1. In constructing the plot of “My Brother’s Keeper,” what literary technique did Jay Bennett use?

A. flashback, when Bennett interrupts Jaime’s taking the oath prior to testifying in court
B. foreshadow, when Bennett tells about Ted relying on Jamie when their parents died
C. flashforward, when Bennett describes Ted’s success as a professional football player
D. cliffhanger, when Bennett ends the story without specifically telling the reader what Jamie testified in court

LA.910.2.1.5
The correct answer is A. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of character, point of view, plot development, setting, conflict, or theme.

Option A is correct because flashback was used. Bennett’s story begins with Jamie being sworn in; however, the bulk of the story is what Jamie remembers/feels, and it ends with Jamie still being sworn in. Flashback is an interruption in the action of a narrative to tell about something that happened earlier (page 894, Literary Terms). Option B is incorrect because foreshadow is not used. Ted’s reliance on Jamie is a detail in the story but does not in itself move the plot forward. Foreshadow is a hint that a writer gives about an event that will happen later in a story (page 895, Literary Terms). Option C is incorrect because flashforward is not used. Information about Ted’s football skills are useful only to let the reader know he is a wealthy, successful football player with potential to become great, and that is why he has the lawyer he has. Flashforward is a device in the narrative of a motion picture, novel, etc., by which a future event or scene is inserted into the chronological structure of the work (definition from dictionary.reference.com). Option D is incorrect because a cliffhanger is not used. Although the story is unresolved and left to the reader’s determination, there is no “next episode” in which the solution will be revealed. Cliffhanger is a melodramatic adventure serial in which each installment ends in suspense in order to interest the reader or viewer in the next installment (definition from dictionary.reference.com).

2. Why does the author most likely structure the short story using so many short, one-sentence paragraphs?

F. Bennett doesn’t like to write long, descriptive paragraphs full of vivid images and well-described details.
G. The writing reflects the action in the story—Jamie is having quick thoughts zipping through his mind as he stands in the courtroom.
H. It is more convenient for teenage readers to read, understand, and remember short sentences than lengthy, wordy paragraphs.
I. Jamie and Ted did not have long conversations with each other, and Bennett wants to have the writing reflect their relationship.
LA.910.1.7.2
The correct answer is G. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect analysis or evaluation of the impact of the author’s purpose or perspective on the text.

Option F is incorrect because readers are not told the style preference of Bennett as an author. Option G is correct because the style of writing is used to mirror the action of the story which is taking place in a “split second” during Jamie’s taking the oath to tell the truth. Option H is incorrect because it is irrelevant and may or may not be true. Option I is incorrect because the reader does not know the depth or full measure of the relationship between the brothers.

3. Read the sentences from the story.

“He was hurt enough to be taken to a hospital,” Jamie said sharply.
“He was.”
Jamie’s voice rose.
“Why didn’t you come out of the dark and go over there and face it?”

In which sentence does sharply have the same meaning as used in the excerpt above?

A. The employer sharply questioned the clerk about the missing merchandise.
B. The images on the new HD set were very sharply defined.
C. Be careful as you drive this road because the road twists sharply after the light.
D. After the paper shortage, the price of greeting cards rose sharply.

LA.910.1.6.9
The correct answer is A. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent correct meanings of the assessed word but inappropriate to the text.

The excerpt is found on page 274. Definitions are from wordnetweb.princeton.edu. Option A is correct because the use of sharply in the text and in this option means in an aggressive manner. Option B is incorrect because in this sentence sharply means in a well delineated manner. Option C is incorrect because in this sentence sharply means changing suddenly in direction and degree. Option D is incorrect because in this sentence sharply means very suddenly and to a great degree.

4. The lawyer, Carmody, gave Jamie several reasons he should provide an alibi for Ted EXCEPT

F. Jamie has a clean record and has been accepted to a distinguished college.
G. Ted is a good football player with a promising career ahead of him.
H. The man who was injured will recover and be well taken care of.
I. Jamie’s and Ted’s parents are dead, and the brothers must stick together.

