

Questions 1-9

Line Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States during the triumphant
5 reign of prosperity that made the twenties “golden,” and this prosperity had very
real roots. Although there had been a brief but sharp postwar depression in
1920 and 1921, American industry made a quick recovery. Largely responsible
for the industrial boom that followed was the introduction of new products into
American life. For example, on the eve of the First World War, only half a million
10 automobiles were being produced annually, but during the twenties production
reached nearly five million units per year. Furthermore, the new auto industry
created demands on older industries for products such as rubber, copper, glass,
steel, and fabrics. It called for the building of paved roads across the nation
and brought about the tremendous expansion of the oil and gasoline refining
industries, along with the construction of thousands of gasoline stations, which
15 broke out like a rash of measles over the countryside. Basic industries expanded
as well – coal, steel, machine tools, clothing, and, most dramatically of all, the new
electric power industry.

For the first time, average citizens were buying cars, radios (another new and
booming industry), refrigerators, and a host of other new consumer products.
The poor seemed to be getting richer, and certainly the rich were getting richer.
20 For the well-to-do, the business civilization of the twenties seemed to promise all
that could be expected “this side of paradise,” as F. Scott Fitzgerald titled one of his
most popular novels. But paradise in the twenties had two sides. On the far side
of paradise during the golden decade lived the majority of American farmers.

1. According to the passage, when did the United States experience a brief depression?
(A) In the late nineteenth century
(B) Before the First World War
(C) During the First World War
(D) In the early 1920's
2. The word “boom” in line 5 is closest in meaning to
(A) noise
(B) strike
(C) expansion
(D) market
3. The phrase “called for” in line 10 is closest in meaning to
(A) named
(B) required
(C) described
(D) considered
4. According to the passage, the growth in automobile production caused an increase in the demand for
(A) rubber
(B) mass produced clothing
(C) electric power
(D) radios
5. According to the passage, all of the following were relatively new in the 1920's EXCEPT
(A) steel
(B) radios
(C) automobiles
(D) refrigerators

6. The word “host” in line 17 is closest in meaning to
(A) entertainer
(B) representative sample
(C) business investment
(D) large number
7. It can be inferred from the passage that the characters in the novel *This Side of Paradise* are
(A) wealthy people
(B) industrious farmers
(C) creative writers
(D) average citizens
8. What can be inferred from the passage about farms in the United States in the 1920's?
(A) They experienced very rapid economic growth.
(B) They attracted workers from urban industrial centers.
(C) They benefited from a reduction in the price of gasoline.
(D) They were less prosperous than other businesses.
9. The paragraph following the passage most likely discusses
(A) the life of F. Scott Fitzgerald
(B) the cost of consumer goods
(C) the economic condition of farms
(D) popular novels of the 1920's