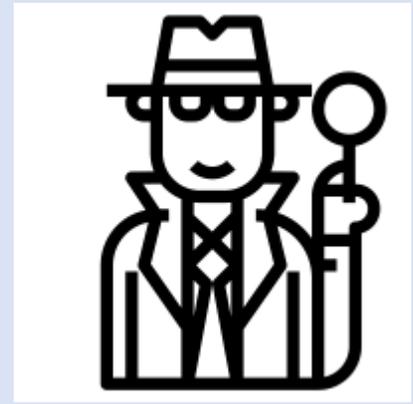


# Literature Paper 2 Section A

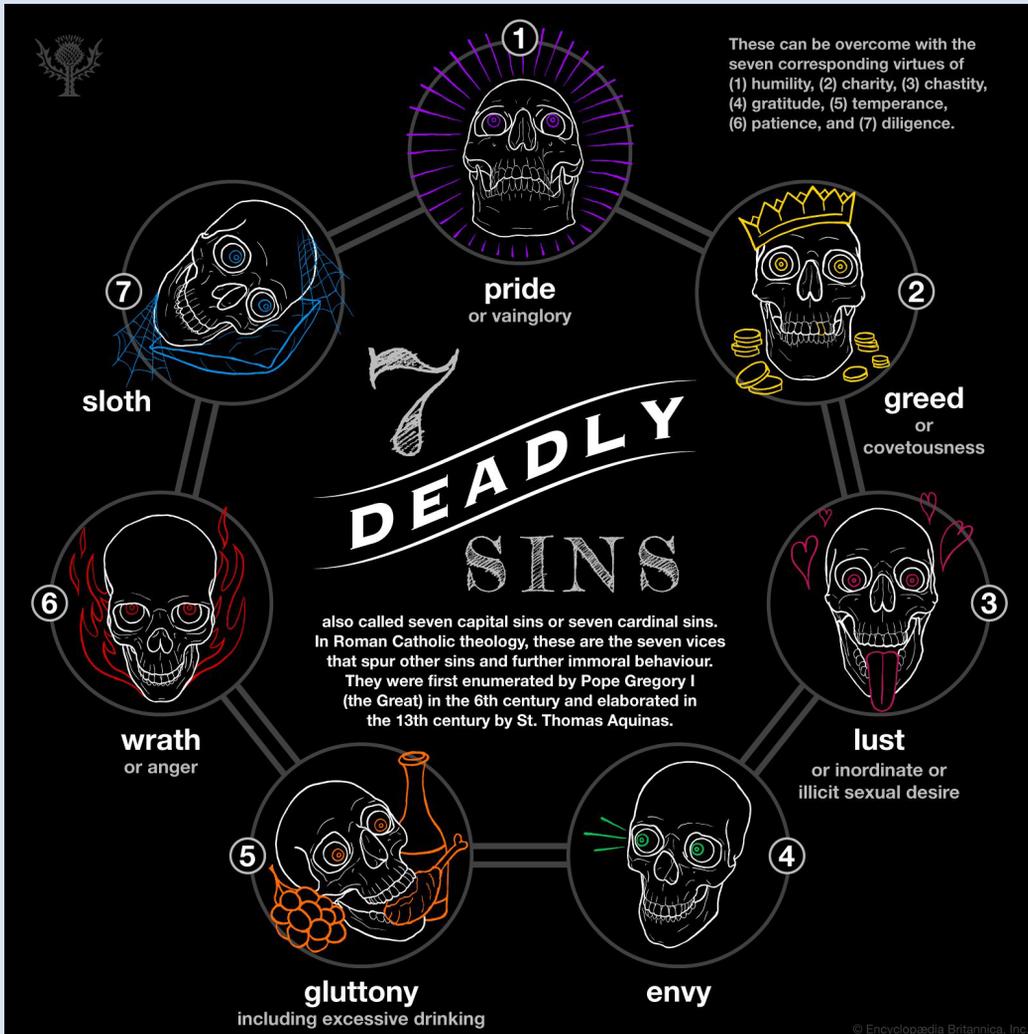


- Section A
- 30 marks + 4 for SPaG
- Choice of 2 questions – YOU ANSWER ONE!
- Can be based on character or theme.
- 50 minutes without extra time
- 60 minutes with extra time

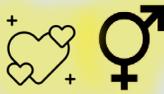
# ‘An Inspector Calls’

