Shenley Brook End Sixth Form

Summer Transition Tasks

Subject:

English Literature

Due date:

Monday 7 September 2026

Complete all the assessment tasks and be ready to complete the in-class assessments in your first 3 weeks of term!

Remember – this summer task and knowledge tests will be reported on in your First Progress Report on 6 October 2026

Summer Transition Task:

English Literature AQA-

Student Booklet KS5

Skills- Reading, interpreting, research and independence. To understand plot and character.

Task- Read *The Great Gatsby* (5 hour 30 mins) and complete the attached question booklet (5 hours min). You will be tested on questions from the booklet in the first three weeks. (Please download the booklet and record your answers in the booklet) to be completed 7/09/26)

Week 1- Quiz (20 questions from this booklet)

Week 2- Quiz (20 questions from this booklet)

Week 3- Baseline essay (in class out of 25)

Contents:

I. Context Quiz- Compulsory (completed before the start of course 07/09/2026)

II. Multiple Choice Quizzes- Compulsory

III. Linguistic and Structural Devices Quiz- Compulsory

IV. Short Answer Questions- Compulsory

V. Wider Reading- Essential

VI. Critical Theory- Recommended

VII. Academic Research- Recommended

VIII. Exam Style Essays- Compulsory

i. Context Quiz

Answer the questions that explore the context of the play. You will need to draw on your contextual knowledge and wider reading to support you in completing this.

1. In which era was *The Great Gatsby* written and written about?

2. What was the Jazz Age and what made it different from other eras in American history?

3. Why did underworld activity thrive during the Jazz Age?

4. What is Prohibition?

5. What was the Black Sox fix of 1919?

6. How is World War 1 relevant to the novel?

7. Are aspects of *The Great Gatsby* semi-autobiographical?

8. What was New York, the main setting for the novel, like in the 1920?

9. How are the changes to technology relevant to the novel?

ii. Multiple Choice Questions

Answer these questions. Each set of 10 questions is based on a scene of the play. You could choose to do a set each session or alternatively you could answer multiple quizzes at a time.

Chapter 1

1. Who is the narrator of the novel?
   a. Jay Gatsby
   b. Daisy Buchanan
   c. Nick Carraway
   d. Myrtle Wilson

2. What is the year in the opening chapter?
   a. 1919
   b. 1920
   c. 1921
   d. 1922

3. Where does Nick Live?
   a. East Egg
   b. West Egg
   c. Minnesota
   d. Kentucky

4. Who is Nick's cousin?
   a. Daisy Buchanan
   b. Tom Buchanan
   c. Jordan Baker
   d. Jay Gatsby

5. Who does Nick see when he returns home from dinner at the end of the Chapter?
   a. A ghost
   b. Jordan Baker
   c. His mother
   d. Jay Gatsby

Chapter 2

1. What is the name of the valley between West Egg and New York City?
   a. The Valley of Death
   b. The Valley of Sin
   c. The Valley of Ashes
   d. The Valley of Rubbish

2. Who is in the poster that overlooks the valley?
   a. T J Eckleburg
   b. Jay Gatsby
   c. Uncle Sam
   d. Mayor Wolfsheim

3. Who is Tom's lover?
   a. Daisy Buchanan
   b. Myrtle Wilson
   c. Jordan Baker
   d. Nick Carraway

4. Where is Tom's New York apartment?
   a. Eveningside Heights
   b. Morningside Heights
   c. Southside Heights
   d. Northside Heights

5. What gift does Tom give to Myrtle?
   a. A kitten
   b. Some lingerie
   c. Some cosmetics
   d. A puppy

Chapter 3

1. What is Gatsby famous for?
   a. His alcoholism
   b. The money he donates to charity
   c. His collection of cars
   d. His lavish parties

2. Who does Nick run into at the party?
   a. An old friend from school
   b. His boss
   c. Jordan Baker
   d. Meyer Wolfsheim

3. What does Nick call the man they find in the library?
   a. Puppy Eyes
   b. Owl Eyes
   c. Monkey Eyes
   d. Shark Eyes

