The following questions ask you to examine events and ideas germane to the themes of the novel. While the book is based on a real historic time period, the characters and actual events are fictional.

Answer these questions completely and carefully. Use the book when you respond. If you do this close work in the first two chapters, then you should be able to follow ideas and events through the rest of the book. Answer on a separate sheet. Be sure to number each of responses. (39 points, 3 each)

1. Explain how the narration works in the first two chapters. Literally, how Wiesel has structured it. (1-23)

2. Tell why the narrator keeps referring to the crying child. Pp. 1, 2, 5, 20, & 23. Explain its significance to the story or the evolving theme.

3. Explain how he learns to tell when day changes into night. Why is night “purer” than day? (4)

4. Explain the significance of his seeing his own face when night comes. (5)

5. Who is the narrator to kill and why? Is there a difference between killing and execution? Comment on this in relation to the line “We are not murderers.” on page 23.

6. “Violence is the only language the English understand.” Is this true only for the English? Explain why or why not. (8)

7. Why does he feel like he is “falling into a pit’ when told to execute a man? (10)

8. On page 11, Elisha calls himself a “terrorist.” Why does he call himself that and not a freedom fighter?

9. Explain Elisha’s reasons for coming to Paris. (p12)

10. Describe how Gad “appeared” to Elisha.(14-)

11. Why does Elisha believe he was a “Meshula” or a messenger? Why does he give it so much importance?(15)

12. Discuss and comment on the following lines. You can include what you know about the history of the people involved.
“Until this moment I had believed that the mission of the Jews was to represent the trembling of history rather than the wind which made it tremble.” (p17)