	The GOLD – critical theory	How to embed into your response:
Political	 <p><b>Dangers of Capitalism and Capitalism without a conscience</b> Capitalism is <b>inherently exploitative</b> and creates massive <b>economic inequality</b>. It <b>commodifies</b> the proletariat and leads to an erosion of human rights yet increases the wealth and prosperity of the bourgeoisie.</p>	Priestley uses the allegory of capitalism without a conscience as a warning of the social and moral paralysis during this time. In order for society to grow and achieve, we must start creating equality especially in the workplace.
	 <p><b>Social Revolution</b> - The <b>social classes of the bourgeoisie and proletariat are in conflict</b> which will lead to <b>social unrest</b> until it culminates in social revolution, with the hope of egalitarianism.</p>	Eva Smith is penalised by Mr Birling for her efforts to start a social revolution for more money in Birling’s factory. This microcosm was mirroring the social unrest in society with the lack of equality and opportunity for the proletariat.
	 <p><b>Commodification of Human life</b>– transforming people and their bodies from a human category into objects of economic desire. <b>Eva as the faceless proletariat</b>– Nothing more than a cog in the capitalist machine Birling has built</p>	Priestley explores the commodification of human life as Eva is portrayed as a faceless proletariat by the Birling family. They are able to continue with their lives and are not affected by their involvement in her demise and it does not impact their financial position.
	 <p><b>Echoing the concerns of a 1945 audience.</b> Priestley wrote the play for an audience coming out of the horrors of the Second World War, yet chose to set his play in 1912, two years prior to the First World War – <b>a world on the brink of change</b>. Priestley’s personal views around the <b>futility of war would have been echoed by the post-war society in the process of recovery</b>.</p>	Priestley intentionally uses dramatic irony to highlight the ignorance of Mr Birling refers to war as being “impossible” to indicate the bourgeoisie were blinded with ignorance and society was on the brink of change.
	 <p><b>Time as a dramatic device – Ouspensky’s theory of time</b> – When we die, we re-enter our life again from the beginning, unless we learn from our mistakes Priestley is giving his audience the opportunity to <b>learn from the mistakes of the past</b>.</p>	Ouspensky’s theory of time is evident in the play as Priestley intentionally ensures there is no change in the phone calls to the Birlings. Sheila and Eric are part of the dynamic younger generation who are able to change and see the errors in their myopic ways but Mr and Mrs Birling combined with Gerald refuse to accept what has happened.
	 <p><b>The human condition</b> - What it means to be human – to die, to live, to suffer, <b>presented through Eva</b>. Birlings are shown as ignoring this universal experience due to their <b>classism, instead favouring the human thirst for fleeting power</b>. Mr &amp; Mrs Birling dehumanise Eva ‘The girl’, Sheila humanises her ‘this girl’.</p>	The Birlings at the exposition of the play ignore the role they play in the demise of Eva Smith by doing this they are creating the metaphorical barriers between humans during this time period, the class system, etc.
Gender	 <p><b>Aspects of love</b> – society’s expectation of parental and romantic love, often leading to <b>disastrous love</b>. Sheila confuses romantic love with marriage for the sake of duty and Eva deals love turned to the sin of lust</p>	The relationships between the characters challenge the societal norm or expectations of the time period.
	 <p><b>Exploration of gender roles</b> – a critique of the ‘<b>masculine mindset</b>’ that women should have nothing to do with political and public life. <b>Women as the second sex</b>. De Beauvoir’s <b>feminist reading</b> of the play shows the typical Edwardian nature of the <b>Birling women in A1 as subservient, restricted and objectified</b>. Sheila, by A3 <b>subverts societal gender roles</b> as she becomes <b>more autonomous</b>. <b>Eva Smith as a victim of the patriarchy</b>.</p>	Priestley purposefully portrays the female characters as being archetypal for the time period however, Sheila starts to evolve from her archetype to start questioning her parents and husband to be on their view of their involvement in Eva Smith’s demise. She subverts her gender role to exemplify how women should be questioning their role and taking control.

