

FREE PRINTABLE QUIZ

The Great Gatsby

Whole-novel quiz — Chapters 1-9

F. Scott Fitzgerald · 20 questions with a full answer key and explanations

What's inside

- **20 multiple-choice questions**, including passage analysis with the original text printed above it — the way your English class asks it.
- **Answer key** on its own page so you can take the quiz first.
- **Explanations** for every question, so a wrong answer teaches you something.
- Written from LumLysia's study edition of the book — not scraped summaries.

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The quiz

The Great Gatsby — Whole-novel quiz. Answers begin on the answer key page.

PLOT & EVENT

1. What is the immediate consequence of Tom's aggressive confrontation with Gatsby at the Plaza Hotel?

- A. Daisy immediately declares her unwavering love for Gatsby.
- B. Gatsby reveals the full extent of his illegal business dealings.
- C. Daisy becomes emotionally overwhelmed and retreats from Gatsby's demands.
- D. Tom and Gatsby engage in a physical altercation.

PLOT & EVENT

2. George Wilson's discovery of the dog leash leads directly to what realization?

- A. That Myrtle was planning to leave him for Tom Buchanan.
- B. That Myrtle had a secret life and was having an affair.
- C. That Tom Buchanan was responsible for Myrtle's injuries.
- D. That Myrtle had been secretly saving money to buy a new car.

CHARACTER

3. What is Daisy Buchanan's primary motivation for her 'thrilling voice' and dramatic emotional shifts?

- A. To genuinely express her deep feelings to those she cares about.
- B. To manipulate others into leaning closer and paying her more attention.
- C. To mask her profound disillusionment and emotional fragility.
- D. To assert her social dominance over less refined individuals.

CHARACTER

4. Jay Gatsby's persistent use of the phrase 'old sport' primarily serves to:

- A. Demonstrate his genuine affection and camaraderie with Nick and others.
- B. Mimic the speech patterns of the upper-class individuals he aspires to be.
- C. Conceal his nervous restlessness and carefully chosen words.
- D. Establish a sense of familiarity and trust with new acquaintances.

MICRO-DETAIL

5. What color is Gatsby's car, which is described as 'swollen here and there in its monstrous length'?

- A. Blue
- B. Yellow
- C. Green
- D. Cream

MICRO-DETAIL

6. What specific object does Gatsby nervously knock over during his initial reunion with Daisy at Nick's house?

- A. A vase of flowers
- B. A teacup
- C. A mantelpiece clock
- D. A framed photograph

MICRO-DETAIL

7. What are Meyer Wolfsheim's cuff buttons made of?

- A. Gold and diamonds
- B. Human molars
- C. Ivory and pearls
- D. Silver and onyx

MICRO-DETAIL

8. What is the title of the ragged old book young James Gatz used to record his self-improvement schedule?

- A. The Art of War
- B. Poor Richard's Almanack
- C. Hopalong Cassidy
- D. The Rise of the Coloured Empires

MICRO-DETAIL

9. What specific item does Nick wipe from Mr. McKee's cheek while he is asleep at the apartment party?

- A. A smudge of lipstick
- B. A spot of dried lather
- C. A tear stain
- D. A drop of whiskey

ANALYTICAL

10. Nick Carraway's declaration, 'I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known,' is best interpreted as:

- A. A straightforward statement of his moral superiority.
- B. An ironic self-assessment that reveals his own biases and complicity.
- C. A reflection of his Midwestern values contrasting with Eastern decadence.
- D. A genuine belief that he is the only trustworthy character in the novel.

