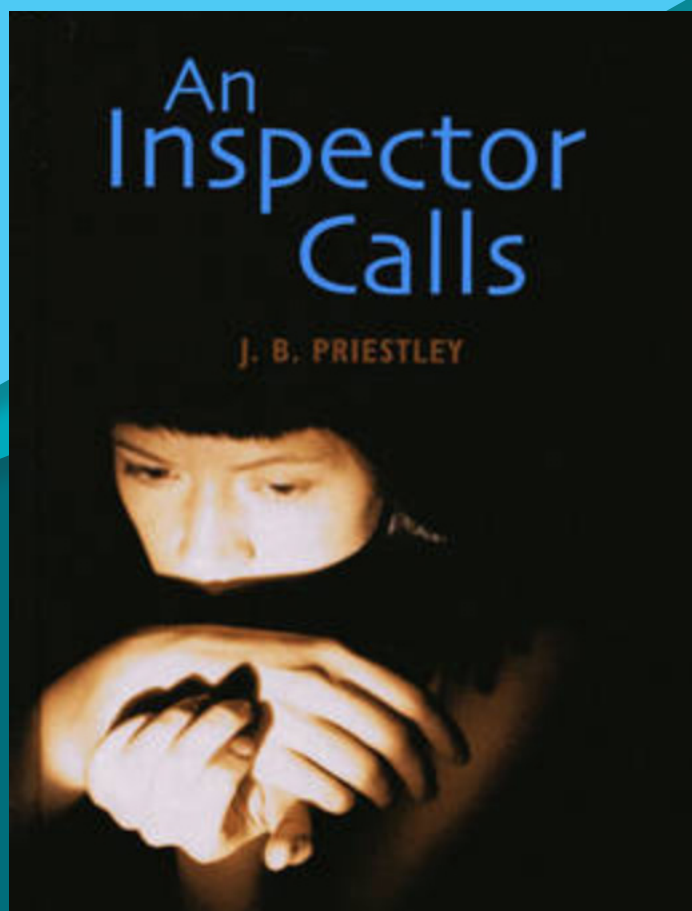


GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

AN INSPECTOR CALLS HOME STUDY



Ormiston
RIVERS
Academy

The following activities are designed around retrieval practice. This means they focus on content already taught. Do your best to answer the questions without looking at your notes or the text. Answers for some of the activities can be found at the back of this booklet so you can mark your answers once you have finished. Be sure to revise anything you got wrong when reviewing your learning.

Activity 1: Retrieval Grid

Consider the following questions in the retrieval grid and answer them in the blank grid below. Consider the amount of points each question is worth. The higher the amount of points, the longer ago we studied the content. Attempt to answer in as much detail as possible.

What is the significance of the name Daisy Renton?	How is an audience meant to react to Gerald?	Why is Mr. Birling excited for his daughter's engagement to Gerald?	Sheila says she complained about Eva because she thought Eva was making fun of her. What is the real reason?
What is dramatic irony and how is it used by Priestley to make Birling unlikeable?	How is power explored in the play?	Why does Priestley name the victim of the play 'Eva Smith'?	What is Priestley exploring with the concept of 'dual self'?
Why does Sheila become the voice of the Inspector when he leaves the room?	What is Eva and Eric's baby symbolic of?	Why does the play happen in real time?	What is symbolic about the way Eva Smith uses disinfectant to end her life?

One Point	Two Points	Three Points	Four Points
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Turn to the answers section of the booklet at the back and mark your answers. If your answer differs to the ones printed in the booklet, it is not necessarily incorrect but what is printed in the booklet is what I would expect you to have considered. Add in any missing gaps in knowledge in a different colour pen so you know what the focus of your revision should be. Once you have marked your answers, move on to the next activity.

Activity 2: Dual Coding

Consider the following icons. Each icon relates to one of Priestley's 'big ideas' that he explores in the play. Assign each icon a 'big idea' from the following list and then explain what each one means and where it appears in the play. One has been done for you. Check your answers at the back of the booklet when you have finished.

BIG IDEAS: Power, Guilt, Social Responsibility, Cause and Effect, Time, Dual Self, Capitalism, Socialism, Younger Generation vs Older Generation, The Supernatural, Morality vs Legality, Class



Capitalism - Mr. Birling is a capitalist. Priestley uses the play to highlight the dangers of a capitalist society. Eva becomes a victim of capitalism as the Birlings are only interested in self-preservation.