	<p>7 Deadly Sins:                  Pride- Mr Birling/ Mrs Birling                  Greed- The Birlings/ Gerald                  Lust- Gerald/Eric                  Wrath- Eric                  Gluttony- Eric                  Envy- Sheila                  Sloth- Eric</p> <p>The Inspector is the virtue.</p>	<p>During the play Priestley exposes the sins of the characters as the text progresses. The play opens with a display of greed from Mr Birling and what he can achieve from Sheila's engagement to Gerald as he expects to work with Croft and company for "lower costs and higher prices".</p>
	<p><b>Allusions to Paradise Lost – Hell described as <i>one great furnace</i></b> echoing "if men will not learn that lesson, they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish". Mr B exemplifies men who sacrifice morality for money leading to the corruption and downfall of society into war. <b>This is the Inspector's warning; morally and foreshadowing of WW1. Hell and suffering as a consequence of transgression</b></p>	<p>The Inspector act as an agent of God in order to expose the ignorance of the upper classes in society. His divine intervention allows for the younger generation in the play to be dynamic and shift their perspective to progress into capitalism with a conscience to remove the veil of ignorance that their parents created.</p>



Sheila

Quote	Ideas / annotations
<p>“Is it the one you wanted me to have?”</p> 	<p>Sheila becomes a submissive and compliant woman as she relinquishes her autonomy to Gerald in the choice of engagement ring. The interrogative shows how she is looking at Gerald to make decisions.</p>
<p>“These girls aren’t cheap labour, they’re people”</p> 	<p>Sheila unknowingly humanises the lower, working-class women, rejecting Mr Birling’s dehumanisation of them in the work place. This introduces the potential of her as a progressive character who can drive societal change.</p>
<p>“You mustn’t try to build up a wall between us and that girl”</p> 	<p>Metaphorical ‘wall’ - Sheila aims to educate and warn Mrs Birling about the consequences of her prejudice. Capitalism has already created an economical and a power dichotomy, however Sheila attempts to warn against class conflict.</p>
<p>“I can’t stop thinking about <b>this</b> girl”</p> <p>Compare with Mrs Birling “that girl”</p>	<p>Juxtaposition of the determiners “this” girl and “that” girl demonstrates that Sheila views her as an individual whereas Mrs Birling groups them together due to her prejudice.</p>

Eric

<p>“Why shouldn’t they try for higher wages? We try for the highest possible prices”</p> 	<p>Eric directly challenges Mr Birling and his commodification of human life. Juxtaposed with Mr Birling “lower costs higher prices”</p>
<p>“You could have kept her on instead of throwing her out”</p> 	<p>Eric challenges Mr Birling’s myopic capitalist mindset as an early adaptation of socialism. Eva is presented as disposable by Mr Birling and Eric rejects this perspective.</p>
<p>“I was in that state where a chap easily turns nasty”</p> 	<p>Toxic masculinity and sexual violence. Eric seeks to minimise his behaviour by employing the childish adjectives ‘nasty’ and ‘chap’. He attempts to distance himself from his actions and the blame.</p>
<p>“You’re not the type of father a chap could go to”</p> 	<p>Eric’s lack of male role model and relationship has led to his toxic behaviour. His family dynamic does not encourage emotional connection.</p>

Mr Birling

Quote	Notes / annotations
<p>"We're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity"</p> 	<p><b>Dramatic Irony.</b> <b>Inclusive pronoun "we"</b> is exclusive rather than unifying. Birling refers to the upper classes and their comfortable lifestyle only. Emphasises Mr Birling's capitalist views, and the vast <b>dichotomy</b> between the rich and poor at this time.</p>
<p>"Lower costs and higher prices"</p> 	<p>Use of parallelism demonstrates Mr Birling's capitalist mindset. The juxtaposition of 'lower' with 'higher' reveals his commodification and exploitation of the workforce.</p>
<p>"A man has to look after himself...and his family too"</p> 	<p>Individualistic mindset. The pronoun 'himself' shows how he prioritises himself over the wellbeing of his family, as well as prioritising the individual over society. He contrasts with the Inspector, who is a socialist.</p>
<p>"All mixed up together like bees in a hive ...community and all that nonsense"</p> 	<p>Simile highlights Mr Birling's condemnation of socialism. The zoomorphic reference to 'bees' dehumanises the lower working classes shows how he perceives them as valuable only as a workforce. He dismisses the socialism as 'nonsense'.</p>
<p>"Clothes mean something else to a woman... sign or token of their self-respect"</p> 	<p>Mr Birling's objectification of women reveals the lack of power women hold in Edwardian society. Women are valued only for their appearance and occupy the domestic and private sphere as opposed to the men who occupy the public and political realm.</p>
<p>"She has a lot to say, far too much, she had to go"</p> 	<p>Mr Birling is threatened by the power demonstrated by Eva Smith in the workplace as she refuses the role of submissive and oppressed woman. She is a symbol of social revolution and female power.</p>