LA.910.1.7.4
The correct answer is I. Options F, G, and H are incorrect because they represent correct causal relationships based on the text.
**Option F** is incorrect because this is a reason Carmody gave Jamie to provide an alibi for Ted. As the reader learns on page 278, Carmody mentions Jamie had been accepted to “a very prestigious college” and that “There’s not a blemish on your record, Jamie.” **Option G** is incorrect because this is a reason Carmody gave Jamie to provide an alibi for Ted. As the reader learns on page 279, Carmody says that Ted is “…one of the young stars of pro football today.” **Option H** is incorrect because this is a reason Carmody gave Jamie to provide an alibi for Ted. As the reader learns on page 281, Carmody speaks about the injured man saying, “He’s going to fully recover. And then he’s going to be quietly well taken care of.” **Option I** is correct because this is not a reason Carmody gave Jamie to provide an alibi for Ted. As the reader learns on page 280, Carmody says, “You say you care for your brother.” to which Jamie replies, “Yes.”; however, during the conversation with the lawyer, there is not a mention of their parents being dead.

5. Why did the author select the artwork shown on pages 265 and 280?

A. The picture on page 265 was selected because the story is about justice and the statue of Lady Justice that appears in many courtrooms is wearing a blindfold; the picture on 280 was selected to show how Jamie and Ted could get tied up in a lengthy court case.

B. Both pictures were selected to indicate the loneliness that Jamie feels since his parents died and he has been watching over his older brother.

C. The picture on page 265 was selected to show that Jamie lives a cautious life taking care of himself and Ted; however, the picture on page 280 shows that the caution/dilemma he faces when he meets with the lawyer is huge and could affect his future as well as Ted’s future.

D. Both pictures were selected to warn readers to be cautious in their lives and not take happiness or success for granted; however, to be too cautious could result in a tightly restricted life.

**LA.910.6.1.1**

The correct answer is C. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect analysis and interpretation of text features.

**Option A** is incorrect because although the story is about a court case and in many courtrooms Lady Justice is shown blindfolded “to show that justice is not subject to influence” (www.statue.com/lady-justice-statues), the story does not mention a lengthy court case. **Option B** is incorrect because although Jamie may be lonely since the deaths of his parents, that is not a theme of the story, and the pictures are not about loneliness. **Option C** is correct because the reader can infer that the word “CAUTION” is on the tape over the eyes of the person in the painting. (Note that the name of the picture is “Boy with Caution Tape.”). Jamie is cautious (his unblemished record and high academic achievement) and after the meeting with the lawyer (reviewed in his mind during his oath-taking) he is only too aware of the consequences of being forced to make a decision to lie or tell the truth. He is now more cautious than ever as shown in the picture where the entire figure is now encased in caution tape. **Option D** is incorrect because the pictures are there to support the story not to send a moral message to the reader.
6. Read the sentence from the news commentary.

   We believe in loyalty to family, friends, employers and employees, the institutions where we work, perhaps our political party, our country, our God, and our conscience.

Which loyalties created a conflict for Jamie in “My Brother’s Keeper?”

F. Jamie wanted to be loyal to both Ted and Uncle Harry, the only family he has.
G. Jamie felt the need to continue to protect his brother yet his conscience was leading him to tell the truth to the court.
H. Carmody wanted Jamie to perjure himself to provide Ted’s alibi yet Ted did not want Jamie to compromise his future by lying.
I. Ted’s future as a football pro was in jeopardy, and Jamie felt that maybe he should do whatever he could to ensure Ted’s future.

LA.910.2.1.7
The correct answer is G Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent inaccurate interpretations of character, point of view, plot development, setting, conflict, or theme.

The excerpt is found on pages 286 and 287. Option F is incorrect because there is no conflict between Uncle Harry and Jamie. Option G is correct because the theme of the story is Jamie’s conflict between lying to give Ted an alibi or telling the truth and letting Ted pay the consequences of his actions. Option H is incorrect because although the statement is true, it does not express a conflict for Jamie, but, instead, it expresses the conflict that Ted faces. Option I is incorrect because it is actually Carmody who faces the conflict between being loyal to his employer (the pro football team) and the truth (Ted is guilty) which may end Ted’s promising career.

7. Florida Statute states the language that must be used when a witness is sworn in. Read the following excerpt from that statute.

   Florida Statute §90.605 Oath or affirmation of witness.
   (1) Before testifying, each witness shall declare that he or she will testify truthfully, by taking an oath or affirmation in substantially the following form: “Do you swear or affirm that the evidence you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?” The witness's answer shall be noted in the record.

If Ted’s trial was held in Florida, and if Jamie, Ted, and Uncle Harry testified to the version of the events that Carmody created, who will be disloyal to the oath of a witness?
A. Jamie and Ted
B. Uncle Harry and Jamie
C. Uncle Harry and Ted
D. Carmody

LA.910.1.7.3
The correct answer is A.  Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect inferences or conclusions based on details found in the text.