Activity 3: Word Challenge Grid

Below are two grids containing a selection of random words. Connect each of the words to 'An Inspector Calls', explaining how they link to the plot, characters or themes of Priestley's play. The words have been selected at random so some may be a challenge but ensure you give it a go. There are multiple links that could be made so there are no answers in the back of the booklet for this activity. One has been done for you so you can see what I am expecting. There are no specific answers I am looking for here, so be creative with your links!

food	books	talk
divide	liberty	lost
unknown	illuminate	plans
hope	challenge	history
walls	money	sound
fear	colour	silence

Sound could link to the arrival of the Inspector. The sound of the doorbell cuts Birling off in the middle of talking about his beliefs. Priestley uses sound to signal the beginning of the Birlings' interrogation.

Activity 4: Quotation Retrieval

The grid below contains a selection of quotations with words missing. Fill in the missing gaps in each quotation with the correct words and complete the rest of the grid with information on who says the quotation and what it tells us about each character. One has been completed for you. Check your work with the answers at the back of the booklet and correct any mistakes you have made in a different colour.

If you cannot remember a quotation, try and find it in your script before looking at the answers. Haven't got a script? Find it on Google!



An Inspector Calls script



Quotation	Who says it?	What does this tell us about their character?
'Careful! I'll _____ let it out of my _____ for an _____.'		This tells us that Sheila is very materialistic at the beginning of the play. She is very immature because she has been protected by her family.
'We're in for a _____ of steadily increasing _____.'		
'You'd think _____ has to look after _____ else.'		
'But these _____ aren't cheap _____ . They're _____.'		
'And you think _____ women ought to be _____ against unpleasant and _____ things?'		
'You were the _____ Fairy _____ . You must have _____ it, Gerald.'		

<p>'Public men, Mr Birling, have _____ as well as _____.'</p>		
<p>'Mother, I think it was _____ and _____.'</p>		
<p>'I blame the young man who was the _____ of the _____ she was going to have.'</p>		
<p>'Because you're not the kind of _____ a chap could go to when he's in _____.'</p>		
<p>'We don't live _____. We are members of one _____.'</p>		
<p>'If men will not learn that _____, then they will be taught it in _____ and _____ and _____.'</p>		
<p>'Now look at the pair of them - the _____ younger _____ who _____ it all.'</p>		

Now mark your answers at the back of the booklet. Add in any missing gaps in your knowledge in a different colour pen and focus your revision on what you got incorrect.

The following activities are designed around academic reading. This means you will be given an article to read and answer questions on. These articles have been selected because they will aid your understanding of Priestley's play and the big ideas he explores. There are no answers at the back of the booklet for this section so do your best. If you need any assistance, email your teacher and if you have no access to email, do what you can and then move on to the next activity.

Activity 5: Pre-Reading Activities

BRITISH LIBRARY

This section of the booklet will focus on extracts from 'An Introduction to 'An Inspector Calls'', an article that can be found on the British Library website. Before you read the extracts, complete the following pre-reading activities to help you understand what the article. Answer in full sentences. If you would like to access the full article, you can find it here: <https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/an-introduction-to-an-inspector-calls>.

Pre-Reading questions

- 1) The British Library have filed this article under the following categories. Make notes around each category which explain how they link to 'An Inspector Calls'.

POWER AND CONFLICT

EXPLORING IDENTITY

- 2) The summary for the article reads as:

Chris Power introduces *An Inspector Calls* as a **morality** play that **denounces** the **hypocrisy** and **callousness** of capitalism and argues that a just society can only be achieved if all individuals feel a sense of social responsibility.

What is a morality play?

What does the word 'denounces' mean?

What does the word 'hypocrisy' mean?

What does the word 'callousness' mean?

- 3) Using the information above, predict what ideas you think the article is going to explore:

I think this article _____

Activity 6: Guided Reading

Read the article. Highlight two sentences in each paragraph which you deem to be the most important. Down the left-hand side, add a title for each paragraph. On the right-hand side, summarise what each paragraph is saying in two or three bullet points. This follows the guided reading strategy we have used in class. One has been done for you so you can see what your work should look like.