Mrs Birling

<p>"Men with important work to do...spend all their time and energy on their business"</p> 	<p>Mrs Birling is a traitor to her own gender, enabling patriarchal views, as well as being a victim of its restrictions. In spite of her status as 'social superior' she is powerless to challenge her husband's prioritisation of work over family (and his potential implied infidelity)</p>
<p>"Girls of that class" Girls of that sort"</p> 	<p>The noun 'girls' infantilises women and removes their power. Her view of lower class is derogatory – the determiner 'that' and suggesting disgust. She is classist.</p>
<p>"She had only herself to blame"</p> 	<p>Mrs Birling shown no empathy and blames Eva for her position. This reflects the way the lower classes are myopically blamed for their situation despite the consequences of capitalism. This is also dramatic irony as the audience is aware that Mrs Birling's own son is responsible.</p>

Gerald

Quote	Ideas / annotations
"I hate those hard eyed dough-faced women" 	Derogatory and disrespectful adjectives "hard eyed" and "dough faced" demonstrates his misogynistic mindset and patriarchal point of view. He is dismissive of the suffering the lower, working-class women experience and values women only for their beauty.
She was "pretty" "Soft brown hair" "Dark eyes" 	The language used by Gerald suggests he is drawn to Eva because of her youth, innocence and beauty. He commodifies these features and ultimately destroys them.

Inspector Goole

"Millions and millions and millions of John Smiths and Eva Smiths" 	The names "John Smith and Eva Smith" are deliberately typical of lower-class names; Eva represents 'every woman'. Goole, as a proxy for Priestley, ventriloquises Priestley's socialist message and emphasises the extent of the societal issues.
"We are members of one body"	Biblical allusion and a reference to unity.
"If men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish" 	Warning, symbolic of both hellish imagery, "fire" as well as imagery of war. Priestley warns of the consequences of sin through the mistreatment of the lower classes, and the perpetuation and cyclical nature of societal suffering.
"We'll have to share our guilt"  Compare to Mr Birling's use of "we"	Goole's use of the collective pronoun "we" is inclusive whereas Birling's is exclusively linked to the upper class bourgeoisie only.



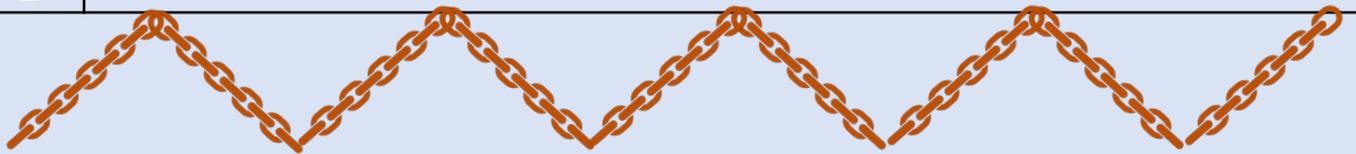
# 'An Inspector Calls' J.B. Priestley- Knowledge Organiser



## GCSE Literature 30 marks + 4 AO4

### Characters – AO1

Mr Birling	The father and patriarch of the family. Egocentric and A capitalist businessman who works against social equality due to his own greed. sacks Eva from his factory for asks for fair and threatens a strike. <b>Sins of Pride and Greed</b>
Mrs Birling	The mother. Superior in class and a conceited capitalist who believes everyone is responsible for themselves <b>only</b> . She doesn't help Eva when she comes to the charity for help because of her own prejudicial views against the proletariat. Archetypal villain. <b>Sin of Pride</b>
Inspector Goole	The interrogator. He is Priestley's mouthpiece (represents JBP's personal views) and a keen Socialist who fights for <b>collective responsibility and encourages</b> the Birlings to re-evaluate their outlook and their actions. Presented as a father figure for Eva
Sheila	The daughter. She wrongly causes Eva to lose her job because she purposely misinterprets her actions. Sheila is initially <b>ignorant of her privilege</b> but transform her views as the play progresses and she feels sympathy for Eva Smith's plight. By the end of the play, there is a huge disparity between Sheila's views and those of her parents and she continues the Inspector's message. <b>Sin of Envy</b>
Eric	The son. Priestley hints that Eric uses alcohol as a crutch and it is heavily implied that his sexual encounter with Eva is not consensual and that she was raped. As a result of this, Eva falls pregnant and Eric resorts to stealing from his father to give Eva money. <b>Sins of lust, sloth, wrath</b>
Gerald Croft	Sheila's fiancé. Gerald is a businessman who has capitalist ideals and has similar political beliefs to Mr Birling. He shows some regret for his affair with Eva, but does not seem sincere in making any long-term changes to his beliefs. <b>Sin of lust and pride</b>
Eva Smith	The play's victim. <b>Never seen on stage</b> but is reported to have killed herself by drinking strong disinfectant. Each of the Birlings and Gerald contributed to her downfall through their role in the chain of events. Priestley alludes that there are many victims rather than just one girl.