The excerpt is found at www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes. Option A is correct because both Jamie and Ted would have to lie about the events saying that they were together at the time of the accident as outlined by Carmody on page 276. Option B is incorrect because although Jamie was involved in Carmody’s planned cover-up, Uncle Harry was not involved in the accident or the Carmody’s planned cover-up. Option C is incorrect because although Ted was involved in Carmody’s planned cover-up, Uncle Harry was not involved in the accident or the Carmody’s planned cover-up. Option D is incorrect because although Carmody would be disloyal to his duty as an officer of the court, during the trial he does not testify or take the oath of a witness. An officer of the court is defined as any person who has an obligation to promote justice and effective operation of the judicial system, including judges, the attorneys who appear in court, bailiffs, clerks, and other personnel. As officers of the court lawyers have an absolute ethical duty to tell judges the truth, including avoiding dishonesty or evasion about reasons the attorney or his/her client is not appearing, the location of documents and other matters related to conduct of the courts. (Definition found at legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com)

8. Which word from the news commentary best describes the conflict that arises when loyalties collide?

F. dilemma
G. principle
H. allegiance
I. disloyalty

LA.910.1.6.8
The correct answer is F.  Options G, H, and I are incorrect because they represent details drawn from the text but unrelated to the assessed word/phrase or test question.

Conflict is defined by macmillandictionary.com/dictionary as a situation in which it is difficult for two things to exist together or be true at the same time. Definitions are from wordwizard.scholastic.com. Option F is correct because a dilemma addresses the concept of conflict. Dilemma is defined on page 286 as a situation that requires you to choose between two unfavorable options. Option G is incorrect because principle does not relate to conflict. Principle (as used on page 287) is defined as a basic law or truth on which action or behavior is based. Option H is incorrect because allegiance does not relate to conflict. Allegiance (used on pages 286 and 287) is defined as loyalty or dedication to a person, country, or belief. Option I is incorrect because disloyalty does not relate to conflict. Disloyalty (used on page 286) is defined as the quality, or an instance or act, of being disloyal, treacherous, or traitorous.
9. Gerald Pomper, the author of “What Price Loyalty?” relates an example of being loyal to a friend (U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson and traitor Alger Hiss) and then he asks,

“Is such loyalty always commendable?”

What does the author mean by this question?

A. Is it admirable to remain loyal to a friend who has been disloyal to your country?
B. Is an act of loyalty between a patriot and a traitor offensive?
C. Is it disgraceful that a government official remains loyal to a friend who is unpatriotic and commits treason?
D. Is one blameworthy to admit loyalty to a friend who has betrayed his country?

LA.910.1.6.8
The correct answer is A. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they represent incorrect meanings of assessed phrases found with the excerpted text.

The excerpt appears on page 287. Definitions are from macmillandictionary.com/dictionary. Option A is correct because it reflects the meaning of the author’s question; commendable and admirable are similar in meaning. The author is asking whether Dean Acheson’s loyalty was worthy of high praise. **Commendable** is defined as **deserving praise or admiration** while **admirable** is defined as **deserving to be admired or respected**. Option B is incorrect because commendable and offensive are opposite in meaning. **Offensive** is defined as **unpleasant or insulting, and likely to make people upset or embarrassed**. Option C is incorrect because commendable and disgraceful are opposite in meaning. **Disgraceful** is defined as **extremely bad or shocking**. Option D is incorrect because commendable and blameworthy are opposite in meaning. **Blameworthy** is defined as **deserving to be blamed for something bad that has happened**.

10. What was the author’s purpose in writing this news commentary?

F. to provide a historical discussion of persons who performed noteworthy acts of loyalty or disloyalty to the United States
G. to discuss the abstract concept of loyalty by providing examples of expressions and/or actions made in the name of loyalty
H. to provide a timely examination of the value of loyalty in 21st century life in the United States of America
I. to debate the historical context of loyalty to one’s country with the modern context of loyalty in a global economy

LA.910.1.7.2
The correct answer is G. Options F, H, and I are incorrect because they represent incorrect interpretations of the author’s purpose or perspective.

Option F is incorrect because although the author mentions some historical examples of loyalty, he also addresses other issues pertaining to loyalty. Option G is correct because the author discusses the concept of loyalty, and by definition, disloyalty, as well as provides examples to back-up his comments. Option H is incorrect because the author does not specifically focus on loyalty today. Option I is incorrect because the concept of loyalty to the United States as it relates to the global economy is not examined in this news commentary.