ANALYTICAL

11. The Valley of Ashes primarily functions as a symbol of:

- A. The vibrant industrial progress of the Jazz Age.
- B. The moral decay and social consequences of unchecked materialism.
- C. The natural beauty that exists even in desolate landscapes.
- D. The forgotten history of the American working class.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

He smiled understandingly—much more than understandingly. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you may come across four or five times in life. It faced—or seemed to face—the whole eternal world for an instant, and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favour. It understood you just so far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself, and assured you that it had precisely the impression of you that, at your best, you hoped to convey. Precisely at that point it vanished—and I was looking at an elegant young roughneck, a year or two over thirty, whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd. Some time before he introduced himself I'd got a strong impression that he was picking his words with care.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

12. The phrase 'irresistible prejudice in your favour' primarily suggests Gatsby's ability to:

- A. Manipulate others through flattery and false promises.
- B. Project an idealized image that resonates with others' self-perceptions.
- C. Form genuine, deep connections with people instantly.
- D. Exert social power and influence over his guests.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

13. The shift in Nick's perception from 'eternal reassurance' to 'elegant young roughneck' after Gatsby's smile vanishes indicates:

- A. Nick's growing distrust of Gatsby's true intentions.
- B. The fleeting and carefully constructed nature of Gatsby's persona.
- C. Gatsby's sudden change in mood and demeanor.
- D. Nick's realization of Gatsby's humble origins.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

14. The simile 'whose elaborate formality of speech just missed being absurd' contributes to the characterization of Gatsby by suggesting:

- A. His genuine attempt to be polite and sophisticated.
- B. The artificiality and self-consciousness of his adopted mannerisms.
- C. His natural eloquence and refined education.
- D. His struggle with the English language as a non-native speaker.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

The Valley of Ashes is bounded on one side by a small foul river, and, when the drawbridge is up to let barges through, the passengers on waiting trains can stare at the dismal scene for as long as half an hour. There is always a halt there of at least a minute, and it was because of this that I first met Tom Buchanan's mistress. But above the grey land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic—their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face, but, instead, from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a nonexistent nose. Evidently some wild wag of an oculist set them there to fatten his practice in the borough of Queens, and then sank down himself into eternal blindness, or forgot them and moved away. But his eyes, dimmed a little by many paintless days, under sun and rain, brood on over the solemn dumping ground.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

15. The description of the Valley of Ashes as a 'fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat' employs which literary device?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Simile
- C. Personification
- D. Oxymoron

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

16. The phrase 'brood on over the solemn dumping ground' in reference to Doctor T. J. Eckleburg's eyes creates a tone of:

- A. Hope and optimism
- B. Indifference and detachment
- C. Melancholy and judgment
- D. Humor and absurdity

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

17. The detail that the eyes 'look out of no face' but from 'enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a nonexistent nose' emphasizes the billboard's:

- A. Realistic depiction of human anatomy.
- B. Surreal and disembodied quality.
- C. Function as a commercial advertisement.
- D. Symbolism of divine omnipresence.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms further... And one fine morning— So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

18. The phrase 'the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us' contains an oxymoron because:

- A. The future is inherently unpredictable, not 'orgiastic'.
- B. An 'orgiastic' experience is typically immediate, while 'recedes' implies distance and unattainability.
- C. The future is always advancing, not 'receding'.
- D. It combines a positive adjective with a negative verb.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

19. The final sentence, 'So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past,' functions as:

- A. A literal description of Nick's journey back West.
- B. A metaphor for humanity's futile struggle against the forces of time and destiny.
- C. An optimistic call to action for future generations.
- D. A lament for the loss of Gatsby's specific dream.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

20. The repetition of 'And one fine morning—' followed by the abrupt dash and the next sentence creates a sense of:

- A. Unfulfilled promise and abrupt disillusionment.
- B. Hopeful anticipation for a new beginning.
- C. Narrative suspense and excitement.
- D. The cyclical nature of time and events.

Answer key

Check your answers here, then read the explanations on the next page.

1. C	2. B	3. C	4. B	5. D
6. C	7. B	8. C	9. B	10. B
11. B	12. B	13. B	14. B	15. B
16. C	17. B	18. B	19. B	20. A

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Answers explained

Why the right answer is right — and what the question is really testing.

1. C. Daisy becomes emotionally overwhelmed and retreats from Gatsby's demands.

Tom's brutal honesty and accusations, combined with Gatsby's insistence, push Daisy to a breaking point, causing her to withdraw and admit she loved Tom 'once,' shattering Gatsby's illusion.

