 TEXTUAL ANALYSIS AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

RESEARCH PAPER QUESTIONS

**The Great Gatsby**

1. Do you think that consumerism is a deliberate tool used to distract the masses from important matters? Why/Why not? Answer, with examples from the novel.
2. Do you think that obsession with money and the consumer culture of the 1920s dominates human thinking and behavior in *The Great Gatsby*? Answer, with reference to the novel.
3. “Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people that they don't like.” Explain the successes or failures of the consumerist culture, with reference to the novel.
4. Discuss the following quote by Voltaire (with reference to the novel): “Don't think money does everything or you are going to end up doing everything for money.”
5. To what extent is Gatsby the embodiment of the American Dream?
6. Discuss how female characters are represented in the novel in relation to the social changes in the 1920s in the US.
7. To what extent is *The Great Gatsby* an autobiographical novel?
8. Fitzgerald uses many contrasts in the novel. Discuss the significance and the purpose of these contrasts in the novel.
9. *“‘Can’t repeat the past [. . .] Why of course you can!’”* (116). How is the idea of the ‘past’ discussed in the novel?
10. Discuss how the author explores the effects of World War I in the novel.
11. Who is most responsible for the death of Gatsby? Discuss the idea of responsibility (with reference to the novel).
12. Discuss the effect of Nick’s constant presence as a third party to unfolding events. To what extent can he be considered a competent and reliable narrator?
13. In what ways are Gatsby and Wilson similar and in what ways are they different? Compare and contrast these two characters (with reference to the novel).
14. What does the geography of the novel suggest about its characters and themes? Discuss the importance of setting with reference to the characters, their personalities and the main themes of the novel.
15. In the last chapter, Nick tells Gatsby: “They're a rotten crowd. You're worth the whole damn bunch put together.” What does he mean here? To what is he referring in these sentences? Discuss this quote with reference to the characters, the themes and the narrator.
16. How is the American Dream beneficial for the powers to be, yet potentially harmful for society? Discuss the idea with reference to the characters in the novel.
17. ‘In order to achieve significant goals and therefore progress, societies need to transcend their pasts.’ To what extent is this true? Discuss, with reference to the novel.
18. To what extent does one’s background determine his or her future? Answer this question with reference to *The Great Gatsby*.
19. How does Fitzgerald portray the degradation of society in *The Great Gatsby* with regard to materialism?
20. How are the symbols in the novel related to the theme of ‘class’? Answer the question, with sufficient evidence and examples.