Bullet Point Paragraph Summary

Paragraph Titles

Society neglects the vulnerable

Extracts from *An introduction to An Inspector Calls* - Part 1

Priestley's play revolves around a central mystery, the death of a young woman, but whereas a traditional detective story involves the narrowing down of suspects from several to one, *An Inspector Calls* inverts this process as, one by one, nearly all the characters in the play are found to be guilty. In this way, Priestley makes his larger point that society is guilty of neglecting and abusing its most vulnerable members. A just society, he states through his mysterious Inspector, is one that respects and exercises social responsibility.

Social responsibility is the idea that a society's poorer members should be helped by those who have more than them. Priestley was a socialist, and his political beliefs are woven through his work. There are many different types and degrees of socialism, but a general definition is as follows: an ideal socialist society is one that is egalitarian - in other words, its citizens have equal rights and the same opportunities are available to everybody; resources are shared out fairly, and the means of production (the facilities and resources for producing goods) are communally owned. Therefore, socialism stands in opposition to a capitalist society, such as ours, where trade and industry is mostly controlled by private owners, and these individuals or companies keep the profits made by their businesses, rather than distributing them evenly between the workers whose labour produced them.

An Inspector Calls is a three-act play with one setting: the dining room of 'a fairly large suburban house belonging to a fairly prosperous manufacturer'. The year is 1912, and we are in the home of the Birling family in the fictional industrial city of Brumley in the North Midlands. In the dining room five people are finishing their dinner: four members of the Birling family and one guest. Arthur Birling is a factory owner; his wife Sibyl is on the committee of a charity, and is usually scolding someone for a social mistake. Their adult children are Sheila and Eric, and their guest is Gerald Croft, Sheila's fiancé, who is from a wealthier manufacturing family than the Birlings. One other person is present: Edna the maid, who is going back and forth to the sideboard with dirty plates and glasses.

Priestley's description of the set at the beginning of the play script stresses the solidity of the Birlings' dining room: 'It is a solidly built room, with good solid furniture of the period'. But a later section of this scene-setting - on the walls are 'imposing but tasteless pictures and engravings', and the 'general effect is substantial and comfortable and old-fashioned but not cosy and homelike' - suggests that although the Birlings have wealth and social standing, they are not loving to one another or compassionate to others. The setting of the play in a single

-All characters in the play are guilty.
-Priestley says society is good if realises everyone has a responsibility to look after

Extracts from *An introduction to An Inspector Calls* - Part 2

Priestley has some fun using this opening section to show how wrong Arthur Birling's opinions are, thus positioning the play as anti-capitalist. He does this through the use of dramatic irony, having Arthur state opinions that the audience, with the advantage of hindsight, knows to be incorrect. He goes on to describe an ocean liner that is clearly meant to be the Titanic (which sank in April 1912) as 'unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable', and suggests that in time, 'let's say, in the forties', 'all these Capital versus Labour agitations and all these silly little war scares' will be long forgotten. In fact, as audiences in 1945 would have been keenly aware, the period between 1912 and 1945 saw a huge number of strikes, including the monumental General Strike of 1926, and not one but two global conflicts, the second of which had only recently ended. Dramatic irony is rarely a subtle technique, but Priestley's use of it is exceptionally blunt. This could be considered clumsy, but it underlines the fact that *An Inspector Calls* is a play with a point to make, and a character whose sole job is to make it.

When Inspector Goole arrives everything changes. He tells the Birlings and Gerald that a young woman, Eva Smith, has committed suicide by drinking disinfectant, and he has questions about the case. Over the course of the next two acts he will lay responsibility for Eva Smith's death at the feet of each of the Birlings and Gerald Croft, showing how their indifference to social responsibility has contributed to the death of this young woman. Or is it young women? He shows each person an identifying photograph of the dead woman one by one, leading Gerald to later suspect they were all shown photographs of different women.

But who is the Inspector? In the play's penultimate twist, he is revealed not to be a police inspector at all, yet, as Eric states, 'He was our Police Inspector, all right'. Details about him are scant. He says he is newly posted to Brumley, and he is impervious to Arthur Birling's threats about his close relationship with the chief constable 'I don't play golf', he tells Birling. 'I didn't suppose you did', the industrialist replies: a brief exchange that makes a clear point about class, and the battle between egalitarianism and privilege. Beyond these sparse biographical details, the Inspector seems less like a person and more like a

Activity 7: Post-Reading Questions

Paragraph Titles

Extracts from *An introduction to An Inspector Calls* - Part 3

Throughout the course of the Inspector's investigation, and the testimony of Gerald and each of the Birlings, the supposedly respectable city of Brumley is revealed to be a place of deep class divisions and hypocrisy. As Arthur Birling's behaviour towards Eva makes clear, it is a place where factory owners exploit their workers as a matter of course - part of his 'a man has to look after himself' philosophy. Eric accuses his father of hypocrisy for sacking the dead girl after she asked for higher wages, because the Birling firm always seeks to sell their products at the highest possible prices.