4. Where does Gatsby say he recognises Nick from?
   a. The War
   b. The City
   c. The Club
   d. The old days

5. How does Nick describe Jordan?
   a. Beautiful
   b. Sporty
   c. Dishonest
   d. Careless

Chapter 4

1. What kind of people had Gatsby invited to his party?
   a. Wealthy and powerful
   b. Kind and deserving
   c. Poor and needy
   d. Criminal and selfish

2. Which Midwestern city does Gatsby tell Nick he is from?
   a. Omaha
   b. Chicago
   c. San Francisco
   d. Milwaukee

3. Why is Gatsby pulled over by the police?
   a. Drink driving
   b. Carrying drugs
   c. Speeding
   d. Dangerous driving

4. Who does Gatsby introduce Nick to at lunch?
   a. Babe Ruth
   b. Meyer Wolfsheim
   c. The President of the golf club
   d. An old girlfriend

5. What does Jordan reveal to Gatsby at the end of the chapter?
   a. That Gatsby is a criminal
   b. That Gatsby is insane
   c. That Gatsby is in love with her
   d. That Gatsby is in love with Daisy

Chapter 5

1. What does Gatsby want Nick to do for him?
   a. Throw a party
   b. Lend him some money
   c. Invite Daisy over for tea
   d. Cut his grass

2. What happens on the day of the meeting?
   a. Daisy cancels
   b. Gatsby backs out
   c. It rains torrentially
   d. There is a snow storm

3. What item does Gatsby knock off Nick's mantelpiece?
   a. A statue
   b. A clock
   c. A vase
   d. A family heirloom

4. What causes Daisy to cry when Gatsby shows her around his house?
   a. An old picture
   b. A painting
   c. Gatsby's books
   d. Gatsby's collection of English shirts

5. What song does Klipspringer play on the piano?
   a. Ain't we got fun
   b. Ain't we got class
   c. Ain't we got love
   d. Ain't we got hope

Chapter 6

1. What is Gatsby's real name?
   a. James Gatz
   b. Gatz Smith
   c. Great James
   d. Jay Gatsby

2. What is the name of the wealthy copper mogul who employed Gatsby as a young man?
   a. Brian Cody
   b. Dan Brown
   c. Dan Cody
   d. Cody Smith

3. How much money did Cody leave to Gatsby in inheritance?
   a. $2500
   b. $25000
   c. $250000
   d. Nothing because his mistress would not allow Gatsby to take it

4. In what way does Tom say Gatsby has created his fortune?
   a. Owning a chain of drugstores
   b. Bootlegging
   c. Illegal gambling
   d. As a gangster

5. What advice does Nick attempt to give to Gatsby?
   a. To stop pursuing Daisy
   b. That Tom is onto him
   c. That he can't re-create the past
   d. That he should stop being involved in illegal activities

Chapter 7

1. Why does Gatsby dismiss his servants?
   a. They stole from him
   b. He could no longer afford them
   c. To prevent gossip
   d. To impress Daisy

2. Who does Gatsby meet, to his surprise, at Daisy and Tom's party?
   a. Daisy's mother
   b. Daisy's sister
   c. Daisy's aunt
   d. Daisy's daughter

3. Where does Tom suggest the group should go due to the heat?
   a. The pool
   b. The Plaza hotel
   c. The cinema
   d. Central Park

4. What do Nick, Tom and Jordan discover when they stop for gas?
   a. Wilson is aware of Myrtle's affair
   b. Daisy and Gatsby are having an affair
   c. Jordan is in love with Tom
   d. Gatsby is a liar

5. What happens on the way back to Long Island?
   a. Daisy and Gatsby decide to run away together
   b. Tom decides to leave Daisy and live with Myrtle
   c. Daisy kills Myrtle in a hit and run
   d. Gatsby's car breaks down

