Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

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In The Great Gatsby, the galas and festivities mask a social inadequacy. The guests and patrons are fools who allow laughter and gaity to conceal deception, betrayal, and selfishness. The extravagantce and prestige surrounding Gatsby's parties are a facade; the truth is that a shallow and self-serving mass celebrates their delight in themselves.

Drunkenness and uninhibited wildness cause accident and injury without inspiring change. Owl Eyes can barely be understood because he is so intoxicated. He does not restrain himself or try to appear unaffected. The parties are place for loud misconduct, not quiet reverie and intellectual discussion. A car accident in the driveway confounds the baffled driver, who's alcohol blurs his mind. The people squabble and giggle, arguing over nothing and laughing at everything. They willingly become silly and unintelligible. It takes a wealthy reputation to be invited, but once in the gates, image is nothing. People have so little self-respect that they destroy furnishing and drink the night away. Gatsby's parties are not sophisticated affairs filled only with the debonair; they are peopled with the greedy and careless instead.

Seeking personal gain, the guests are more than apathetic to each other's needs, betraying all in a complex web of deceit. Tom has an affair with Myrtle, discregarding the feelings of his own wife,

Daisy. Meanwhile Daisy is off galavanting with Gatsby. Myrtle, too, lies to her husband, Wilson, in order to be with Tom. All of these guests float about their activities as if innocent of treachery. They believe that they are invincible and immune to the repercussions their actions merit. With only self-interest in mind, they flock to the festivities wearing wide, unassuming smiles, drowning the truth in liquor and laughs. Each denies reality for the sake of temporary pleasure, but the price is inevitable. All were unprepared to meet their demise when the tangle of deception and bitterness collapsed into murder and revenge. They had been too busy dancing and smiling to prepare for the worst. Society allowed for games of dishonesty and disloyalty, as revealed during the escapades surrounding Gatsby's parties.

The crowds from East Egg, littering Gatsby's garish lawns had no respect for the man whose celebrations they so heartily enjoyed. Each night they whispered rumors and fallacies. They questioned his motives and the legality of his business endeavors. Most never saw Gatsby, let alone thanked him. They were content to partake of all he proffered and to depart. Viewing him as more a convenience than a man, the partygoers were quick to abandon him. After countless nights of ~~too~~ faithful attendance at his revered social events, Gatsby's funeral was sparsely attended. Only Nick and Owl Eyes were present. The rest of the ~~world~~ society chose

to look away. Extroverts at parties, they refused to gaze outside themselves when Gatsby was slaughtered. It was time to turn away and find a happier event to populate. Gatsby's aloof invites were not his friends for ~~each~~ cared only for ~~that~~ this own well-being.

The parties of Gatsby were not fun-filled diversions, nor were they upper-class intellectual functions. The attendees, although rich, acted as intoxicated fools, deceptive villains, and ungrateful ~~ter~~ traitors. They valued their own carefully guarded, paper-mâché worlds and cast aside anyone who might threaten them. Embodiments of selfishness and greed, Gatsby's guests ~~spoke~~ speak of a society entranced by its own false wealth and beauty.