This exploitation is not limited to the factories. In the testimony of Gerald, and later Eric, the Palace Theatre emerges as a place where prostitutes gather, and where the supposedly great and good of the town go to meet them. When Gerald first met Eva, as he describes it, she was trapped in a corner by 'Old Joe Meggarty, half-drunk and goggle-eyed'. Sibyl Birling, scandalised, asks 'surely you don't mean Alderman Meggarty?' An unsurprised Sheila tells her mother 'horrible old Meggarty' has a reputation for groping young women: the younger characters are either more knowledgeable or frank about the dark secrets of the city, whereas the older Birlings live in a dream world of respectability, or hypocritically turn a blind eye to any disreputable behaviour by supposedly respectable people.

The play begins with the characters' corrupt, unpleasant natures safely hidden away (a respectable group in a respectable home, enjoying that most respectable event, an engagement party); it ends with naked displays of hypocrisy. When it is confirmed that Goole is not really a policeman, Arthur, Sibyl and Gerald immediately regain an unjustified sense of outrage. 'Then look at the way he talked to me', Arthur Birling complains. 'He must have known I was an ex-Lord Mayor and a magistrate and so forth'. Once it is confirmed, in the play's penultimate twist, that there is no suicide lying on a mortuary slab, they forget the immoral, uncharitable behaviour they were recently accused of - things, remember, that they undoubtedly did - and begin talking about getting away with things. Only Sheila and Eric recognise and resist this hypocritical behaviour. 'I suppose we're all nice people now!' Sheila remarks sarcastically. Earlier she broke off her engagement to Gerald, telling him 'You and I aren't the same people who sat down to dinner here'. Likewise, Eric angrily accuses his father of 'beginning to pretend now that nothing's really happened at all'. Priestley's vision is cautiously optimistic insofar as the youngest characters are changed by the Inspector's visit, while the older Birlings and Gerald appear to be too set in their beliefs to change them.

The play leaves open the question of whether Eva Smith is a real woman (who sometimes uses different names, including Daisy Renton), or multiple people the Inspector pretends are one. There is no right answer here, and in terms of Priestley's message it is beside the point: because his socialist principles demand that everyone should be treated the same, in his opinion abusing one working-class woman is equivalent to abusing all working-class women. Eva Smith is, therefore, not an individual victim, but a universal one. This helps explain the effectiveness of the play's final twist. Having discovered that Inspector Goole is not a real policeman, and that there is no dead woman called Eva Smith at the Brumley morgue, a phone call announces that a woman has killed herself, and an inspector is on his way to question the Birlings. The invented story Inspector Goole related has now come true. This seems a bizarre coincidence with which to end the play, but if we consider *An Inspector Calls* as a moral fable, and not as naturalistic theatre, it begins to seem much more like a logical, even inevitable, conclusion. The characters have been confronted with the error of their ways; some have repented, some have not. Now is the time for judgement, and for the watching audience to ask themselves, according to Priestley's design, are any of these people like me?

Bullet Point Paragraph Summary

Answer the following questions on the article above. Remember to answer in full sentences. If there is a question you are not sure about, email your teacher or miss it out and come back to it when you have finished the rest of the activities. If you need extra space, write on a different piece of paper and attach it to this booklet once you have finished.

1. What is the significance of the furniture in the room? How does it reflect the Birlings and their personality?
2. The article states the play is a 'battle between egalitarianism and privilege'. What does this mean? (Hint: The definition of 'egalitarian' can be found in the first section of the article)
3. The article describes the Inspector as a 'moral force'. What are they saying about the Inspector?
4. The article says the Inspector's final speech is the 'very antithesis' of Mr. Birling's speech at the beginning of the play. 'Antithesis' means opposite. Explain how the Inspector's speech is the antithesis of Mr. Birling's speech. Re-read the speeches to help you.
5. The article says Eva Smith is not an 'individual victim but a universal one'. What does this mean? (Use the third section of the article to help you)
6. The article states 'An Inspector Calls' is a 'moral fable'. What does this mean?
7. The article ends by saying some characters have 'repented'. If you have 'repented', what have you done?

