

### **An Inspector Calls exam-style questions**

1. How does Priestley show that tension is at the heart of the Birling family? Write about:

- how the relationships in the family are presented
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

2. Priestley criticises the selfishness of people like the Birlings. What methods does he use to present this selfishness? Write about:

- the selfish behaviour and ideas that are shown
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

3. An Inspector Calls has been called 'a play of contrasts'. Write about how Priestley presents some of the contrasts in the play. Write about:

- the contrasts that are shown in the play
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

4. Arthur Birling says, 'If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it?' How does Priestley present ideas about responsibility in An Inspector Calls? Write about:

- how the family are shown to be responsible
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

5. How do you respond to Gerald in An Inspector Calls? How does Priestley make you respond as you do by the ways he writes? Write about:

- the ideas that are presented through Gerald
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

6. How does Priestley present Arthur Birling in An Inspector Calls?

Write about:

- what Arthur Birling says and does
- the methods Priestley uses to present him.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

- In *An Inspector Calls* Eric and Sheila Birling are brother and sister. How are they alike and how are they different?  
Write about:
- what Eric and Sheila say and do
- similarities and differences between them
- the methods Priestley uses to present Eric and Sheila.

(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

7. In Act 2 of *An Inspector Calls*, Sheila says to her mother, Mrs Birling, "But we really must stop these silly pretences". How does Priestley show, in his presentation of Mrs Birling, that she often pretends to be something she is not? Write about:

- How Mrs Birling responds to the Inspector and her family
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.  
(30 marks; 4 SPAG)

8. How important do you think social class is in *An Inspector Calls* and how does Priestley present ideas about social class? Write about:

- Priestley's ideas about class
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.  
(30 marks) SPaG: (4 marks)

**Some further example questions you might encounter:**

1. Discuss how Priestley's portrayal of [choose character] contributes to the themes and the dramatic effect of *An Inspector Calls*. Give evidence.
2. How does Priestley make this [choose your own extract] such a dramatic and meaningful conclusion to [choose your own act]?
3. How does Priestley make this [choose your own extract] such a dramatic and meaningful opening to [choose your own act]?
4. Explore one or two moments in the play when Priestley makes the on stage presence of [choose character] particularly powerful. Give evidence.

5. What do you think is the importance of Inspector Goole and how does Priestley present him?
6. [Pick your own extract]. In the rest of the play, how does Priestley present and develop some of the ideas shown here?
7. [Birling/Eric/Mrs Birling] is the least sympathetic character in the play. How far do you agree? Give your reasons.
8. How do you respond to Gerald in *An Inspector Calls*? How does Priestley make you respond as you do by the ways he writes?
9. Priestley shows that the Birling family are responsible for the death of the girl. Who do you think he suggests is most responsible? Give evidence for your argument and explain why.
10. Arthur Birling says, 'If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it?' How does Priestley explore the theme of [choose: responsibility/social injustice] in *An Inspector Calls*?
11. How do you respond to [character] in *An Inspector Calls*? How does Priestley make you respond as you do by the ways he writes?
12. *An Inspector Calls* has been called 'a play of contrasts'. Write about how Priestley presents some of the contrasts in the play.
13. 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?
14. How does Priestley show that tension is at the heart of the Birling family?
15. Priestley criticises the selfishness of people like the Birlings. What methods does he use to present this selfishness?