

Important Exam Information

- Paper 2 Section A
- No extract
- Choice of 2 questions
- 45 minutes

Key Themes (AO1)

- Social responsibility
- Older vs younger generations
- Gender
- Age
- Class

'An Inspector Calls' Knowledge Organiser

Tips for use: create mind-maps, flash cards, ask someone to test you, look, cover, write, check

Characters (AO1)	Key Quotations (AO1)	Key theme
Inspector Goole - Priestley's mouthpiece; advocates social justice; serves as the Birlings' conscience	1) 'massiveness, solidity and purposefulness' 2)'but each of you helped to kill her. Remember that.' 3) 'millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths' 4)'fire and blood and anguish'	1) Socialism 2) Social responsibility 3) Socialism/class 4) War/social responsibility
Mr Birling - Businessman; capitalist; against social equality; a self-made man (new-money)	1) 'We're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity' 2) 'Cranks' 3) 'hard headed business man' 4) 'unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable'	1) Capitalism/dramatic irony 2) Socialism 3) Capitalism 4) Dramatic irony
Mrs Birling - Husband's social superior; believes in personal responsibility	1) 'girls of that class' 2) 'simply absurd in a girl in that position'	1) Class 2) Class
Sheila - Young girl; comes to change views and pities Eva; feels regret	1) 'but these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people' 2) 'I'll never, never do it again'	1) Socialism 2) Social responsibility/generational differences
Eric - Young man, drinks too much; forces himself on Eva Smith; regrets actions.	1) 'It's what happened to the girl and all that happened to her that matters' 2) 'in that state when a chap easily turns nasty'	1) Social responsibility 2) Gender
Gerald Croft - Businessman; engaged to Sheila; politically closest to Birling	1) 'Sorry- I- well, I've suddenly realized- taken it in properly- that she's dead' 2) 'Everything's all right now Sheila'	1) Social responsibility 2) Failed redemption/Capitalism
Eva Smith - Unseen in play; comes to stand for victims of social injustice (changes her name to Daisy Renton)	1) 'lively looking girl' 2) 'wretched girl's suicide' 3) 'She was young and pretty and warm-hearted and intensely grateful'	1) Gender 2) Class 3) Gender
Edna - The Birling's maid. She has the first contact with the Inspector. Symbolises the working class.	1) 'Please, sir, an Inspector's called'.	1) Class/socialism

Plot (AO1)

Act One – Set in April 1912, Brumley, Midlands, UK. The Birling family and Gerald Croft are celebrating Sheila Birling's engagement to Gerald with a dinner. Mr Birling lectures his son, Eric Birling, and Gerald about the importance of every man looking out for himself if he wants to get on in life. Edna (the maid) announces that an inspector has arrived. Inspector Goole says that he is investigating the death of a young woman who committed suicide, Eva Smith. Mr Birling is shown a photograph of Eva, after initially denying recognising the woman in the photo, he remembers firing her in 1910 for organising a strike over workers pay. Sheila recalls also having Eva sacked about her manner when served by her in an upmarket department store. The Inspector reveals that Eva Smith changed her name to Daisy Renton. Gerald reveals to Sheila he had an affair with Daisy Renton.

Act Two - Gerald explains to The Inspector that he had an affair with Eva, but hasn't seen her since he ended their relationship back in Autumn 1911. Sheila gives her engagement ring back to Gerald. The Inspector turns his attention to Mrs Sybil Birling, she confesses that she also had contact with Eva, but Eva gave herself a different name to Mrs Birling. Eva approached a charity chaired by Mrs Birling to ask for help. Eva was desperate and pregnant but help was refused by Mrs Birling because she was offended by the girl calling herself 'Mrs Birling'. She tells Eva that the baby's father should be made entirely responsible. She also tells Inspector Goole that the father should be held entirely responsible and should be made an example of.

Act Three - Eric is revealed as the father. He stole money from Mr Birling's office to provide money to Eva. The Inspector delivers his final speech. After he leaves, the family begin to suspect that he was not a genuine police inspector. A phone call to the Chief Constable confirms this. Next, they phone the infirmary to be informed that no suicide case has been brought in. Mr Birling, Mrs Birling and Gerald congratulate themselves that it was all a hoax and they continue can continue as before. This attitude upsets Sheila and Eric. The phone rings. Mr Birling announces to the family that a girl has just died on her way to the infirmary, a police inspector is coming to question them

Theatrical Stagecraft: Dramatic devices/Structure (AO2)

Dramatic irony	Birling's speeches, Mrs. Birling's witless implication of Eric. Used to make the characters look clueless and unreliable to the audience.
Stage directions	Instructions for the actors; often revealing – such as the lighting change when the Inspector arrives: "Pink and intimate then brighter and harder"
Setting	Constant throughout but subtle changes e.g. lighting; characters on/off stage
Tension	Builds up throughout the play ; interrogation of characters, personal relationships, secrecy.
Cliff-hanger	End of each Act, the ending allows the audience to make up their minds
Foreshadowing	Symbolism (The Titanic), Mr. Birling's "knighthood", war. Builds tension.
Time-lapse	Set in 1912, written in 1945; audience in a privileged position.
The Fourth Wall	The Inspector's final speech seems to be addressed directly to audience.

Assessment Objectives:

- AO1:** Clear points about the text supported with relevant quotations – 'rich in language'. (12 marks)
- AO2:** Zooming in on words from the quote and exploring what they suggest in detail. (12 marks)
- AO3:** Linking to the context of the play/how your point links to Priestley's viewpoint or message. (6 marks)
- AO4:** Spelling, punctuation and grammar (4 marks)

How to get full marks for AO4 (SPaG):

In the context of the level of demand of the question, learners spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy, and consistently use vocabulary and sentence structures to achieve effective control of meaning.

Non-negotiables AO4:

- Capital letters
- Full stops
- Spellings of key words e.g. character names, dramatic devices, thematic words

Context AO3)

- 1) A play in three acts, set in Brumley, an English manufacturing town in the north of the Midlands, in 1912 .
- 2) Set in 1912, before the beginning of the First World War, but was written during the winter of 1944/45, first reaching the stage in 1945, the year in which the Second World War ended.
- 3) It champions socialism – a political system that means the production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole. After WWII, the
- 4) Labour Party (a socialist party at that time) won the general election in a landslide victory against Churchill.
- 5) 1945 was probably the most crucial period in domestic British politics this century" - a time when people were asking, "Do we want to go back to the Edwardian period or to create something vital and new, a romantic vision of the future?".
- 6) Priestley fought in WWI and saw the horrors. At the end of the WWII he saw the class, age and gender divides all broken down and campaigned for the country to keep it like that, rather than go back to Edwardian attitudes of 1912.

Sentence starters:

Point (AO1): Use the words from the question and include a method used by the writer.

Evidence (AO1): For example/ This is seen when '...'

Analysis (AO2): This word/method '...' implies/suggests...
It makes us realise/think/feel/imagine...
Furthermore, the word '...' is crucial because...

Link (AO3): This could represent/symbolise the ... in society/it may represent Priestley's view that...