Activity 8: Further Questions

Answer the following questions on the article. These questions require shorter answers and can be answered as notes and brief annotations. If you need extra space, write on a different piece of paper and attach it to this booklet. If you need a copy of the script, you can find one online. Check your



An Inspector Calls script



answers at the back of the booklet when you have finished.

'Priestley's play revolves around a central mystery, the death of a young woman, but whereas a traditional detective story involves the narrowing down of suspects from several to one, An Inspector Calls inverts this process as, one by one, nearly all the characters in the play are found to be guilty.'

1. How did Eva die? Retrieve a short quotation.
2. In which order are the characters questioned by Inspector Goole?
3. In what ways are each of the characters 'guilty' of playing a part in the death of Eva Smith?

'In this way, Priestley makes his larger point that society is guilty of neglecting and abusing its most vulnerable members. A just society, he states through his mysterious Inspector, is one that respects and exercises social responsibility.'

1. Birling says to the Inspector, 'It's a free country, I told them.' How does Eric respond? Retrieve a short quotation.
2. After questioning Birling, what does the Inspector reveal about how Eva spent 'the next two months'?
3. Why was Eva 'lucky to get taken on' at Milwards?

'Social responsibility is the idea that a society's poorer members should be helped by those who have more than them. Priestley was a socialist, and his political beliefs are woven through his work.'

1. How do Birling's views on social responsibility differ from the Inspector's views? Retrieve a short quotation.
2. The Inspector says to Birling, 'it's better to ask for the earth than to take it.' Which page is the quotation on?

'Socialism stands in opposition to a capitalist society, such as ours, where trade and industry is mostly controlled by private owners, and these individuals or companies keep the profits made by their businesses, rather than distributing them evenly between the workers whose labour produced them.'

1. Gerald says to Birling, 'Hear, hear! And I think my father would agree to that.' What is Gerald talking about?
2. Birling says, 'And we're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity.' Which page is the quotation on?
3. By how much did Eva and the workers want their 'rates raised'? Retrieve a short quotation.

‘When Inspector Goole arrives everything changes.’

1. How should the stage be lit before the Inspector arrives?
2. How should the lighting change when he enters during act one?

‘Throughout the course of the Inspector’s investigation, and the testimony of Gerald and each of the Birlings, the supposedly respectable city of Brumley is revealed to be a place of deep class divisions and hypocrisy.’

1. Which character is referred to as a ‘notorious womanizer’?
2. Mrs Birling says, ‘we *are* learning something tonight.’ What does she mean?
3. Mrs Birling also says, ‘It’s disgusting to me’. What does she mean?

The following activities are designed around exam questions. This means you will complete a series of small activities to help you answer an essay question like the one you will receive in your GCSE Literature paper. Use the notes from this booklet and a copy of the text to help you prepare.

Activity 9: Essay Preparation

You will be answering the following question:

How far does Priestley present Mr Birling as an unlikeable character?

Complete the following analytical verbs to help you explore Priestley's authorial intent with Mr. Birling's character. Authorial intent is when you explain **what** an author is doing and **why** they are doing it. The 'why' is extremely important and often missed out by students in their exams so that is what we are going to start with today. One has been done for you.

Priestley may present Mr. Birling as an unlikeable character:

- to warn

- to teach audiences about the dangers of capitalism and the way it can bring out the worst in people.

- to reveal the importance of

- to criticise

- to advocate

Pick three of your sentences from above and rewrite them below. This time, extend your sentences with the connectives 'because', 'but' or 'so'. Look at the example below to help you.

Priestley may present Mr. Birling as an unlikeable character **to teach** audiences about the dangers of capitalism and the way it can bring out the worst in people **so** he comes across as greedy, selfish and a man concerned only with self-preservation from the very beginning.

1.

2.

3.

Pick one of the sentences above. Copy it out again. Extend it by using one analytical verb to lead in to a second analytical verb in order to explore more of Priestley's authorial intent.

Look at the example below to help you.

Priestley may present Mr. Birling as an unlikeable character **to teach** audiences about the dangers of capitalism and the way it can bring out the worst in people **so** he comes across as greedy, selfish and a man concerned only with self-preservation from the very beginning. **Through teaching audiences this**, Priestley may also be **advocating** socialist ways of life. If the audience dislike Mr. Birling, a man associated with capitalism, they are more likely to turn to socialism to improve society.

