOU MY BAAS’

Strange
that for a cent
a man can call his brother
‘BAAS’

Don Mattera

1.1 Which period in South African history does this poem refer to?
A. Apartheid
B. After Apartheid
C. Under English rule
D. Under Dutch rule

1.2 What is a cent?

1.3 Why is it significant that the poet should describe his hand as black?

1.4 With which word does the word much” rhyme in the first stanza?

1.5 What is a “scurvy palm”?

1.6 The beggar mutters “instinctively”. The word “instinctively” suggests the beggar is used to something. What is that something?

1.7 Why is the ending of the poem ironic?