



11+ Comprehension Summary Test Paper 1

Instructions:

1. The total time allowed is 40 minutes.
 - a) 10 minutes for reading
 - b) 30 minutes for answering the questions
2. There is a total of 35 marks available.
3. The available marks for each question are mentioned next to the question.
4. Write your answers in the space provided below each question.
5. For multiple-choice questions, write the correct option(s) from A to E in the box provided with the question.

Symbols used:



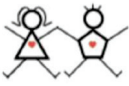
Go to the next page.



Do not turn the page until told to do so.



Stop working and await instructions.



Nick, the narrator, describes the surrounding landscape as he travels to New York with his friend, Tom.

1 About half way between West Egg and New York the motor-road hastily joins the railroad
2 and runs beside it for a quarter of a mile, so as to shrink away from a certain desolate area
3 of land. This is a valley of ashes—a fantastic farm where ashes grow like wheat into ridges
4 and hills and grotesque gardens where ashes take the forms of houses and chimneys and
5 rising smoke and finally, with a transcendent effort, of men who move dimly and already
6 crumbling through the powdery air. Occasionally a line of grey cars crawls along an
7 invisible track, gives out a ghastly creak and comes to rest, and immediately the ash-grey
8 men swarm up with leaden spades and stir up an impenetrable cloud which screens their
9 obscure operations from your sight.

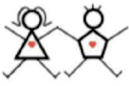
10 But above the grey land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you
11 perceive, after a moment, the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg
12 are blue and gigantic—their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face but,
13 instead, from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a nonexistent nose.
14 Evidently some wild wag of an oculist set them there to fatten his practice in the borough
15 of Queens, and then sank down himself into eternal blindness or forgot them and moved
16 away. But his eyes, dimmed a little by many paintless days under sun and rain, brood on
17 over the solemn dumping ground.

18 The valley of ashes is bounded on one side by a small foul river, and when the drawbridge
19 is up to let barges through, the passengers on waiting trains can stare at the dismal scene
20 for as long as half an hour. There is always a halt there of at least a minute and it was
21 because of this that I first met Tom Buchanan's mistress.

22 The fact that he had one was insisted upon wherever he was known. His acquaintances
23 resented the fact that he turned up in popular restaurants with her and, leaving her at a
24 table, sauntered about, chatting with whomsoever he knew. Though I was curious to see
25 her I had no desire to meet her—but I did. I went up to New York with Tom on the train
26 one afternoon and when we stopped by the ashheaps he jumped to his feet and taking
27 hold of my elbow literally forced me from the car.

from *The Great Gatsby*,
by F. Scott Fitzgerald





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. Re-read the first paragraph. In your own words, describe the location that is 'halfway between West Egg and New York.' (line 1)

[4]

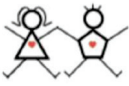
2. Who is 'Doctor T. J. Eckleburg?' Explain how you know.

[2]

3. Look at line 16. Why is the poster described as 'paintless'?

[2]





4. According to the narrator, why did he 'first [meet] Tom Buchanan's mistress'? (line 21)

- A. Because Tom wanted Nick to meet her
- B. Because they were always going to restaurants together
- C. This was the purpose for his visit to New York
- D. Because there was a minute-long pause as they were waiting for the drawbridge
- E. Because Tom forced him out of the car

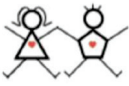
[1]

5. Which of the following options is closest in meaning to 'resented'? (line 23)

- A. Disliked
- B. Frustrated
- C. Adored
- D. Encouraged
- E. Anticipated

[1]





March and Banford live together on their farm. They have been visited frequently by a fox, which is a source of annoyance and frustration to them both. March becomes obsessed with it, and decides to get rid of it somehow. One evening, she sees it staring at her.

1 One evening March was standing with her back to the sunset, her gun under her arm, her
2 hair pushed under her cap. She was half watching, half musing. It was her constant state.
3 Her eyes were keen and observant, but her inner mind took no notice of what she saw.
4 She was always lapsing into this odd, rapt state, her mouth rather screwed up. It was a
5 question whether she was there, actually conscious present, or not.