1.

Write down five quotations you could use in your essay. They do not necessarily have to be spoken by Mr. Birling himself. One has been done for you to give you a sixth quotation.

'We're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity'

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Use your analytical verbs to quickly explain what Priestley is doing with each quotation. You do not need to write in full sentences as this is just a plan. Look at the example to help you.

Eg. 'We're in for a time of steady increasing prosperity' - **Exposing Birling, and by extension, all capitalists as being a group of people who are out of touch with reality.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Activity 10: I Do

Identify the following in this example response which I have pre-prepared.

- Clear points at the beginning of each paragraph which relate to the question
- Embedded quotations
- Single word analysis
- Analytical verbs
- Authorial intent (what the writer is doing and why they are doing it.)
- Social/historical context

Pay close attention to how I am writing. You should aim to replicate this style of writing in your own answer.

Priestley makes Mr. Birling an extremely unlikeable character, aligning him with capitalist values and ideas so that audiences consider socialism to be a stronger foundation on which to build society. He is a pompous, arrogant and selfish man who is only interested in preserving his luxurious way of life. Priestley makes him more unlikeable as the play progresses; at the beginning he believes he knows best, lecturing his family on the fact that war will not happen, the Titanic is 'unsinkable' and that the world is in 'for a time of steadily increasing prosperity.' The noun 'prosperity' connotes wealth and luxury, and perhaps Priestley makes Birling say this to criticise capitalists and their obsession with making as much money as they can whilst others suffer in this harsh Edwardian society he presents audiences with. Maybe Priestley is teaching us that money should not be the one thing we live for and that recognising the responsibilities we have to others should be our sole focus. Through teaching us this, he is celebrating socialist values and asking the audience to evaluate and reflect on their actions so that they do not end up like Mr. Birling.

Activity 11: Exam Question

Answer the following exam question. Use everything in this booklet to help you. If you need your copy of the text with you to help, you may use it but remember you will not have a copy in your real exam. Don't forget to include the following:

- Clear points at the beginning of each paragraph which relate to the question
- Quotations
- Single word analysis (You could use your analytical verbs here too. Eg. 'Priestley has Mr. Birling talk about 'prosperity' to criticise...')
- Authorial intent (what the writer is doing and why they are doing it.)
- Social/historical context

If you are unsure how to structure your essay, start with what Mr. Birling is like at the beginning of the play and explain how he develops. Remember, the question is asking 'how far' Priestley presents Mr. Birling as unlikeable which means you need to make a decision and then use the essay to explain your thoughts. Is he very unlikeable, partially unlikeable or completely likeable? Why? Use the paragraph above to help you start if needed.

Answers

Retrieval Grid

Mark the answers to the following questions:

What is the significance of the name Daisy Renton?	How is an audience meant to react to Gerald?	Why is Mr. Birling excited for his daughter's engagement to Gerald?	Sheila says she complained about Eva because she thought Eva was making fun of her. What is the real reason?
What is dramatic irony and how is it used by Priestley to make Birling unlikeable?	How is power explored in the play?	Why does Priestley name the victim of the play 'Eva Smith'?	What is Priestley exploring with the concept of 'dual self'?
Why does Sheila become the voice of the Inspector when he leaves the room?	What is Eva and Eric's baby symbolic of?	Why does the play happen in real time?	What is symbolic about the way Eva Smith uses disinfectant to end her life?

One Point	Two Points	Three Points	Four Points
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Daisy is a reference to a flower that can easily be crushed emphasising the character's vulnerability. 'Rent' is another word for torn suggesting Daisy has been torn from her identity with force.	Gerald is the most ambiguous character in the play. Our views on him depend who he is with on stage. For example, audiences dislike him when he aligns himself with Birling and hurts Sheila yet sympathises with him when he is shown to truly love Daisy.	Mr. Birling is excited for the business opportunities between his company and Gerald's parents' company.	Sheila really complains about Eva Smith because she is jealous of the way she looks. Sheila is rich; money can buy her anything. This time, however, she has come across something that money cannot buy her.
Dramatic irony is when the audience know something that the characters on stage don't. This is reflected through Mr. Birling's discussion of the Titanic, labour troubles, the Great Depression, war and Russia's status as a super power.	Power is explored through wealth and class but also through male lust and physical power.	Smith is a common surname, meaning Eva is a microcosm for all people whose lives have been dictated by those more powerful than them.	'Dual self' means the idea of having more than one identity. Eva takes on many identities for survival. The Birlings take on public and private persona. In public they are a well to do family but in private they have many secrets they do not want revealed.
Sheila becomes the voice of the Inspector to symbolise how the younger generation are Priestley's hope for the future.	Eva and Eric's baby could be symbolic of a bridge between the upper and lower classes. It has the power to bring them two classes together and yet Mrs Birling destroys the baby because she is only interested in self preservation.	The play happens in real time to show how quickly capitalism can be pulled apart by socialism.	Eva uses disinfectant to cleanse herself of the effects of capitalism. Disinfectant is used to clean. It is like she is cleaning herself from the Birlings' actions.