2. B. That Myrtle had a secret life and was having an affair.

The dog leash, a seemingly minor detail, confirms Wilson's suspicions that Myrtle had a secret life and another man, fueling his grief and desire for revenge.

3. C. To mask her profound disillusionment and emotional fragility.

Daisy's captivating voice and emotional theatrics serve as a defense mechanism, concealing her inner emptiness and cynicism. This highlights her complex character and the superficiality of her world.

4. B. Mimic the speech patterns of the upper-class individuals he aspires to be.

Gatsby's 'old sport' is a learned affectation, part of his carefully constructed persona to fit into the world he believes Daisy inhabits, rather than a natural expression of his personality.

5. D. Cream

Gatsby's car is a distinctive 'rich cream colour,' bright with nickel, a detail that becomes tragically significant later.

6. C. A mantelpiece clock

Gatsby's extreme nervousness is highlighted when he leans against the mantelpiece and nearly topples a 'defunct mantelpiece clock,' symbolizing his attempt to stop or rewind time.

7. B. Human molars

Wolfsheim's cuff buttons are made of 'finest specimens of human molars,' a grotesque detail that underscores his sinister and predatory nature.

8. C. Hopalong Cassidy

The book is 'Hopalong Cassidy,' a pulp Western novel, which ironically contains the meticulously planned schedule for the self-creation of Jay Gatsby.

9. B. A spot of dried lather

Nick wipes a 'spot of dried lather' from Mr. McKee's cheek, a small, telling detail about McKee's recent grooming and the casual chaos of the party.

10. B. An ironic self-assessment that reveals his own biases and complicity.

While Nick believes himself honest, the narrative often shows his passive complicity and selective judgment, making this statement deeply ironic and revealing of his self-deception.

11. B. The moral decay and social consequences of unchecked materialism.

The Valley of Ashes vividly symbolizes the spiritual and moral desolation, as well as the social inequality, that underlies the glittering facade of the Roaring Twenties' wealth.

12. B. Project an idealized image that resonates with others' self-perceptions.

This phrase highlights Gatsby's unique charm: his capacity to make others feel seen and valued, reflecting their own best selves back to them, which is a key aspect of his allure.

13. B. The fleeting and carefully constructed nature of Gatsby's persona.

This contrast emphasizes the artificiality of Gatsby's charm and the underlying, less refined reality of his character, which Nick perceives once the 'performance' of the smile ends.

14. B. The artificiality and self-consciousness of his adopted mannerisms.

This detail underscores the constructed nature of Gatsby's identity, implying that his polished speech is a deliberate effort, almost overdone, rather than innate.

15. B. Simile

The comparison uses 'like' to draw a parallel between the unnatural growth of ashes and the natural growth of wheat, highlighting the grotesque nature of the industrial wasteland.

16. C. Melancholy and judgment

'Brood' suggests deep, troubled thought, and 'solemn dumping ground' reinforces the sense of a sad, neglected place, implying a watchful, almost divine, but ultimately powerless judgment.

17. B. Surreal and disembodied quality.

This description highlights the billboard's eerie, detached nature, making it feel like a disembodied, all-seeing presence rather than a mere advertisement, contributing to its symbolic weight.

18. B. An 'orgiastic' experience is typically immediate, while 'recedes' implies distance and unattainability.

'Orgiastic' suggests unrestrained, immediate pleasure, while 'recedes' implies a constant, frustrating retreat, creating a powerful contradiction that captures the elusive nature of the American Dream.

19. B. A metaphor for humanity's futile struggle against the forces of time and destiny.

This powerful metaphor extends beyond Gatsby's individual struggle to comment on the universal human condition, suggesting that despite our efforts to move forward, we are constantly pulled back by the past.

20. A. Unfulfilled promise and abrupt disillusionment.

The dash cuts off the hopeful 'one fine morning,' immediately juxtaposing it with the struggle of being 'borne back ceaselessly into the past,' highlighting the ultimate failure to achieve that idealized future.

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