

English 11/AP Language and Composition
Review: Test on *The Great Gatsby*

I. Multiple choice questions (10 minutes, 8 questions)

II. Gobbets (20 minutes, 4 passages)

III. Short essay (10 minutes, 1 question)

Sample questions

Multiple choice. Try these:

_____ 1. At Mrs. Wilson’s New York apartment, an elevator boy goes for milk and biscuits, “one of which decomposed apathetically in the saucer of milk all afternoon.” What is the best explanation for Fitzgerald’s inclusion of this detail?

- a. to give a sense of Myrtle’s personality and character
- b. to symbolize Nick’s indifference to the fact that Tom has a mistress
- c. to combine with other details which show that Mrs. Wilson is a poor housekeeper
- d. to complement the sense of moral laxity and indifference that Nick senses in the people around him.

_____ 2. “It was a rich cream color, bright with nickel, swollen here and there in its monstrous length with triumphant hatboxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes, and terraced with a labyrinth of windshields that mirrored a dozen suns. Sitting down behind many layers of glass in a sort of green leather conservatory, we started to town.” Which of the following best expresses how Fitzgerald’s diction creates our sense of Gatsby’s car?

- a. “Swollen,” “monstrous,” “labyrinth,” and “layers of glass” create a sinister tone, and if the car is a monster.
- b. Details such as “monstrous length,” “labyrinth of windshields,” “many layers of glass,” and “green leather conservatory” emphasize the elaborate, ostentatious, showiness of the car.
- c. That the car is “bright with nickel” and contains “hatboxes,” “supper-boxes,” and “tool-boxes” suggests that its owner is familiar with all walks of life.
- d. Connotative language suggests the car, tasteful and understated, is quietly expensive.

_____ 3. Which of the following does Gatsby get from his association with Dan Cody?

- a. an inheritance of \$25,000
- b. the habit of social drinking
- c. an education in the ways of the wealthy
- d. a long association with Ella Kaye, Cody’s mistress

_____ 4. In the passage “For a while these reveries provided an outlet for his imagination; they were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on a fairy’s wing,” “fairy’s wing” is best explained as

- a. a metaphor for the fragile nature of Gatsby’s dream.
- b. part of the paradoxical explanation of Gatsby’s sense of possibility.
- c. an image that contrasts ironically with the nature of Gatsby’s sense of reality.
- d. an image that shows the insubstantial quality of Gatsby’s ambition.

_____ 5. During lunch at the Buchanans’, (with Daisy, Tom, Jordan, Nick, and Gatsby), Daisy remarks, “You always look so cool.” What is the significance of this remark?

- a. Gatsby for the first time realizes the importance of Daisy’s little girl.
- b. Daisy is commenting on Jordan’s appearance, who sits “like a silver idol” on the couch.
- c. Daisy is remarking on Nick’s ability to stay both “within and without” the plot.
- d. After Daisy says this to Gatsby, Tom realizes that Daisy is involved with Gatsby.

_____ 6. “...Gatsby was overwhelmingly aware of the youth and mystery that wealth imprisons and preserves, of the freshness of many clothes, and of Daisy gleaming like silver, safe and proud above the hot struggles of the poor.” Which of the following thematic statements is true of this passage?

- a. The image of Daisy gleaming like silver connects thematically to Nick’s earlier comment that Gatsby had found himself committed to the following of the grail.
- b. The idea that “wealth imprisons” connects thematically to Daisy’s first comment in the book: “I’m paralyzed with happiness.”
- c. “The hot struggles of the poor” connects thematically to the “rock of the world,” or the reality which Gatsby attempts to deny in her reveries as a teen-ager.
- d. All of the above

II. Gobbets. Try these:

"And I hope she'll be a fool — that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool."

Speaker:

Context:

Significance:

"I wouldn't ask too much of her," I ventured. "You can't repeat the past."
"Can't repeat the past?" he cried incredulously. "Why of course you can!"
He looked around him wildly, as if the past were lurking here in the shadow of his house, just out of reach of his hand.

Who is the "he"?

Discuss the passage's use of personification.

Discuss the passage's use of adverbs in relation to Gatsby.

Discuss the passage's relationship to the novel's last sentence.

They were careless people, Tom and Daisy—they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness, or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made.

What is the context of the passage?

What is the tone of the passage? How does the passage use diction to support tone?

Short essay.

Try this one.

Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities or towns, two houses, or the land and the sea) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. Choose a novel or a play that contrasts two such places. Write an essay explaining how the writer's use of setting in this way contributes to the novel's overall argument.