Dual Coding

Mark the 'dual coding' activity by seeing if you matched the correct 'big idea' to the correct icon:



Capitalism - Mr. Birling is a capitalist. Priestley uses the play to highlight the dangers of a capitalist society.



Power - The Birlings have power because of their wealth and status. The Inspector has power because of his socialist morals. Eva is the victim of physical power, usually at the hands of



Morality vs Legality: Priestley explores the idea of whether should do something just because the law does not stop us from doing



Cause and Effect: All actions have consequences. All the Birlings are acting alone but collectively, they damage Eva in a way which is irreversible.



Class: Priestley partially blames the class system for dividing society. The lower classes are trampled under the foot of the upper classes who remain ignorant to the suffering of the poor.



Guilt: Each member of the Birling family and Gerald are guilty of Eva's death in some way. Only Eric and Sheila accept their guilt meaning the process of interrogation begins again at the end of the play.



The Supernatural: There is an element of the supernatural in the play. The inspector is omniscient (meaning he is all knowing). His surname 'Goole' is a play on the word 'ghoul' leaving the audience to wonder whether he is truly human.



Social Responsibility: Priestley aims to teach us about social responsibility through the play and how we all have a duty to look after everyone else.



Socialism: The Inspector is the voice of socialism in the play. Priestley uses the Inspector to spread the message of socialism, saying it would be better for society if everyone looked out for everyone else.



Time: Priestley explores ideas about time. He was particularly concerned with how events in the past are still felt keenly in the present. The end of the play promises the possibility of events playing out once more.



Dual Self: Priestley explores the idea of a dual self. Each character has more than one identity. The Birlings have a public and private persona in which they act very differently. Eva has multiple identities which she adopts in order to survive.



Younger generation vs older generation: As the play progresses, Priestley explores a divide between the younger and older generation. The views of both groups differ, with the younger generation taking on more of a socialist stance by the end of the play.

Activity 4: Quotation Retrieval

Mark your answers for the quotation grid:

Quotation	Who says it?	What does this tell us about their character?
'Careful! I'll _____ let it out of my _____ for an _____.'		This tells us that Sheila is very materialistic at the beginning of the play. She is very immature because she has been protected by her family.
'We're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity .'	Mr. Birling	This quotation shows us that Mr Birling does not know what he is talking about. This means the audience will not trust him and as a result, will not trust capitalism.
'You'd think everybody has to look after everybody else.'	Mr. Birling	Mr. Birling is denouncing the principles of socialism. Priestley hopes that by making him unlikeable, audiences will side with socialism. Mr. Birling is a selfish and self-centred man, concerned only with self-preservation.
'But these girls aren't cheap labour . They're people .'	Sheila	This tells us that Sheila has a conscience. She recognises that Mr. Birling does not treat the girls who work for him as he should. She recognises human value in people, something which Mr. Birling does not.

