Guide Questions for Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven”

Choose (8) of the following (24) questions and answer in a complete sentence, or write the question and then answer it.

1. What is the emotional state of the narrator at the beginning of the poem?
2. Where is the narrator in Stanza 1, and what does he hear?
3. According to the first two stanzas, at what time of day and year does the action occur?
4. According to the stanza 2, why is the speaker sorrowful? What terrifies him in lines 13-14?
5. What is Edgar Allen Poe, the poet, describing in the second line of the second stanza?
6. What does the last line in the second stanza mean? Why is the name Lenore nameless “here”?
7. In the third stanza, do you think the narrator’s reactions are natural? Have you ever been alone late at night and heard strange noises?
8. What does the narrator mean by saying in line 19 that “his soul grew stronger”?
9. In stanza 5, what does the speaker see when he opens the door? What does he say and hear?
10. In stanza 7, where does the Raven perch?
11. What is the bust of Pallas?
12. Symbolism: In line 38, stanza 7, we are introduced to a raven. What do you think a raven symbolizes? Why do you think that?
13. What is the raven’s favorite and only word?
14. In stanza 8, how does the narrator feel about the raven?
15. What feelings does the narrator express in line 58-59, stanza 10?
16. The narrator’s attitude toward the raven changes over the course of the poem. How does the speaker’s attitude differ here from his attitude in stanza 8 (question 9)?
17. In stanza 11, lines 61-66, what explanation does the narrator give for the Raven’s “reply so aptly spoken”?
18. In stanza 14, lines 81-83, to whom is the narrator speaking?
19. Infer: In stanza 16,the narrator learns that he will not even see his Lenore again in Heaven. Does this mean he is consigned to hell, or that she is not in Heaven?
20. In lines 79-84, what two questions does the narrator ask the raven?
21. How does the raven answer?
22. The mood of piece of literature is the atmosphere, or the feeling of the piece of literature. The mood is often described with colorful and powerful adjectives of the setting and disposition (the way a character acts or feels) of the characters. The mood of this poem comes from the description of the setting. List eight words that describe the mood of this poem as mysterious and dreadful.
23. Which point of view is this poem written in?
24. What genre is this piece of literature?