Chapter 8

1. What reasons does Gatsby give for Daisy's decision to marry Tom?
   a. She thought Gatsby had died in the war
   b. She didn't think Gatsby would wait for her
   c. Tom had better social standing and was more acceptable to her parents
   d. Deep down, she only ever truly loved Tom

2. Why does Gatsby want the gardener to wait to drain the pool?
   a. He has never used it and wants to take a swim
   b. He plans on drowning himself
   c. He is planning to throw a party that evening
   d. He likes the way the moon reflects on it

3. What does Nick tell Gatsby before leaving him?
   a. Daisy never loved him
   b. Gatsby is a much better person than Daisy
   c. He wishes he'd stayed in Minneapolis
   d. Gatsby will always be his friend

4. Why does Wilson think that Myrtle was killed by her secret lover?
   a. Tom tells him
   b. Myrtle told him in her dying moments
   c. T J Eckleburg tells him
   d. It comes to him in a dream

5. Who kills Gatsby?
   a. Meyer Wolfsheim
   b. Tom Buchanan
   c. Daisy Buchanan
   d. George Wilson

Chapter 9

1. Who does Nick meet before Gatsby's funeral?
   a. His mother
   b. His father
   c. His son
   d. His estranged wife

2. Which statement best summarises the way Tom feels about Gatsby's death?
   a. He feels responsible
   b. He thinks is was unfortunate but inevitable
   c. He thinks Gatsby deserved it
   d. He wishes he could have taken Gatsby's place

3. What is Nick's final summary about the Buchanans?
   a. They are spoiled and destructive
   b. Deep down they are good people
   c. He pities them because they lead empty lives
   d. He envies their wealth

4. How does Jordan react to Nick ending their relationship?
   a. She is very upset
   b. She is indifferent
   c. She punches him
   d. She claims to have another lover anyway

5. What does Nick consider the East of America to be?
   a. The birthplace of the American Dream
   b. Grotesque
   c. Overrated
   d. Glamorous

iii. Linguistic and Structural Devices Quiz

Device	Examples from the text	Effect
Metaphor		
Motifs		
Symbols		
Allusion		
Dramatic irony		
Satire		
Rhetorical devices		
Irony		
First person narration		
Cinematic technique		
Narrative pace		

iv. Short Answer Questions

Answer the questions with short responses from the text.

1. Why are we still reading a book written in the 1920's? What gives a book its longevity?
2. How was the 1920's a reaction to World War I?
3. Some people think that having money leads to happiness. Do you agree? Why or why not? What are the advantages or disadvantages of being wealthy?
4. What is the "American Dream"? Where did it originate, and how has it changed over the centuries?
5. Have you ever wanted to relive a moment from your past, to redo it? Describe the situation. How and why would you change the past?
6. Notice how many times Fitzgerald uses the words hope, or dream, in Chapter 1. Why does he do this?
7. Nick starts the novel by relaying his father's advice: "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had." List Nick's advantages. Does he reserve judgement in the novel?
8. Pay attention to time. What is the day and year during the first scene at Daisy's house?
9. Describe the way Fitzgerald presents Nick in Chapter 1. What facts do you know about him, and what do you infer about him? What kind of a narrator do you think he will be?
10. What image does Fitzgerald use to describe Jordan Baker in Chapter 1? What does it mean?
11. How does Nick react to Jordan in Chapter 1?
12. What does Tom's behaviour in Chapter 1 reveal about his character?
13. The ‘valley of ashes’ is introduced in Chapter 2. What does it look like and what does it represent?
14. How does Fitzgerald describe Mr. Wilson and Myrtle in Chapter 2? Do they seem to fit into the setting?

15. What more have you learned about Nick in Chapter 2? Is he similar or different from the people he spends his time with?

16. What was the violent act Tom committed against Myrtle in Chapter 2? What does this reveal about him?

17. Pay attention to Nick's judgements in Chapter 3. What do they reveal about his character (especially in relation to his opening comments)?