<p>‘And you think <u>young</u> women ought to be <u>protected</u> against unpleasant and <u>disturbing</u> things?’</p>	<p>The Inspector</p>	<p>This tells us that the Inspector believes the upper classes are ignorant to the suffering of the poor. He questions Mr. Birling on his decision to protect Sheila from disturbing things in the world.</p>
<p>‘You were the <u>wonderful</u> Fairy <u>Prince</u>. You must have <u>adored</u> it, Gerald.’</p>	<p>Sheila</p>	<p>This shows that Sheila is beginning to mature. She listens to Gerald’s role in events calmly and even begins to read situations perceptively, something she was not able to do at the beginning of the play. She understands why Gerald did what he did.</p>
<p>‘Public men, Mr Birling, have <u>responsibilities</u> as well as <u>privileges</u>.’</p>	<p>The Inspector</p>	<p>This quotation shows audiences that the Inspector is an advocate for those who do not have a voice. This means he speaks out in support of them and his aim is to get others to realise they can be supporters of those less fortunate as well.</p>
<p>‘Mother, I think it was <u>cruel</u> and <u>vile</u>.’</p>	<p>Sheila</p>	<p>Sheila has matured. As she comes to understand the principle of responsibility, she grows more and more distant from her mother and father.</p>
<p>‘I blame the young man who was the <u>father</u> of the <u>child</u> she was going to have.’</p>	<p>Mrs Birling</p>	<p>Mrs Birling unwittingly condemns her unborn grandchild to death by refusing Eva help. Mrs Birling has yet to realise that actions have far reaching consequences. Her unborn grandchild is a victim of her callous ways.</p>
<p>‘Because you’re not the kind of <u>father</u> a chap could go to when he’s in <u>trouble</u>.’</p>	<p>Eric</p>	<p>Eric also grows more distant from his father as the action of the play progresses. He does not see eye to eye with his father, unlike Gerald and by the end of the play, their relationship is irreparable.</p>
<p>‘We don’t live <u>alone</u>. We are members of one <u>body</u>.’</p>	<p>The Inspector</p>	<p>The Inspector’s message is simple. We all need to look after one another. We are all responsible for each other’s well-being and welfare.</p>

<p>'If men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish.'</p>	<p>The Inspector</p>	<p>The Inspector issues a prophetic warning here. He says that if we do not look after others, we will pay the price. The image he paints of our punishment is almost biblical, conjuring images of hell but could also be a reference to the world wars which will happen in later years. The Inspector is giving society a chance to improve.</p>
<p>'Now look at the pair of them - the famous younger generation who know it all.'</p>	<p>Mr. Birling</p>	<p>Mr. Birling has not learned his lesson. He is just as selfish and self-centred as ever. The difference is that the Birling family is now splintered. Sheila and Eric do not see eye to eye with their father and mother and never will.</p>

Activity 8: Further Questions

Check your answers to the questions:

1. How did Eva die? Retrieve a short quotation. **'She'd swallowed a lot of strong disinfectant.'**
2. In which order are the characters questioned by Inspector Goole? **Mr. B, Sheila, Gerald, Mrs B, Eric**
3. In what ways are each of the characters 'guilty' of playing a part in the death of Eva Smith? **Mr Birling fires Eva for being ringleader in a strike, Sheila gets Eva sacked after making a complaint, Gerald has an affair with her, Mrs Birling refuses to support her through her charity, Eric forces himself on her.**
4. Birling says to the Inspector, 'It's a free country, I told them.' How does Eric respond? Retrieve a short quotation. **'It isn't if you can't go and work somewhere else.'**
5. After questioning Birling, what does the Inspector reveal about how Eva spent 'the next two months'? **Eva found no work, had no money and lived in lodgings with no relatives to help her. She had 'few friends', was lonely and 'half-starved.'** She was feeling desperate.
6. Why was Eva 'lucky to get taken on' at Milwards? **There was lots of influenza about and Milwards needed staff after finding themselves short-handed.**
7. How do Birling's views on social responsibility differ from the Inspector's views? Retrieve a short quotation. **'A man has to mind his business and look after himself and his own.'**

8. The Inspector says to Birling, 'it's better to ask for the earth than to take it.' Which page is the quotation on? **Page 15.**

9. Gerald says to Birling, 'Hear, hear! And I think my father would agree to that.' What is Gerald talking about? **Gerald is talking about Birling and his father working together 'for lower costs and higher prices.'**

10. Birling says, 'And we're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity.' Which page is the quotation on? **Page 6**

11. By how much did Eva and the workers want their 'rates raised'? Retrieve a short quotation. **'They were averaging about twenty-two and six... they wanted the rates raised so that they could average about twenty-five shillings a week.'**

12. How should the stage be lit before the Inspector arrives? **Pink and intimate.**

13. How should the lighting change when he enters during act one? **It should become 'brighter and harder'.**

14. Which character is referred to as a 'notorious womanizer'? **Alderman Joe Meggarty**

15. Mrs Birling says, 'we *are* learning something tonight.' What does she mean? **Alderman Meggarty has a dual self. He appears respectable but has a darker side which he adopts in private. People are not always who they appear to be.**

16. Mrs Birling also says, 'It's disgusting to me'. What does she mean? **Gerald's affair with Daisy.**