The Great Gatsby

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What line of work brings Nick Carraway east at the start of the novel?
   - A. The bond business
   - B. Newspaper reporting
   - C. Professional baseball
   - D. Theater production

   Correct answer: A. The bond business
   Nick says he went east to learn the bond business.

2. Where do Tom and Daisy Buchanan live in relation to Nick’s rented house?
   - A. In the city beside Nick’s office
   - B. In the same house as Nick in West Egg
   - C. Across the bay in East Egg
   - D. In the valley of ashes

   Correct answer: C. Across the bay in East Egg
   Nick rents his house in West Egg. The Buchanans live across the bay in East Egg.

3. What image looks out over the valley of ashes?
   - A. A banner advertising Gatsby’s parties
   - B. An advertisement showing Doctor T. J. Eckleburg’s eyes
   - C. A photograph of Daisy at a horse show
   - D. A railway clock without hands

   Correct answer: B. An advertisement showing Doctor T. J. Eckleburg’s eyes
   The advertisement for an oculist shows large eyes behind spectacles overlooking the area.

4. What makes Nick’s arrival at Gatsby’s party different from the experience he describes for many other guests?
   - A. Nick arranged the event himself.
   - B. Nick is required to pay admission.
   - C. Nick arrives as the evening’s musician.
   - D. Nick receives a formal invitation.

   Correct answer: D. Nick receives a formal invitation.
   Nick receives a written invitation. He says that many people attend without being invited.

5. What surprises the guest Nick calls Owl Eyes about Gatsby’s library?
   A. The shelves contain nothing but newspapers.
   B. The books are real volumes.
   C. Gatsby has already sold every book.
   D. Each book contains the same story.
   Correct answer: B. The books are real volumes.
   Owl Eyes expects a decorative display and discovers that the shelves hold real books.

6. What does Gatsby tell Nick about Meyer Wolfshiem’s connection to baseball?
   A. Gatsby says Wolfshiem fixed the 1919 World Series.
   B. Gatsby says Wolfshiem managed a college team.
   C. Gatsby says Wolfshiem owns a new ballpark.
   D. Gatsby says Wolfshiem was a sports reporter.
   Correct answer: A. Gatsby says Wolfshiem fixed the 1919 World Series.
   Gatsby identifies Wolfshiem as the man who fixed the series. The claim is reported in dialogue.

7. What arrangement does Jordan ask Nick to make on Gatsby’s behalf?
   A. Bring Wolfshiem to the Buchanans’ home.
   B. Ask Tom to lend Gatsby a car.
   C. Find Gatsby a new office in the city.
   D. Invite Daisy to tea at Nick’s house.
   Correct answer: D. Invite Daisy to tea at Nick’s house.
   Nick is asked to give Gatsby a chance to meet Daisy again at Nick’s house.

8. Which detail best shows Gatsby’s awkwardness early in the reunion at Nick’s house?
   A. He gives a confident speech to a crowd.
   B. He leads the guests in a dance.
   C. He nearly knocks a clock off the mantel.
   D. He asks Daisy to leave before she sits down.
   Correct answer: C. He nearly knocks a clock off the mantel.
   Gatsby leans against the mantel and catches the clock when it starts to fall.

9. Which display at Gatsby’s house prompts Daisy to cry?
   A. His collection of shirts
   B. His photograph album of Nick
   C. A framed newspaper story about Tom
   D. His collection of watches
   Correct answer: A. His collection of shirts
   Gatsby brings out piles of shirts. Daisy starts crying while looking through them.

10. What name did Gatsby have before he called himself Jay Gatsby?

A. Chester McKee
B. Henry Gatz
C. Dan Cody
D. James Gatz

Correct answer: D. James Gatz
The chapter reveals his original name, James Gatz, as part of the account of his self-reinvention.

11. How does Gatsby respond when Nick doubts that someone can repeat the past?

A. Gatsby agrees and plans to move west that day.
B. Gatsby says he has forgotten his past entirely.
C. Gatsby insists that repeating it is possible.
D. Gatsby says the past matters only to Nick.

Correct answer: C. Gatsby insists that repeating it is possible.
Gatsby rejects Nick’s doubt because he still imagines recovering his earlier relationship with Daisy.

12. What does Gatsby want Daisy to say to Tom in the hotel confrontation?

A. That she never met Gatsby
B. That she never loved Tom
C. That Nick should remain in New York
D. That Jordan arranged the lunch

Correct answer: B. That she never loved Tom
Gatsby asks Daisy to deny ever loving Tom. She says she cannot erase that part of her life.

13. What does Nick suddenly remember about himself during the day of the hotel argument?

A. He is due to leave for the Midwest that morning.
B. It is his first day at his job.
C. He has promised to return to school.
D. It is his thirtieth birthday.

Correct answer: D. It is his thirtieth birthday.
Nick remembers that he has turned thirty, placing his own unease about time alongside the confrontation.

14. Which detail leaves Gatsby’s hope for further contact unresolved at the end of Chapter 8?

A. The expected telephone message never arrives.
B. Daisy reads a letter aloud to Gatsby.
C. Tom gives Gatsby a railway ticket.
D. Nick announces that Daisy is waiting outside.

Correct answer: A. The expected telephone message never arrives.
The butler waits for a telephone message, but the call never comes.

15. Which contrast does the novel establish between Gatsby’s parties and his funeral?

A. His closest friends are present at every event.

B. His parties are private, while his funeral fills the mansion.

C. His parties draw crowds, while very few people attend the funeral.

D. Nick leaves the region before either event takes place.

Correct answer: C. His parties draw crowds, while very few people attend the funeral.

Nick’s unsuccessful efforts to find mourners contrast with the crowds who came to Gatsby’s parties.