

The examination and assessment objectives

The Examination

You can choose to write about Gatsby

You will have one hour to write about the book.

The question is worth 21 marks.

You can take your copy of the text into the examination.

There are four assessment objectives that you will be assessed against on Unit 1, your teacher will have explained these to you at the beginning of the course.

→ In the space below write out the assessment objectives and then re-word them to show your understanding of what they are assessing.

AO	What does it assess?	Re-worded version

Types of question

Types of Question

The question that you are asked will always follow the same format.

The first part of the question will ask you to look at the techniques Fitzgerald uses to tell the story in *The Great Gatsby*.

The second part of the question will ask you to discuss a 'given view' about the text.

➔ Look at the example question below from January 2009:

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald

- (a) Write about some of the ways that Fitzgerald tells the story in Chapter 5.
- (b) What do you think of the view that obsession with money and the consumer culture of the 1920s dominates human thinking and behaviour in *The Great Gatsby*.

➔ Look back at the assessment objectives for this unit; in the table below, identify which parts of the question above address which AO.

Question Part A		Question Part B	
Which AO	Why?	Which AO?	Why?

Planning your response to the question

Planning an Exam Response – The Timeline Approach

One very logical way to plan an exam response is to use the Timeline approach. This allows you to think about precisely where in the essay each point will be made, with specific reference to key details you will use and explanations you will give. It is an effective visual way that you can check that you have included everything necessary in your answer. You simply use the timeline to sequence the structure of your essay in the same way would use a timeline to record a sequence of events in history.

Plan:

INTRODUCTION	
	BODY PARAGRAPH 1
BODY PARAGRAPH 2	
	BODY PARAGRAPH 3
BODY PARAGRAPH 4	
	CONCLUSION

Practice questions

Designing Your Own Questions

One highly useful way to revise your knowledge of the novel is to actually design exam style questions for yourself. This is effective because it is a measurable way to ensure that you have secured the knowledge of the text necessary to perform in the examination.

Before you design your own questions you should:

- look at the format of the question from January 2009;
- try to select some key areas of the novel to pose a question for;
- phrase your questions as they would appear in an exam.

My Questions

In the spaces below write the questions that you have constructed:

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Practice questions

- For each of the questions that you have created, complete a plan using the timeline approach.

Plan:


INTRODUCTION	BODY PARAGRAPH 1
BODY PARAGRAPH 2	BODY PARAGRAPH 3
BODY PARAGRAPH 4	CONCLUSION

Practice questions

→ For each of the questions that you have created, complete a plan using the timeline approach.

Plan:

INTRODUCTION	BODY PARAGRAPH 1
BODY PARAGRAPH 2	BODY PARAGRAPH 3
BODY PARAGRAPH 4	CONCLUSION




Practice questions

- For each of the questions that you have created, complete a plan using the timeline approach.

Plan:

INTRODUCTION	BODY PARAGRAPH 1
BODY PARAGRAPH 2	BODY PARAGRAPH 3
BODY PARAGRAPH 4	CONCLUSION



Looking at model paragraphs

- Look at the passage below and annotate it to show where the student meets the specific Assessment Objectives for this examination.

Jay Gatsby is a myth both in his own and the reader's mind: our perception of him is complicated by our relationship with the narrator, Nick. Fitzgerald has elected not just to use a first person narrator, but also locate him as one of the central conduits through which our understanding of the protagonist is judged. In turn, we are not just configuring the world of the novel through the narrator, we are also constructing our perception of him.

The opening passages of Chapter 1 identify contradictions and paradoxes throughout Nick's point of view. On the one hand, Nick describes his heightened understanding of the 'decencies' that determine societies most evolved members, while at the same time claiming to be tolerant of others. This is problematic on a number of levels: predominantly because it leads us to question the narrator's reliability both in terms of our perception of the narrative world but, most crucially, of Gatsby too.

Furthermore, this identifies for us a critical difference in setting: Nick's moral ambiguity is reflected in the locations that he visits: his reactions to New York are a distaste and distrust of its moral ambiguity and so he returns to the Mid-West. Yet, equally, he is also highly reverent of Gatsby who is the ultimate embodiment of New York values.

In turn, not only are we presented with characters who are themselves morally conflicted, but also a society at odds with itself and what it believes. This is symptomatic of the context from which the novel arises. Fitzgerald's America is one in conflict with its abstract moral past – as embodied by its enshrining of the values set down in the Declaration of Independence – and the new-found, all-encompassing consumerism of the 1920s.

The temptations provided by increased wealth and opportunity come to overwhelm the characters' moral consciousness and lead them toward the novel's tragic and morally ambiguous conclusion.

In the spaces below, identify where the student meets each of the AOs.

A01:

A02:

A03:

A04:
