

**Université du Sud Toulon-Var**  
**Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines**  
**LLCE Anglais 1<sup>ère</sup> année ; Littérature U.S Semestre 2 (Cours de Mme Sibley)**  
**1<sup>ère</sup> session : mai 2010**

Documents autorisés : aucun  
A noter : les brouillons ne seront pas corrigés.

**Questionnaire on *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Remember, you should only answer these questions if you do the commentary/dissertation on *Great Expectations*.

**Section A: SHORT ANSWERS: Write one or two sentences in answer to each question (8 points in total)**

- 1) Give one reason why Nick Carraway moved to the East Coast in 1922. (2 points)
- 2) What was Gatsby doing the very first time Nick saw him? (1pt)
- 3) Where did the Buchanans live during the summer of 1922? (1pt)
- 4) Which character's first name and surname recall the names of two types of car? (1pt)
- 5) Where and how did Myrtle Wilson die? (2 pts)
- 6) Who is Meyer Wolfshiem? (1pt)

**Section B: MORE DETAILED ANSWERS. Write three or four sentences in response to each question, no more than 25 lines in total for this section. (12 points in total).**

- 7) What was Gatsby's original name and when did he decide to change it? (2 pts)
- 8) Briefly describe the advertising billboard<sup>1</sup> located in the 'valley of ashes'. (2 points)
- 9) What does 'the valley of ashes' refer to literally in the novel? What symbolic meaning could be attributed to it? (4 points)
- 10) Suggest what symbolic meaning(s) could be attributed to the green light in the novel. (4 points)

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<sup>1</sup> Advertising billboard : un panneau publicitaire

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**Sujet de Dissertation/Commentaire: *The Great Gatsby***

**Choose ONE of the following questions:**

- **Write a literary commentary on the extract from F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* printed on the next page.**

**OR**

- **Write an essay on the following subject :**

**Illusions and Reality in *The Great Gatsby*.**

line 1

I COULDN'T sleep all night; a fog-horn was groaning incessantly on the Sound, and I tossed half-sick between grotesque reality and savage, frightening dreams. Toward dawn I heard a taxi go up Gatsby's drive, and immediately I jumped out of bed and began to dress - I felt that I had something to tell him, something to warn him about, and morning would be too late.

Crossing his lawn, I saw that his front door was still open and he was leaning against a table in the hall, heavy with dejection or sleep.

10 'Nothing happened,' he said wanly. 'I waited, and about four o'clock she came to the window and stood there for a minute and then turned out the light.'

His house had never seemed so enormous to me as it did that night when we hunted through the great rooms for cigarettes.

15 We pushed aside curtains that were like pavilions, and felt over innumerable feet of dark wall for electric light switches - once I tumbled with a sort of splash upon the keys of a ghostly piano. There was an inexplicable amount of dust everywhere, and the rooms were musty, as though they hadn't been aired for many days. I found the humidior on an unfamiliar table, with two stale, dry cigarettes inside. Throwing open the french windows of the drawing-room, we sat smoking out into the darkness.

25 'You ought to go away,' I said. 'It's pretty certain they'll trace your car.'

'Go away now, old sport?'

'Go to Atlantic City for a week, or up to Montreal.'

30 He wouldn't consider it. He couldn't possibly leave Daisy until he knew what she was going to do. He was clutching at some last hope and I couldn't bear to shake him free.

It was this night that he told me the strange story of his youth with Dan Cody - told it to me because 'Jay Gatsby' had broken up like glass against Tom's hard malice, and the long secret extravaganza was played out. I think that he would have acknowledged anything now, without reserve, but he wanted to talk about Daisy.

40 She was the first 'nice' girl he had ever known. In various unrevealed capacities he had come in contact with such people, but always with indiscernible barbed wire between.

He found her excitingly desirable. He went to her house, at first with other officers from Camp Taylor, then alone. It amazed him - he had never been in such a beautiful house before. But what gave it an air of breathless intensity, was that Daisy lived there - it was as casual a thing to her as his tent out at camp was to him. There was a ripe mystery about it,

45 a hint of bedrooms upstairs more beautiful and cool than other bedrooms, of gay and radiant activities taking place through its corridors, and of romances that were not musty and laid away already in lavender but fresh and breathing and redolent of this year's shining motor-cars and of dances whose flowers were scarcely withered. It excited him, too, that many men had already loved Daisy - it increased her value in his eyes.

50 He felt their presence all about the house, pervading the air with the shades and echoes of still vibrant emotions.