**Unit 1: Human Bonds**

**Section 1: My Big Brother Question & Answer**

**Short answer**

**1. a. The elder brother was not good at academics. How does the narrator convey this?**

The author conveys this message through the irony of the situation. In spite of his studious nature, the elder brother failed in his exams every time.

**b. What was the difference in the routines of the two brother?**

The elder brother had only one thing on this timetable—studying. He was always glued to his books. He never went out to play or to shows or fairs, while the younger loved to play and always looked for opportunities to spend time outdoors.

**c. Describe the time table drawn up by the narrator. How were the intent and reality completely different?**

The timetable the narrator drew up for himself did not have a single hour for sports or recreation. Though in theory he intended to spend most of his time studying, in reality, he spent all his time playing.

**d. What was the impact of the elder brother’s lectures on the narrator?**

The elder brother’s lectures scared him and made him sad. They made him feel that he was wasting his father’s money.

**e. How did the elder brother’s sermon change when he failed for the first time?**

Before the examination, the elder brother lectured about how hard one must work in order to pass the exams. But after the first time he failed, his lecture offered Ravan’s example; he said that pride caused the fall of even the greatest scholars. Passing the exam was not important; internalizing knowledge and acquiring wisdom was more important.

**f. What was the elder brother’s reaction to failing for the second time?**

After he failed for the second time, the elder brother became more defensive. He told the narrator that no matter how successful one became, the elders—who had seen more of the world—would always have an upper hand. Hence, they could never be equal.

**Long answer**

**1. Do you think that the elder brother had to suppress his desire to be a role model to his younger brother? Why do you think so?**

Absolutely. It is evident that he wanted to lead by example, which is why he kept studying hard and pulling up his younger brother, but he just wasn’t gifted.

**2. Bring out the humor in the story- both in words as well as in situations.**

The story is humorous at several levels. It starts with the irony in the opening lines of the story where the elder brother who is studious has to repeat his classes. The author brings in humour through language as well as situation. Other situations like the narrator’s time table; the elder brother’s ranting against the system; the fact that the elder brother fails in spite of his efforts and the younger one stands first in spite of his nonchalance are also humorous situations.

Elder brother: hard-working, good example to younger brother, cares for him

The narrator: that is how I am, I prefer to play and relax and yet do well in school

**3. ‘Then he ran at top speed towards the hostel and I ran behind him.’ What does the last line reflect the intrapersonal relationship between the siblings?**

In the last line, the narrator runs after his elder brother. Up until that point in the story, their relationship is formal but when they both run after the kite, they are almost equals. The formal relationship changes to a playful companionship.