1. According to the narrator, who originally wrote *The Epic of Gilgamesh*? According to the narrator, Gilgamesh wrote his own story.

2. In what ways is Gilgamesh unlike an ordinary mortal?

He is two thirds god and one third mortal. His godlike qualities are his courage and beauty.

3. What does Enkidu dream? Why does Anu say that Enkidu must die? Does Enkidu believe that this dream is just an idle imagining, or does he believe it will come to pass?

He dreams about his own death; Anu says Enkidu must die as punishment for he and Gilgamesh killing the Bull of Heaven. Enkidu believes that the dream will come true.
4. How does Enkidu feel about the fact that he must die? He is sad that he has to leave Gilgamesh.

5. Where does the “awful being” bring Enkidu in his dream? The “awful being” brings him to the underworld.

6. What is the underworld like? In what way is death an equalizing force? The underworld is frightening, dark and dusty. Death is an equalizing force because powerful people in life are servants in the underworld.

7. What shames Enkidu about his death? How had he hoped to die? He is dying of sickness; he had wanted to die in battle.

8. In what way would you characterize Gilgamesh’s reaction to Enkidu’s death?
Gilgamesh reacts badly; he becomes almost wild; he stops bathing, shaving, and begins wearing animal skins.

9. Why can’t Gilgamesh rest? What does he hope to do? He is afraid of dying; he hopes to find the secret to immortality.

10. What makes Gilgamesh finally give up Enkidu to the Earth? Maggots begin to consume the body.

11. What does Utnapishtim’s answer mean? He means that men were not meant to live forever; he is telling Gilgamesh not to be so interested in immortality.

12. What surprises Gilgamesh about Utnapishtim? Why does this surprise him? Gilgamesh is surprised that Utnapishtim looks like a normal man; he was expecting him to look like a hero prepared for battle.
13. Why do the gods want to exterminate humankind? Who warns Utnapishtim and why?
The gods are annoyed that human beings are too loud and they cannot sleep. Ea warned Utnapishtim because he had taken a vow to protect him.

14. What does Ea tell Utnapishtim to do?
Tear down his house and build a boat, reject all worldly possessions, and put some of each animal in the boat.

15. What does Ea tell Utnapishtim to say to the people of Shurrupak?
He tells him to say that Enlil is mad at him and he has gone off to hide with Ea.

16. In what way do the gods react to the flood? What does Ishtar regret?
The gods are terrified and regret it. Ishtar regrets agreeing to the flood because her people are suffering.
17. What has happened to the world?  
The world has been covered by water.

18. What does Utnapishtim do when he sees the waters have retreated?  
   To what does Utnapishtim compare the gods?  Is this a flattering comparison?  
He sends out birds to see if there is anywhere for them to land.  He compares the gods to flies; it is not a flattering comparison.

19. According to Ea why was Enlil’s punishment “senseless”?  
The punishment did not fit the crime.

20. What does Enlil do in response to Ea’s criticism of his actions?  
Enlil grants Utnapishtim immortality.

21. What does Utnapishtim ask Gilgamesh?  
What contest does Utnapishtim suggest to Gilgamesh?  What does Gilgamesh do immediately?
Utnapishtim tells Gilgamesh that if he wants immortality he will avoid sleep for 6 days and 7 nights. Gilgamesh immediately falls asleep, however.

22. What does Utnapishtim say about humans? What does he tell his wife to do? Why? Utnapishtim says that all men lie and he tells his wife to bake bread each day Gilgamesh sleeps.

23. What is the first thing that Gilgamesh says when he awakens? In what way does this prove true Utnapishtim’s belief about humanity? He lies and says he hardly slept; Gilgamesh proves that Utnapishtim is correct about men being deceivers.

24. What does Utnapishtim “give” Gilgamesh for a gift? He gives him the location of the plant that will make someone immortal.
25. What happens to the plant? What occurrence in the natural world does this story explain? A serpent takes the plant while Gilgamesh is taking a bath. This explains why a snake is able to shed its skin.

26. In what way does Gilgamesh achieve a limited form of immortality? Gilgamesh receives a limited form of immortality through his story and the greatness of his city.