

Great Gatsby

Questions and Marking Schemes

Question:

Question(a) Describe what happens when Nick Carraway first visits Tom and Daisy Buchanan at their home.

Marking Scheme:

Possible approaches: Nick drives to East Egg to dinner with Daisy and Tom Buchanan – Daisy and Nick are happy to be re-united – he meets her daughter and a guest, Miss Baker – Tom receives a 'phone call which upsets Daisy – Nick learns that Tom has a mistress in New York etc.

Support your answer with reference to the novel.

Question (b) In your opinion, do Tom and Daisy Buchanan have a happy marriage? Support your answer with reference to the novel.

Marking Scheme:

Possible approaches: Yes – they have a daughter; they are still together; they are willing to be seen together in public, etc. No – Tom has a mistress; Daisy has feelings for Gatsby: Daisy stays with Tom for status not love, etc.

Support your answer with reference to the novel.

Question:

Readers of The Great Gatsby are greatly influenced by the narrator, Nick Carraway." Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text."

Candidates are free to agree and/or disagree with this statement, but they should focus on the extent

to which they are influenced by the narrator, Nick Carraway.

Possible points from marking scheme:

- Nick's measured judgements frame Gatsby's complex character for the reader*
- he guides readers to a moral evaluation of 1920s America*
- his influence is questionable because we become aware of his subjectivity*
- Nick's own ethical crises increasingly engage the readers*
- convincing narrative voice controls the reader's perspective*
- the image of Gatsby is affected by Nick's hypothesizing, speculating, imagining*

Question:

Question: "Readers often find aspects of The Great Gatsby attractive but ultimately the world of the novel is not admirable." Discuss this view, supporting your answer with suitable reference to the text.

Candidates are free to agree and/or disagree with this view, but they should focus on more than one aspect of the novel that they find attractive/unattractive and whether they find/do not find the world of the novel admirable (though not necessarily equally).

Possible points from marking scheme:

- *Jay Gatsby's story represents the ultimate romantic/delusional dream*
- *initial glowing images/symbols are gradually modulated*
- *readers become aware of the moral wasteland beneath the attractive veneer*
- *sympathetic characters counterbalance the biting social satire*
- *Gatsby's enigmatic character is attractive/shallow*
- *tensions between the utopian and materialistic versions of the American Dream*