

An Inspector Calls - Revision Questions

The questions on this page will be useful for revising. You could use them in a number of ways.

- 1. Mindmap all of your ideas for each question.*
- 2. Find quotations that help answer the question.*
- 3. Plan an essay answer.*
- 4. Explain a response to a friend.*
- 5. Write a timed essay (in 45 minutes).*

KNOWLEDGE OF CHARACTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- a) How far do you believe Mrs Birling is more responsible for the death of Eva Smith than the other characters?
- b) What do you think is Inspector Goole's role in the play? How does Priestley present him?
- c) How does Priestley build sympathy for Eva Smith throughout the play?
- d) How does Priestley present the change in Sheila during the course of the play *An Inspector Calls*? How do you think this change reflects some of Priestley's ideas?
- e) Write about the way the relationship between Gerald and Sheila develops during the play.
- f) The audience never actually meets Eva Smith but only hears about her from different characters. What does Priestley achieve by withholding Eva's character from the audience in this way?
- g) What is revealed about family relationships throughout the play?
- h) How does the younger generation differ from the older generation in the play?
- i) How does Priestley show that tension is at the heart of the Birling family?

KNOWLEDGE OF ISSUES AND THEMES

- a) "An Inspector Calls is full of lies and deceit." How far do you agree with this statement? What methods does Priestley use to lead you to your view?
- b) How is the theme of gender inequality explored in the play?
- c) How does Priestley present the theme of class differences in *An Inspector Calls*?
- d) How does Priestley present ideas about social duty in *An Inspector Calls*?
- e) How does the play explore the issue of time and the past's impact on the present?
- f) What do you think the Inspector set out to achieve? How successful do you think he is?
- g) Priestley criticises the selfishness of people like the Birlings. What methods does he use to present this selfishness?
- h) *An Inspector Calls* has been called "a play of contrasts". Write about how Priestley presents some of the contrasts in the play.