Ludwig van Beethoven Quiz prep

I. LIFE / Multiple Choice
You must know the following information:

1. What the preposition “van” tells us about Beethoven’s roots? *We know two things: he had a Belgian relative, and more importantly, he came from “ordinary people,” not royalty.*
2. As a teenager, what was Beethoven able to do for his family? *He could support his family financially from his music jobs.*
3. What relationship did Beethoven have to Mozart and Haydn? *He was a student of both.*
4. Beethoven first became famous for what musical ability? *Playing piano*
5. Deafness took away Beethoven’s literal ability to hear; how is it that he was able to continue composing? *He could “hear the music in his head,” and still retained all his knowledge of music theory.*
6. What is the *Heiligenstadt Testament? This now famous document is really B’s will. It gives us great insight into what B was thinking about his deafness.*
7. Deafness initially caused Beethoven to suffer great depression; what was his eventual reaction? *Eventually, B overcame his deafness by immersing himself in his work. He was not defeated, even by such a horrific blow to a composer.*

II. MUSIC – Fill in the blank
1. In Beethoven’s time, a symphony had FOUR movements
2. Beethoven wrote NINE (number) symphonies in all
3. Possibly his most famous, Beethoven’s FIFTH symphony has a MOTIF of four notes which recurs and develops in the first movement
4. Beethoven stunned the world with his NINTH symphony by using a CHORUS/CHOIR in the final movement!
5. … notebooks reveal to us that writing music for him was very DIFFICULT

III. SONATA-ALLEGRO FORM
Be able to identify the THREE sections of *Sonata-Allegro* form:

**EXPOSITION**  **DEVELOPMENT**  **RECAPITULATION**

In which section are…
the themes changed, combined, and used to form a new idea? **DEVELOPMENT**
the themes *heard again* in a different key **RECAPITULATION**
the first and second themes “returning” to the “head” of the piece? **RECAPITULATION**
the first and second themes “placed out?” **EXPOSITION**
VI. SHORT ANSWER

1. BEETHOVEN came on the scene when new and powerful forces were happening in human society. In what ways were the American and French Revolutions going to shape his thinking and influence his music? Events like the American and French Revolutions were about freedom and new thinking. Beethoven took up these same ideas and applied them to composing music.

2. Beethoven’s piano was different than what had come before. List a keyboard instrument which preceded Beethoven’s piano forte AND explain TWO advantages that Beethoven now had in this “grown up” piano: Before the piano forte, Beethoven had the harpsichord, organ, and clavichord on which to play. The “grown up” piano forte which Beethoven had, allowed him to write piano music with more range (higher and lower notes) and sound requirements (dynamic levels). He also had the foot pedals to color his sounds.

BONUS: What is the literal meaning piano forte: SOFT LOUD

3. BEETHOVEN used conventions and styles of CLASSICAL PERIOD, but stretched them to their limits…and beyond. DRAW WHAT BEETHOVEN DID TO THE “CONVENTIONS” OF THE CLASSICAL PERIOD. Any picture can be drawn here to represent how Beethoven took the Classical ideas of BALANCE (of phrases), DYNAMICS, TONE PRODUCTION, FORM and “stretched” them to their limits. (you might encourage them to visualize things which stretch and then depict this itself, or the word doing this action).