### Plot – The 'Chain Of Events' AO1

ACT 1	Spring, 1912. The family are celebrating Sheila and Gerald's engagement. Mr B states there will be no war, and the Titanic is unsinkable. An Inspector arrives and tells them a young woman, Eva Smith, has committed suicide. He interrogates Mr B, who admit sacking her from his factory because she threatened to strike over unfair wages. He refuses to accept any blame. The Inspector turns on Sheila who admits that she caused Eva to lose her job at Milwards due to her envy. She is contrite and ashamed of herself.
ACT 2	The Inspector interrogates Gerald who admits having an affair with Eva Smith (now called Daisy Renton) Sheila consequently questions her relationship with Gerald. The Inspector coaxes Mrs B into admitting not helping Eva when she came to her charity for help when she became pregnant. Mrs B attempts to shift blame to the father, stating that it should be his responsibility. It is revealed that the father of Eva's baby was Eric, curtain falls.
ACT 3	Eric reveals he assaulted Eva Smith which resulted in her pregnancy, he stole money to support her and even offered marriage. The Inspector gives his final speech about fire, blood and anguish. He warns the family that if they don't start to take responsibility for others, they will live to regret it. The Inspector then leaves. Gerald seemingly discovers that the Inspector wasn't a real inspector. Mr B rings to check and there is no Inspector Goole. Mr and Mrs B (and Gerald) celebrate. Sheila and Eric still feel guilty and can't go back to how they were before. At the final curtain, the telephone rings and the family are told a girl has just committed suicide and an inspector is on his way over.

**1912** – when the play was **set**. Just before WW1 and the sinking of the Titanic. JBP wanted to make sure audiences in 1945 recognised the **problems of society in 1912** before the war rather than seeing it as ‘the golden era’, and weren’t tempted return to that societal model. He used this era to highlight the dangers of a capitalist lifestyle without a conscience. 

**1945** – when the play was **written and performed**. War as a **great equaliser of society**. Post WW1 and 2, society had changed: the benefits system was introduced, greater equality for women (votes in 1918), the class divide was lessened as different classes and genders integrating in order to assist with the war. JBP supported and encouraged these changes and promoted them in his play by making capitalists like the older Birlings appear ignorant and selfish. 

**Socialism** – JBP was a Socialist: he wanted **society to look after each other** rather than just caring about themselves. He promotes this within the play by making the Socialist characters, like the Inspector, much more insightful and more emotionally intelligent than the capitalist characters.

**Capitalism** – JBP wished to challenge Capitalists – those who believe in **individual profit and business over equality**. 

**Outdated ideas** – In 1912, the social classes were segregated, women were paid less than men for the same work, there was no benefit system or help with unemployment or housing. Society was patriarchal (men ruled). Mr and Mrs Birling were born and **raised in the Victorian Era** and inflicted those outdated attitudes on their children and workers. 

**Priestley** – was a **broadcaster and playwright**, he also **served in the army in WW1**. Priestley served in WW1, and saw men from different classes uniting and working for the common, **greater good**. He believed that this mantra should be taken forward in a broader context to make society more responsible. When working for the BBC as a broadcaster during WW2, Priestley broadcast propaganda radio shows which were credited for strengthening civilian morale. But, his **left wing beliefs** brought him into conflict with the government and influenced the birth of the welfare state. The programme was eventually cancelled by the BBC for being too critical of the government. 

**Sentence stems:**

- Priestley’s **didactic 1945 morality play** highlights the **inequality of capitalist society**...
- Through the **ventriloquism** of the character of the Inspector, Priestley’s **socialist views** are highlighted to...
- The **binary opposition** of... highlights...
- Priestley’s use of **cyclical narrative** implies...
- The **British audience of 1945** were meant to reflect on their own conduct within the **‘hive’** of society and question whether...