18. Describe Gatsby the first time Nick sees him in Chapter 3.

19. What rumours have been told about Gatsby? Why does Fitzgerald reveal rumours rather than fact?

20. What does Nick think of Gatsby after meeting him in Chapter 3? Why do you think Fitzgerald waited this long (a third of the novel) for the meeting to take place?

21. How is Gatsby different from his guests?

22. Why does Nick choose to share his thoughts and feelings with Jordan in Chapter 3?

23. Nick thinks he's one of the few honest people he knows, why? Do you think he is honest?

24. List all of the rumours that we learn about Gatsby up to and in Chapter 4.

25. Why does Fitzgerald list all of Gatsby's party guests?

26. Why does Gatsby tell Nick about his life in Chapter 4? Do you believe Gatsby? Does Nick?

27. What role does Meyer Wolfsheim play in the novel? Why is there so much focus on his nose in the description of him in Chapter 4 and what does this tell you about Fitzgerald's politics?

28. What does Jordan's story of Daisy's marriage in Chapter 4 reveal about Daisy?

29. Why did Gatsby want Daisy to see his house in Chapter 4?

30. In Chapter 4 Nick says, "There are only the pursued, the pursuing, the busy and the tired." What does Nick mean? How does each character in the novel fit into this schema?

31. In Chapter 5 why does Gatsby deliver so many goods and services to Nick's house?

32. In Chapter 5 we see a downpour. Describe the effect of rain on the plot.

33. Why does Gatsby offer Nick work in Chapter 5? How does Nick feel about this?

34. Explain the significance of the green light.

35. Why does Gatsby get so many phone calls? What does this say about him?

36. How truthful was Gatsby when he relayed the story of his life to Nick in Chapter 6? Why does Fitzgerald tell the story of Jay Gatz now?

37. Describe the meeting of Tom and Gatsby in Chapter 6. What does this meeting reveal about them?

38. Why did Daisy and Tom find Gatsby's party loathsome?

39. How did Gatsby measure the success of his party?

40. In Chapter 6 Nick told Gatsby that "you can't repeat the past", and Gatsby replied, "Why of course you can!" Do you agree with Nick or Gatsby?

41. Who is Trimachio? Explain how this describes Gatsby.

42. Describe Daisy and Gatsby's new relationship developed in Chapter 7.

43. Compare George Wilson and Tom in Chapter 7. What did each man learn about his wife and how did they each react?

44. If Daisy says she's never loved Tom, is there someone whom she thinks she loves?

45. Describe the fight between Gatsby and Tom in Chapter 7. What do these men think of each other? How are they similar and how are they different?

46. What was significant about Nick's 30th birthday?

47. What do you think Tom and Daisy were saying to each other in the kitchen in Chapter 7? Do you think that Tom knew Daisy was driving the "death car"? Why; why not?

48. How does Fitzgerald achieve a melancholic mood in the beginning of Chapter 8?

49. How are seasons used in constructing this novel?

50. Who is Dan Cody, introduced in Chapter 8, and what is his significance in Gatsby's life?

51. How does Nick's statement, from Chapter 8, "You're worth the whole bunch put together", show a change in Nick from the beginning of the novel?

52. How does T J Eckleburg affect Mr. Wilson in Chapter 8?

53. Why did Nick take care of Gatsby's funeral in Chapter 9?

54. How was Jay Gatz's childhood schedule consistent with the adult Gatsby's behaviour?

55. Who attended Gatsby's funeral in Chapter 9? How and why is this significant?

56. What is the purpose of Nick's last meeting with Jordan in Chapter 9?

57. Why does Nick call Tom and Daisy "careless people" in Chapter 9?

58. Does this novel have villains and heroes? Why; why not? If yes, who fits into these categories and why?

59. Nick is both part of the action and acting as an objective commentator. Does this narration style work? Why; why not?

60. How did Fitzgerald use weather to reflect the mood of the story?

61. Why are we still reading a book written in the 1920's? What gives a book its longevity? And which of its themes are eternal in the American psyche?

v. Wider Reading

Read and summarise the academic articles below into 10 key points.

