Skull Beneath The Skin
by P.D James

1) Give a brief biography of P.D James

2) What year was “Skull Beneath The Skin” published?

3) Write a detailed summary of the text

4) What is the background behind the text?

5) The title of the text is adapted from a T.S Eliot poem “Whispers of Immortality.” How does the title reflect the events within the novel?

6) What are the themes evident within “Skull Beneath The Skin?” How do they

7) What genre of crime fiction does “Skull Beneath The Skin” apply itself to? Give examples from the text to support your answer.

8) How does the text adhere and convey to the genre of crime fiction? Give examples to support your answer

9) Write a short description about Cordelia Gray including her background and her role within the text.

10) Does the role of Cordelia Gray fit within the conventions of crime fiction? Does her role subvert the conventions of crime fiction? List reasons for your answer
11) How does the themes of morality and what it means to be human play within the text? Is this a subversion of the genre of crime fiction? Give reasons for your answer.

12) Create a list of phrases or brief excerpts from the novel, including the page number. Each entry must say something that you believe is important to the meaning of the work which adds to your growing understanding of the themes and to the element of crime fiction in the novel.