2.17 Literature: An Inspector Calls - Character Study in Depth: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Sheila Birling is first shown as a happy, excited young woman before the Inspector arrives. State three separate details Priestley establishes about Sheila's situation or mood in this opening part of the play.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Identify two separate methods, other than what he says, that Priestley uses to give the audience a first impression of Mr Birling in Act One, and state the effect each has.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain one way Priestley presents Gerald Croft as confident and socially at ease when he is first introduced to the audience.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.17 Literature: An Inspector Calls - Character Study in Depth: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

she has just become engaged to Gerald Croft (oe, accept reference to the engagement/ring)	**B1**
she is presented as excited and playful with her family during the celebration	**B1**
any other valid detail, e.g. she is comfortable and sheltered within her family's wealth, or she teases Gerald lightly about the previous summer	**B1**

Answer: Any three of: newly engaged to Gerald Croft; in a celebratory, playful mood with her family; comfortable and sheltered by her family's wealth and position; close to her mother in this scene; lightly teasing Gerald about his absence the previous summer, without yet suspecting anything serious.

Question 2

identifies a valid method (e.g. the stage directions describing his appearance and manner, or the formal dinner-party setting and toast)	**B1**
states a plausible effect for this method (e.g. suggests self-satisfaction, or a wish to impress Gerald's family)	**B1**
identifies a second, different valid method (e.g. his lengthy, uninterrupted speeches, or his manner towards the servants)	**B1**
states a plausible effect for the second method (e.g. suggests he enjoys the sound of his own authority, or that he expects to be obeyed without question)	**B1**

Answer: Accept any two of: stage directions/physical description; the dinner-party setting and toast; his long, uninterrupted speeches; his manner towards the servants or towards Gerald; each paired with a sensible stated effect such as self-importance, a wish to impress, or an expectation of authority.

Question 3

Level 2 Clear explanation: identifies a specific detail of Gerald's early presentation (his relaxed manner with the Birlings, his readiness with compliments, his comfort in an unfamiliar household) and explains a clear effect, with reference to the text.	**3-4**
Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment about Gerald with little development or textual reference.	**1-2**

Indicative content:

- Gerald's easy, polished manner towards Mr and Mrs Birling suggests someone used to social situations above his own family's standing
- his readiness with toasts and compliments during the engagement celebration presents him as socially practised and charming
- his apparent comfort in a household he has not previously visited in this way suggests confidence rooted in his own social class
- any other valid, plausible point supported by knowledge of the character's early presentation

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