There was music from my neighbour’s house through the summer nights. In his blue gardens, men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. At high tide[[1]](#footnote-0) in the afternoon I watched his guests diving from the tower of his raft, or taking the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motor-boats slit the waters of the Sound, drawing aquaplanes over cataracts of foam. On week-ends his RollsRoyce[[2]](#footnote-1) became an omnibus, bearing parties to and from the city between nine in the morning and long past midnight, while his station wagon scampered like a brisk yellow bug to meet all trains. And on Mondays eight servants, including an extra gardener, toiled all day with mops and scrubbing-brushes and hammers and garden-shears, repairing the ravages of the night before.

At least once a fortnight a corps of caterers came down with several hundred feet of canvas and enough coloured lights to make a Christmas tree of Gatsby’s enormous garden. On buffet tables, garnished with glistening hors-d’oeuvre[[3]](#footnote-2), spiced baked hams crowded against salads of harlequin designs and pastry pigs and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold. In the main hall a bar with a real brass rail was set up, and stocked with gins and liquors.

By seven o’clock the orchestra has arrived, no thin five-piece affair, but a whole pitful of oboes and trombones and saxophones and viols and cornets and piccolos, and low and high drums. The last swimmers have come in from the beach now and are dressing up-stairs; the cars from New York are parked five deep in the drive, and already the halls and salons and verandas are gaudy with primary colours, and hair shorn in strange new ways, and shawls beyond the dreams of Castile. The bar is in full swing, and floating rounds of cocktails[[4]](#footnote-3) permeate the garden outside, until the air is alive with chatter and laughter, and casual innuendo and introductions forgotten on the spot, and enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other’s names.

The lights grow brighter as the earth lurches away from the sun, and now the orchestra is playing yellow cocktail music, and the opera of voices pitches a key higher. Laughter is easier minute by minute, spilled wastefully, tipped out at a cheerful word. The groups change more swiftly, swell with new arrivals, dissolve and form in the same breath.

The party has begun. I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby’s house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People were not invited — they went there. They got into automobiles[[5]](#footnote-4) which bore them out to Long Island, and somehow they ended up at Gatsby’s door. Once there they were introduced by somebody who knew Gatsby, and after that they conducted themselves according to the rules of behavior associated with amusement parks. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with a simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission.

I had been actually invited. A chauffeur in a uniform of robin’s-egg blue crossed my lawn early that Saturday morning with a surprisingly formal note from his employer: the honour would be entirely Gatsby’s, it said, if I would attend his “little party” that night. He had seen me several times, and had intended to call on me long before, but a peculiar combination of circumstances had prevented it — signed Jay Gatsby, in a majestic hand.

ANSWERS:

A, C, C B

D, B, A, A

B, C, D A

A, C, A, D

A, D

| 1 | Which one of these statements is true?   1. **Guests were free to come and go as they pleased** 2. Music played throughout the year 3. Guests were freely able to use one of his three motorboats 4. Guests came from the city by boats | The simile ‘came and went like moths’ show how the guests were able to travel as lightly and freely as they wanted. But they were drew to where the attention was. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | Which one of these statements is false?   1. The lake is named the Sound 2. The station travelled quickly and excitedly to pick up guests from the station 3. **Ten people would need to clean up after the parties** 4. The parties were filled with great luxuries | Eight servants plus an extra gardener were responsible for tidying up |
| 18 | Which one of these tools was not used by the servants?   1. Mops 2. Garden shears 3. Hammers 4. **Dustpan** |  |
| 3 | The author writes “the whisperings and the champagne and the stars”. What is the effect of this?   1. It demonstrates how list rules do not always need to be followed 2. The whisperings and the champagne are a pair of things 3. **It makes the list feel extra long to emphasise that the party is also extra big** 4. It highlights how extravagant the party host is |  |
| 4 | Which phrase highlights how much food there was at the party?   1. Several hundred feet of canvas 2. **Hams crowded against salads** 3. Turkeys bewitched to a dark gold 4. Garnished with glistening hor-d’oeurves |  |
| 5 | What writing technique is used when it says “Garnished with glistening hor-d’oeurves”?   1. Simile 2. Metaphor 3. Onomatopoeia 4. **Alliteration** |  |
| 6 | Why does the writer say that the pastry pigs and turkeys were “bewitched” to a dark gold instead of ‘cooked’?   1. It makes it sound more magical since it is a magical story 2. **It makes the food appear more impressive than it already is** 3. To make the food sound poisoned or more evil 4. To increase how delicious the food appears to the guests |  |
| 7 | What instrument did the pitiful orchestra not bring with them?   1. **Piano** 2. Trombones 3. Drums 4. Piccolos |  |
| 8 | Why does the author add ‘real’ to ‘real brass rail’?   1. **To show how brass is usually difficult to obtain** 2. To make sure they use alliteration 3. It sounds nice to describe it this way 4. It was only a random coincidence |  |
| 9 | Which description best fits the orchestra that arrived?   1. Unnecessary and skilled 2. **Grand and extravagant** 3. Detailed and long 4. Tranquil and peaceful |  |
| 10 | “Until the air is alive with chatter and laughter” What two writing techniques are used here?   1. Personification and simile 2. Onomatopoeia and metaphor 3. **Personification and onomatopoeia** 4. Hyperbole and alliteration |  |
| 11 | What is the effect of the technique used in “Until the air is alive with chatter and laughter” from the above question? “Until the air is alive with chatter and laughter”   1. It creates a jovial atmosphere in the party 2. It shows that the energy cannot be contained any long 3. It draws attention to the fact the party is just getting started 4. **It suggests that the air itself is alive is a party guest itself** |  |
| 12 | What does “The bar is in full swing, and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside” mean?   1. **Plenty of drinks are being served at the bar while guests in the garden receive theirs** 2. People are swinging on bars as as spilt drinks spread into the garden floor 3. People are swinging bars as they serve drinks in the garden 4. Drinks at the bar are being swung out as spilt drinks spread into the garden floor |  |
| 13 | Which statement best describes how guests meet each other?   1. **In high spirits and eagerly** 2. Quickly and rude 3. Unknowingly and indifferent 4. Amusingly and significantly |  |
| 14 | Which line from the text highlights that guests quickly arrive?   1. The last swimmers have come in from the beach 2. Enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other’s names 3. **Swell with new arrivals, dissolve and form in the same breath** 4. The party has begun |  |
| 15 | “Suddenly one of the guests, in trembling opal, seizes a cocktail out of the air” Which word is the adjective?   1. **Trembling** 2. Opal 3. Seizes 4. Cocktail |  |
| 16 | What is the narrator suggesting when they say “People were not invited — they went there.”?   1. That they are not as important as he is 2. That the other guests are rude and impolite for attending 3. That the other guests just follow one another to big events 4. **That they are closer in relations to Gatsby** |  |
|  | Why does the writer put ‘little party’ in speech marks?   1. **To show Gatsby understated the party in order to convince the narrator to come** 2. To show the reader that Gatsby did think this party is little 3. To highlight that the narrator is somewhat annoyed at Gatsby 4. To emphasise that Gatsby made a big mistake on how many people would come |  |
|  |  |  |

1. When the level of the sea, river or lake is high [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. A famous luxury car [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. A small portion of food for parties [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. A type of alcoholic drink [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. The original word for car [↑](#footnote-ref-4)