# 2.17 Literature: An Inspector Calls - Character Study in Depth: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Explain how Priestley presents Mrs Birling as a woman who is proud of her social class.

**(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)**

**2** Explain two ways Sheila Birling changes as a result of the Inspector's visit.

**(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)**


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**3** Explain how Priestley presents the Inspector as a character who remains in control of the interrogation throughout the play.

**(Total for Question 3 is 8 marks)**


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**4** Compare how Mr Birling and the Inspector present their views on responsibility towards other people.

**(Total for Question 4 is 10 marks)**

**5** Explore how Priestley presents Gerald Croft as a character caught between two social worlds.

**(Total for Question 5 is 8 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 2.17 Literature: An Inspector Calls - Character Study in Depth: 30-minute Pack

## Question 1

**Level 3** Clear, relevant explanation: analyses more than one way Mrs Birling's class pride is presented, with clear textual reference and some understanding of context. **5-6**

**Level 2** Some explanation: identifies a relevant detail of Mrs Birling's class pride with a generally appropriate comment, with some textual reference. **3-4**

**Level 1** Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment on Mrs Birling with little development. **1-2**

**Indicative content:**

- her formal, correcting manner towards her husband and children, reminding Arthur of the correct way to behave
- her position chairing a women's charity organisation, giving her a public image of respectability she is anxious to protect
- her cold, dismissive treatment of Eva Smith's appeal for help, judging her by her class and manner of speech rather than her need
- her refusal to believe a member of her own family could be responsible, based on assumptions about class and character
- her continued lack of self-awareness even after the Inspector's visit has clearly affected the younger characters

## Question 2

**Level 4** Clear, well-supported explanation: analyses two distinct ways Sheila changes, with well-chosen textual reference and clear understanding of her development. **7-8**

**Level 3** Clear explanation: explains at least one clear way Sheila changes, with relevant textual reference. **5-6**

**Level 2** Some explanation: identifies a relevant change in Sheila with some textual reference. **3-4**

**Level 1** Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment on Sheila with little development. **1-2**

**Indicative content:**

- she moves from a light-hearted, self-centred young woman to someone who accepts responsibility for her own role in Eva Smith's story
- she becomes increasingly willing to challenge her parents and Gerald, rather than simply agreeing with them
- she shows growing insight into the Inspector's methods and message, shown by her warnings to the other characters
- her decision not to simply accept Gerald's ring again without reflection signals a change, at least for a time, in what she values
- by the play's end she acts, alongside Eric, as a voice of conscience within the family

## Question 3

**Level 4** Clear, well-supported explanation: analyses more than one method the Inspector uses to control the interrogation, with well-chosen textual reference and confident subject terminology. **7-8**

**Level 3** Clear explanation: explains at least one clear method with relevant textual reference. **5-6**

**Level 2** Some explanation: identifies a relevant method with some textual reference. **3-4**

**Level 1** Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment on the Inspector with little development. **1-2**

**Indicative content:**

- his calm, unhurried manner, which contrasts with the family's growing agitation as the evening continues
- his method of questioning one character fully before moving to the next, controlling the order and pace of revelations
- his refusal to be intimidated by Mr Birling's status, wealth or threats to make trouble for him
- his apparent prior knowledge of events, suggesting he already knows the truth before he asks his questions
- the timing of his exits, particularly his final departure, leaving a lasting impression through his closing words

## Question 4

**Level 4** Convincing, well-structured comparison: analyses the contrast between Birling's and the Inspector's views with judicious textual reference and clear understanding of context. **9-10**

**Level 3** Clear comparison: explains the contrast between the two views with relevant textual reference. **6-8**

**Level 2** Some comparison: identifies a relevant point of contrast with some textual reference. **3-5**

**Level 1** Simple, limited comparison: makes a simple, undeveloped point with little textual reference. **1-2**

**Indicative content:**

- Mr Birling argues that a man should only be responsible for himself and his own family and business
- the Inspector argues that everyone is responsible for everyone else, describing society as a single interconnected body
- Mr Birling's view is closely linked to his business interests and his fear of scandal or trouble
- the Inspector's view is delivered with increasing moral force across the play, culminating in his closing speech
- the contrast between the two views reflects Priestley's wider political message about collective versus individual responsibility


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## Question 5

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|---|---|
| **Level 4** Clear, well-supported exploration: analyses more than one aspect of Gerald's position between social worlds, with well-chosen textual reference and clear understanding of context. | **7-8** |
| **Level 3** Clear exploration: explains at least one clear aspect with relevant textual reference. | **5-6** |
| **Level 2** Some exploration: identifies a relevant point about Gerald with some textual reference. | **3-4** |
| **Level 1** Simple, limited exploration: makes a simple or general comment on Gerald with little development. | **1-2** |

**Indicative content:**

- his engagement to Sheila links him to the Birling family's social ambitions, since his own family's firm is presented as more established
- Mr Birling's evident eagerness for the match shows how the Birlings hope Gerald's status will benefit them
- his relationship with Eva Smith, under the name Daisy Renton, exposes him briefly to a very different level of society
- his eventual return to defending the old order, once the Inspector's identity is questioned, suggests his sympathies ultimately remain with his own class
- his more measured, less guilt-driven reaction compared with Eric and Sheila by the end of the play


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