

Name _____

The Great Gatsby Test

DIRECTIONS: PUT ALL ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE PAPER. THIS TEST IS OUT OF 200 POINTS, BUT THERE ARE MORE THAN 200 POINTS POSSIBLE ON THIS TEST. CHOOSE WISELY AND DON'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS EXACTLY.

A. Multiple Choice. 4 pts each

I'd seen it. Everybody had seen it. It was a rich cream color, bright with nickel, swollen here and there in its monstrous length with triumphant hat-boxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes, and terraced with a labyrinth of wind-shields that mirrored a dozen suns. Sitting down behind many layers of glass in a sort of green leather conservatory, we started to town.

1. If you were going to explicate this paragraph, what would be the most powerful word in relationship to the novel's themes?
 - a. Conservatory
 - b. Monstrous
 - c. Suns
 - d. Rich

2. What is the symbolism of "many layers of glass"?
 - a. It represents the automobile production style of the 1920s
 - b. It represents Gatsby's separation from reality
 - c. It represents Gatsby's excessive money
 - d. It represents Nick's position of being on the outside

He took out a pile of shirts and began throwing them, one by one, before us, shirts of sheer linen and thick silk and fine flannel, which lost their folds as they fell and covered the table in many-colored disarray. While we admired he brought more and the soft rich heap mounted higher—shirts with stripes and scrolls and plaids in coral and apple-green and lavender and faint orange, and monograms of Indian blue. Suddenly, with a strained sound, Daisy bent her head into the shirts and began to cry stormily.

3. What effect do the shirts have on Daisy?
 - a. They cause sadness
 - b. They cause anger
 - c. They cause regret
 - d. They cause love

In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."

4. What is the contradiction in Nick's father's advice?

- a. To choose to reserve judgment is to make a judgment.
 - b. To call himself vulnerable is a judgment in itself.
 - c. He wants Nick to treat people equally but still criticize them.
5. At what moment does Nick abandon his father's advice?
- a. When Tom hits Myrtle
 - b. When Jordan lies at the golf tournament
 - c. When Gatsby loses his dream of Daisy
 - d. When Nick meets Gatsby's father

About half way between West Egg and New York the motor road hastily joins the railroad and runs beside it for a quarter of a mile, so as to shrink away from a certain desolate area of land. This is a valley of ashes—a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens; where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and rising smoke and, finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already crumbling through the powdery air. Occasionally a line of gray cars crawls along an invisible track, gives out a ghastly creak, and comes to rest, and immediately the ash-gray men swarm up with leaden spades and stir up an impenetrable cloud, which screens their obscure operations from your sight. But above the gray 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 irises 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.

6. Why does Fitzgerald place the billboard in the valley and not in New York City?
- a. New York symbolizes money, but the valley is the negative effect of it
 - b. That is where the doctor used to have his practice
 - c. The valley symbolizes the large money earned by someone like a doctor
7. Which phrase best represents Fitzgerald's criticisms of society?
- a. Blue and gigantic
 - b. Men who move dimly
 - c. Desolate area of land
 - d. Crumbling through the powdery air
8. Which phrase best represents the sum of Gatsby's life?
- a. Blue and gigantic
 - b. Men who move dimly
 - c. Desolate area of land
 - d. Crumbling through the powdery air

She began to cry—she cried and cried. I rushed out and found her mother's maid, and we locked the door and got her into a cold bath. She wouldn't let go of the letter. She took it into the tub with her and squeezed it up into a wet ball, and only let me leave it in the soap-dish when she saw that it was coming to pieces like snow.

But she didn't say another word. We gave her spirits of ammonia and put ice on her forehead and hooked her back into her dress, and half an hour later, when we walked out of the room, the

pearls were around her neck and the incident was over. Next day at five o'clock she married Tom Buchanan without so much as a shiver, and started off on a three months' trip to the South Seas.

9. Why doesn't the author specifically say who the letter is from?
 - a. To make things more interesting
 - b. Because it makes the reader think
 - c. To strengthen the emotion and suspense of the scene
 - d. Because he trusts the audience to know without necessary words

10. What is the purpose of this passage?
 - a. Drama attracts a bigger audience
 - b. To reveal more of Daisy's character
 - c. To connect the story to the author's life
 - d. To reveal more of Jordan through her interaction with Daisy

11. Daisy's inability to let go of the letter is symbolic of what other character?
 - a. Tom
 - b. Jordan
 - c. Catherine
 - d. Gatsby

The large room was full of people. One of the girls in yellow was playing the piano, and beside her stood a tall, red-haired young lady from a famous chorus, engaged in song. She had drunk a quantity of champagne, and during the course of her song she had decided, ineptly, that everything was very, very sad—she was not only singing, she was weeping too. Whenever there was a pause in the song she filled it with gasping, broken sobs, and then took up the lyric again in a quavering soprano. The tears coursed down her cheeks—not freely, however, for when they came into contact with her heavily beaded eyelashes they assumed an inky color, and pursued the rest of their way in slow black rivulets. A humorous suggestion was made that she sing the notes on her face, whereupon she threw up her hands, sank into a chair, and went off into a deep vinous sleep.

“She had a fight with a man who says he's her husband,” explained a girl at my elbow.

12. What does this passage foreshadow?
 - a. Daisy crying over Gatsby's shirts
 - b. Nick breaking up with his girlfriend
 - c. The story's friendships failing over the course of time
 - d. The story's romances failing over the course of time

13. The description of the bleeding mascara is meant to
 - a. Make the woman seem ridiculous
 - b. Make the woman more sympathetic
 - c. Foreshadow Myrtle's purchase of the dog
 - d. Foreshadow the car accident that ends the party

14. This passage helps to develop which of Gatsby's themes

- a. Appearance and reality
- b. American dream
- c. Myths about the wealthy

“They’re a rotten crowd,” I shouted across the lawn. “You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together.”

15. Who does Nick say this about?
- a. Jordan
 - b. Daisy
 - c. Gatsby
 - d. Tom

B. Short Answer. Be short but VERY specific and persuasive. (10 pts each)

1. Consider the last quote. What elements of modern writing does it have in it?
2. Choose one of the larger passages above. Explain how the passage helps to develop the overall theme of the book.
3. Was Fitzgerald a religious man? Explain/Support.
4. Was Fitzgerald a nihilist? Explain/Support.
5. “This was a forlorn hope—he was almost sure that Wilson had no friend:” What is ironic about this statement?
6. Why is Gatsby so unable to give up the dream of Daisy, despite the obvious evidence against the possibility of them getting together?
7. How are the people in the book “borne ceaselessly back into the past”?
8. What do the seasons in book represent?
9. What was the origin of Gatsby’s idealistic ideas and how did they develop?
10. How is Gatsby a tragic hero?
11. How are Tom and Gatsby similar? What is their biggest difference?
12. What is the biggest corrupting force in the novel?
13. How is this a coming of age story?
14. Is Nick a reliable narrator? Support.
15. What painter or painting does Fitzgerald most remind you of? Explain.

C. Essays. Must have a thesis, at least two COMPLETE body paragraphs, and conclusion. Must be persuasive, fully explained, and use strong support from the book and – when necessary – from history/life. (40 points each)

#1: “There was only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy, and the tired”. Which of the four types best describes the majority of characters in the book?

#2: How is this novel similar to the poem *Dulce et Decorum Est*.