**Analytical verbs**

amplifies, insinuates, highlights, establishes, evokes

**Killer vocab**

Capitalism without a conscience, Marxist, microcosm, faceless proletariat, ventriloquism, didactic message

**Big Question:**

- If Eva Smith is actually several people does it lessen the Birling’s crimes?
- Who is most responsible for the death of Eva Smith?
- Are the women in the play all stereotypes?
- Who is the Inspector?
- Are all of the men in the play toxic?
- Do the Birlings show that humanity is innately evil?

**Key themes – AO1/3**

**Generational differences**  
The **older generation** (Mr and Mrs Birling) are a symbol of capitalism, so they do not change their ways and they are **reluctant to accept blame** for their role in Eva's demise. The younger generation (Sheila and Eric) become a symbol of socialism as the play progresses. They accept blame and want to change; they change throughout the play, for the better. **Dynamic VS Static**

**Responsibility and justice**  
The inspector, as Priestley's mouthpiece, is a **symbol of socialism** – balancing the inequalities created by capitalism to support those who are vulnerable. He ‘duty’ is to uncover the family’s moral and social wrongdoing, forcing them to understand their link in ‘the chain of events’ and comprehend that there are consequences to actions – the Birlings are a **microcosm of capitalists without a conscience**, selling their **metaphorical souls for fleeting power in the form of money**, giving little thought to the consequences. Priestley outlines that fact that society is mixed up ‘like bees in a hive’ and that ‘we are one body’. Where the rich older generation fail to take responsibility, the younger generation are a beacon of hope and change (Eric and Sheila)

**Gender inequality**  
Priestley wanted to demonstrate the **gender inequality of 1912** as a warning to the 40s audience not to regress. Women were granted the **vote in 1919** as a result of their contributions to WW1, this was echoes in WW2. However, Edwardian society treated women as the **‘second sex’**, limiting their rights, voice and powers. As the victim of the Birling’s societal crimes is a woman (or women), it emphasises the vulnerable position of women in society, pawns at the **hands of the patriarchy**.

**Class divide**  
Priestley highlights that **inequality between the classes still existed in 1940s Britain**: with the upper-classes (bourgeoisie and nobility) looked down upon the working-class (proletariat) in post-war Britain. In *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley explores the theme of class through the treatment of **working-class Eva Smith** by the **wealthy Birlings and Gerald Croft – abuse of power**. Priestley seems to indicate that the social conflict may lead to social revolution to bring about equality – Much like the execution of the Russian royal family in 1918 as part of the Russian Revolution

Types of questions you could be asked:

Responsibility -Very common exam topic.

Example questions:

“How does Priestley present ideas about responsibility?”

“How far do the characters accept responsibility for Eva Smith?”

2. Social Class -Focuses on the class system in 1912 Britain.

Example questions:

“How does Priestley present social class?”

“How does Priestley show the differences between the rich and the poor?”

3. Generational Conflict

Young vs older characters.

Example questions: “How does Priestley present the differences between the younger and older generations?”

4. Gender / Role of Women

How women are treated in society.

Example questions: “How does Priestley present attitudes towards women?”

5. Capitalism vs Socialism-Priestley’s political message.

Example questions:

“How does Priestley present ideas about society and social change?”

6. Power- How wealthy people control others.

Example questions:

“How does Priestley present power in the play?”

7. Guilt-How characters react to the Inspector’s investigation.

Example questions:

“How does Priestley present guilt in the play?”

## Main Character Questions

### Arthur Birling Example questions:

“How does Priestley present Mr Birling as a character to dislike?”

“How does Priestley present Birling’s views about responsibility?”

### Sheila Birling

#### Example questions:

“How does Priestley present Sheila’s development?”

“How does Sheila show responsibility?”

### Eric Birling Example questions:

“How does Priestley present Eric’s character and his actions?”

### Sybil Birling

#### Example questions:

“How does Priestley present Mrs Birling as cold or unsympathetic?”

### Gerald Croft Example questions:

“How does Priestley present Gerald’s relationship with Eva?”

### Inspector Goole Example questions:

“How does Priestley present the Inspector as powerful?”

“How does the Inspector influence the other characters?”

### Eva Smith / Daisy Renton Example questions:

“How does Priestley use Eva Smith to present his message?”