

The Pit and the Pendulum: the answers

Sequence the events of the story from the moment at which the man discovers the pit:

C	Eventually, after realising the people in black intend him to fall to his death, the narrator falls asleep again.	1
G	When he wakes, he is able to see his prison by a strange sulphurous light.	2
B	The narrator realizes he had over estimated the size of his prison, believing the darkness and sleep had caused him to misjudge his exploration.	3
N	The prison appears to be made of iron and is largely square. There are statues of fiends on the wall, which are unsettling for the narrator.	4
F	The floor is made of stone and the narrator sees the pit in the centre of the room. During his slumber, he has been tied to a wooden bench.	5
L	Only his head and his left arm are free to move. He is able to feed himself from a dish by his side on the floor. The food is strongly seasoned and there is no water.	6
E	Above the narrator is a picture of Father Time carrying a pendulum. The narrator believes he sees it moving very slowly.	7
K	Enormous rats are attracted by the strong smelling meat and the narrator uses a great deal of energy scaring them off.	8
H	After an hour, he observes that the pendulum has descended and more worrying, that the edge is of sharp steel.	9
A	Over a long period of time, the narrator watches the pendulum descend; it could possibly be days. He spends a great deal of time praying.	10
M	He manages to sleep and when he wakes, he notices that during his sleep the pendulum did not descend.	11
J	Whilst finishing the food, the narrator comes up with the idea to smear his ropes with the meat, so the rats will chew him free.	12
O	The rats swarm over him, but do chew through the ropes. As soon as the narrator is free, the pendulum stops swinging, confirming that he is being watched.	13
D	The narrator sees that the eyes of the figures in the wall begin to glow and the heat intensifies. The room begins to change shape.	14
I	The narrator is forced towards the pit, by the narrowing of the room. On the very brink of the pit, a trumpet is heard and he is saved by the French entering the prison and stopping the Inquisition.	15