1. http://www.literary-articles.com/2009/06/fall-down-of-american-dream-in-great.html
   http://ijll-net.com/journals/ijll/Vol_2_No_1_March_2014/5.pdf
   - What is the American Dream?
   - How is the American Dream integral to the plot of *The Great Gatsby*?

2. https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/what-the-great-gatsby-got-right-about-the-jazz-age-57645443/
   - What were the key characteristics of the Jazz Age?
   - How has Fitzgerald explored these characteristics in his novel?

3. http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.1026.7731&rep=rep1&type=pdf
   - What is the role of women in *The Great Gatsby*?
   - How does Fitzgerald present the female characters as products of their time?

vi. Critical Theory

1. https://www.cusd80.com/cms/lib/AZ01001175/Centricity/Domain/8219/Marxist%20Crit%20-%20Gatsby.pdf
   - What is Marxism?
   - How can a Marxist view be applied to *The Great Gatsby*?
   - Complete a character study of Tom, Nick, Daisy, Jordan, Myrtle and Gatsby in light of what you have learnt about Marxism. In which ways can a Marxist view be applied to these characters? How do they differ?

2. Psychoanalytical approach to Gatsby https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1377847/FULLTEXT01.pdf
   - What are the Id, Ego and Super Ego?
   - How can Freud's theory about the unconscious mind be applied to *The Great Gatsby*?
   - How do the women in the novel display an inferiority complex/
   - How does Nick act as Gatsby's Super Ego?

3. Feminist approach to Gatsby p.72 101: https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/The_Resisting_Reader/4pGhgzPbQzcC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=great+gatsby+feminist+lens&printsec=frontcover
   - Why do you think Fitzgerald wrote 'Women do not like it. They do not like to be emotionally passive'? How can this theory be applied to the text?
   - How would a feminist reader respond to the female characters in the novel?

Further reading-

Joe Pellegrino - Teaching (The Enlightenment, The romantic period, The Victorian period, Modernism)

A-level-English-Literature-B-7717-Critical-Anthology.pdf (This is useful from a different

vii. Academic Research

1. http://www.people.vcu.edu/~bmangum/fitzguide.htm
2. http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2000/12/21/fitzgeralds-radiant-world/
3. https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/may/03/what-makes-great-gatsby
4. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/achenblog/wp/2015/03/20/why-the-great-gatsby-is-the-great-american-novel/?utm_term=.e6a7dce9b8d8
5. http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/10862625/The-Great-Gatsby-delusion.html
6. http://anthropoetics.ucla.edu/ap2101/2101grande/
7. http://time.com/3765539/1925-review-great-gatsby/
8. http://www.people.vcu.edu/~bmangum/gatsby.htm
9. http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_1_No_17_Special_Issue_November_2011/28.pdf

viii. Exam Style Essays

1. *The Great Gatsby* has been labelled a 'rags to riches story'. How far do you agree with this statement? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

2. How far could *The Great Gatsby* be described as a modern tragedy? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

3. 'In *The Great Gatsby* the lower classes are presented as worthless and unsophisticated'. How far do you agree with this statement? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

4. Nick Carraway says, 'They were careless people, Tom and Daisy - they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together.' In the light of Nick's comment, explore the role and significance of Tom and Daisy in the novel. Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

5. 'In *The Great Gatsby*, no one is happy but everyone dreams of happiness.' How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of the novel? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context

6. Explore the importance of time and the past in *The Great Gatsby*. Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context

7. 'All the major characters are victims of the society in which the novel is set.' How far and in what ways do you agree with this view of *The Great Gatsby*? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

8. 'A brave new world grown old and tarnished.' Discuss the settings of *The Great Gatsby* in the light of this comment. Remember to discuss Fitzgerald's use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

9. ‘There are no women in the novel with which the reader can sympathise.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald’s use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context.

10. ‘Gatsby’s world is corrupt but ultimately glamorous.’ How do you respond to this view of the novel? Remember to discuss Fitzgerald’s use of language, form and structure in your response as well as commenting on context