6 The trees on the wood-edge were a darkish, brownish green in the full light--for it was the
7 end of August. Beyond, the naked, copper-like shafts and limbs of the pine trees shone in
8 the air. Nearer the rough grass, with its long, brownish stalks all a gleam, was full of light.
9 The fowls were round about--the ducks were still swimming on the pond under the pine
10 trees. March looked at it all, saw it all, and did not see it. She heard Banford speaking to
11 the fowls in the distance--and she did not hear. What was she thinking about? Heaven
12 knows. Her consciousness was, as it were, held back.

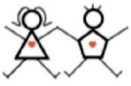
13 She lowered her eyes, and suddenly saw the fox. He was looking up at her. Her chin was
14 pressed down, and his eyes were looking up. They met her eyes. And he knew her. She
15 was spellbound--she knew he knew her. So he looked into her eyes, and her soul failed
16 her. He knew her, he was not daunted.

17 She struggled, confusedly she came to herself, and saw him making off, with slow leaps
18 over some fallen boughs, slow, impudent jumps. Then he glanced over his shoulder, and
19 ran smoothly away. She saw his brush held smooth like a feather, she saw his white
20 buttocks twinkle. And he was gone, softly, soft as the wind.



from *The Fox*,
by D. H. Lawrence





Read carefully the passage given above and answer the following questions in the space provided.

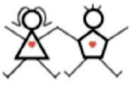
6. Re-read lines 1-5. In your own words, describe the character of March.

[3]

7. Summarise the key events from lines 6-20.

[4]





8. Provide two details about when the passage is set.

[2]

9. Which word best describes the fox's response to March?

- A. Traumatized
- B. Unfazed
- C. Intrigued
- D. Spellbound
- E. Anxious

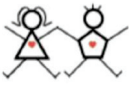
[1]

10. Which of the following options is closest in meaning to 'impudent'? (line 18)

- A. Energetic
- B. Enigmatic
- C. Speedy
- D. Skilful
- E. Audacious

[1]





The narrator, Mrs de Winter, married Maxim de Winter after the death of his previous wife, Rebecca. This extract is taken from the beginning of the novel, and describes a dream that the narrator had, many years after Maxim's house, Manderley, is burned down in a fire.

1 There was Manderley, our Manderley, secret and silent as it had always been, the grey stone
2 shining in the moonlight of my dream. Time could not spoil the beauty of those walls, nor of
3 the place itself, as it lay like a jewel in the hollow of a hand. The grass sloped down towards
4 the sea, which was a sheet of silver lying calm under the moon, like a lake undisturbed by
5 wind or storm.

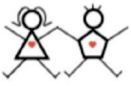
6 I turned again to the house, and I saw that the garden had run wild, just as the woods had
7 done. Weeds were everywhere. But moonlight can play strange tricks with the imagination,
8 even with a dreamer's imagination. As I stood there, I could swear that the house was not an
9 empty shell, but lived and breathed as it had lived before. Light came from the windows, the
10 curtains blew softly in the night air, and there, in the library, the door stood half open as we
11 had left it, with my handkerchief on the table beside the bowl of autumn flowers.

12 Then a cloud came over the moon, like a dark hand across a face. The memories left me. I
13 looked again at an empty shell, with no whisper of the past about its staring walls. Our fear
14 and suffering were gone now. When I thought about Manderley in my waking hours I would
15 not be bitter; I would think of it as it might have been, if I could have lived there without fear.
16 I would remember the rose garden in summer, and the birds that sang there; tea under the
17 trees, and the sound of the sea coming up to us from the shore below. I would think of the
18 flowers blown from the bushes, and the Happy Valley. These things could never lose their
19 freshness.



from *Rebecca*,
by Daphne du Maurier





13. Re-read lines 12-15. Summarise what happens here.

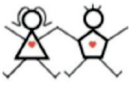
[4]

14. Which of these words best summarises the narrator's feelings in the extract?

- A. Apprehensive
- B. Fearful
- C. Hateful
- D. Wistful
- E. Doubtful

[1]





15. Look at this phrase from line 7: 'But moonlight can play strange tricks with the imagination.' Which of the following options is the closest in meaning?

- A. The imagination is greatly affected by the weather
- B. The light of the moon can make things appear different to how they truly are
- C. The narrator is saying that the moonlight is magic
- D. The narrator is comparing the moon to a witch or a magician
- E. The world always looks more mystical in the moonlight

[1]

