

Questions 24–33 are based on the following speech, “On the Death of Martin Luther King, Jr.” by Robert F. Kennedy.

I have bad news for you, for all of our fellow citizens, and people who love peace all over the world, and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and killed tonight. 1

Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice for his fellow human beings, and he died because of that effort. 2

In this difficult day, in this difficult time for the United States, it is perhaps well to ask what kind of a nation we are and what direction we want to move in, for those of you who are black—considering the evidence there evidently is that there were white people who were responsible—you can be filled with bitterness, with hatred, and a desire for revenge. We can move in that direction as a country, in great polarization—black people amongst black, white people amongst white, filled with hatred toward one another. 3

Or we can make an effort, as Martin Luther King did, to understand and to comprehend, and to replace that violence, that stain of bloodshed that has spread across our land, with an effort to understand with compassion and love. 4

For those of you who are black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and distrust at the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I can only say that I feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed, [and] he was killed by a white man. But we have to make an effort in the United States, we have to make an effort to understand, to go beyond these rather difficult times. 5

My favorite poet was Aeschylus. He wrote: “In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.” 6

What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or black. 7

So I shall ask you tonight to return home, to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King, that’s true, but more importantly to say a prayer for our own country, which all of us love—a prayer for understanding and that compassion of which I spoke. 8

We can do well in this country. We will have difficult times. We’ve had difficult times in the past. We will have difficult times in the future. It is not the end of violence; it not the end of lawlessness; it is not the end of disorder. 9

But the vast majority of white people and the vast majority of black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want justice for all human beings who abide in our land. 10

Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and to make gentle the life of this world. 11

Let us dedicate ourselves to that, and say a prayer for our country and for our people. 12

24. The primary purpose of RFK’s speech is most probably to

A. inform the people of the event

B. praise the accomplishments of Martin Luther King, Jr.

C. offer condolences to King’s family

D. call for calm and unity between blacks and whites

E. offer condolences to the black community at large

25. Which of the following paragraphs does not contain examples of parallel structure?
- paragraph 3 beginning with "In this difficult . . ."
 - paragraph 6 beginning with "My favorite poet . . ."
 - paragraph 7 beginning with "What we need . . ."
 - paragraph 9 beginning with "We can do well . . ."
 - paragraph 10 beginning with "But the vast majority . . ."
26. Paragraph 5 contains an example of
- understatement
 - figurative language
 - sarcasm
 - logical fallacy
 - analogous example
27. The tone of the speech can best be described as
- elevated and conciliatory
 - angry and inflammatory
 - formal and detached
 - informal and emotional
 - accusatory and bitter
28. To keep his speech from leading to violence, RFK makes use of which of the following?
- constantly repeating King's name and his desire for unity between races
 - an ethical appeal based on the power of religion
 - emphasizing a common bond to show the connection between himself and his audience
- I
 - II
 - III
 - I and III
 - I, II, and III
29. All of the following paragraphs give support to the inference that RFK expected violence to follow the assassination except:
- paragraph 3 beginning with "In the beginning . . ."
 - paragraph 4 beginning with "Or we can . . ."
 - paragraph 6 beginning with "My favorite . . ."
 - paragraph 7 beginning with "What we need . . ."
 - paragraph 9 beginning with "We can do well . . ."
30. RFK most probably chose to refer to the Greeks in paragraph 11 for all of the following reasons except:
- to impress the audience with his scholarship
 - to concisely restate the theme of the speech
 - to provide a healing thought for the people to remember
 - to elevate the level of discourse
 - to reinforce the ideals of democracy with which the Greeks are associated
31. Paragraphs 7 and 8 are constructed around which of the following rhetorical strategies?
- analysis
 - definition
 - narration
 - process
 - cause and effect
32. The quotation given in paragraph 6 can best be restated as
- the process of healing is inevitable
 - time heals all wounds
 - sleep numbs those in pain
 - God is the source of humankind's grief
 - sleep is the only escape from pain
33. All of the following are effects of the repetition in paragraphs 11 and 12 except that it
- links the speaker with the audience
 - refers to paragraph 2 and King's dedication
 - emphasizes dedication so that the audience will remember it
 - reinforces the tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - elevates the occasion to one which is worthy of honor