After Twenty Years

COMPREHENSION  Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 5 points each)

1. Which of the following statements best describes “Silky” Bob’s reason for returning to New York from Chicago?
   A) He has come to see his aging mother.
   B) He is trying to avoid being arrested by the Chicago police.
   C) He is meeting a woman he once knew.
   D) He is keeping an appointment he made twenty years before.

2. Why is the moment when Bob lights a match important?
   A) It is at that point that the police officer recognizes him.
   B) It is at that point that the police officer sees the diamond.
   C) It is at the point that Bob is able to see the police officer’s face.
   D) It increases the suspense and adds mystery.

3. Bob’s opinion of Jimmy Wells is that he is a—
   A) real genius
   B) true friend
   C) go-getter, always making clever deals
   D) razor-sharp wit

4. Jimmy Wells is a—
   A) police officer in uniform
   B) criminal
   C) plainclothes police officer
   D) restaurant owner

5. How can you predict that Jimmy will do the right thing?
   A) Jimmy questions Bob for a long time.
   B) Bob describes Jimmy as true, dependable, and good.
   C) Jimmy knows the man with him is wanted in Chicago.
   D) Jimmy is jealous of Bob’s success and his fancy jewelry.
6. Why won’t Jimmy arrest “Silky” Bob?
   A) Jimmy knows that Bob isn’t really guilty of anything.
   B) Jimmy isn’t really a police officer.
   C) Jimmy’s shift was up, and he was going off duty.
   D) Jimmy can’t bring himself to arrest his old friend.

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT  Match the definition on the left with the vocabulary word on the right. On the line provided, write the letter of the correct vocabulary word. (10 points, 2 points each)

   _____  7. at the same time
   _____  8. done or fixed by habit
   _____  9. miserably; gloomily
   _____ 10. conceit; talking about oneself too much
   _____ 11. complicated; full of detail

VOCABULARY SKILL  Circle the letter of the phrase that best explains the meaning of the idioms used in each sentence. (10 points; 5 points each)

   A) Gets comfortable with the way things are
   B) Learns to play music
   C) Learns to get along with the rhythm of the city
   D) Learns to be cool and act smart

13. “I’ll explain if you’d like to make certain it’s all straight.”
   A) Everything is in order
   B) You understand what I tell you
   C) Nothing suspicious or illegal is going on
   D) You understand what is expected of you

LITERARY FOCUS  Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

14. Who is telling this story?
   A) Jimmy Wells
   B) “Silky” Bob
   C) An unnamed narrator
   D) The plainclothes police officer
15. Which of these sentences from the story is in the narrator’s voice?
   A) The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively.
   B) I was certain I’d find you here if you were still in existence.
   C) I’ve had to compete with some of the sharpest wits going to get my pile.
   D) We’ll go around to a place I know of and have a good long talk about old times.

16. You can tell this story is told from the omniscient point of view because—
   A) the narrator knows everything about all the characters
   B) the reader sees events through Jimmy’s eyes only
   C) the reader sees events through Bob’s eyes only
   D) the narrator uses the pronoun “I” throughout the story

READING FOCUS  Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

17. Clues that foreshadow—
   A) confirm the reader’s predictions
   B) create a feeling of dread
   C) hint at what will happen
   D) give away the ending

18. Which of the following statements is the best example of foreshadowing in the story?
   A) “Silky” Bob has a diamond scarf pin and a watch set with diamonds.
   B) The patrolman says “Big Joe” Brady’s was torn down five years before.
   C) “Silky” Bob brags about his success in the West.
   D) The patrolman asks Bob if he’ll leave if his friend doesn’t arrive right at 10.

19. When Bob tells Jimmy that he’s “changed lots,” we might predict that—
   A) Bob has been lying about what he was doing in that doorway
   B) the man he is talking to isn’t Jimmy Wells
   C) Bob exaggerated when he said they were “just like two brothers”
   D) Bob is an impostor and doesn’t really know Jimmy Wells

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE  (20 points)

20. “At the end of the story, Jimmy and Bob are both friends and enemies.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Consider the story’s point of view in your response. On a separate piece of paper, write a paragraph that explains your answer. Support your ideas with details from the story.