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

AQA 8702 · about 35 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Each description below refers to one character from An Inspector Calls. Name the character being described in each case. Use each character once only.

(a) The head of the household, who owns Birling and Company and is proud of his standing as a former Lord Mayor. **(1)**

(b) The character who becomes engaged to Sheila Birling during the events shown on stage. **(1)**

(c) The Birlings' son, who is shown to drink more heavily than his parents at first realise. **(1)**

(d) The unannounced visitor who questions the family about a young woman's death. **(1)**

(e) The young woman whose death is being investigated, who is also known to some characters by a second name. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 Explain how Priestley presents Arthur Birling as an arrogant man in the early part of the play.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

3 Although Eva Smith (also known as Daisy Renton) never appears on stage, explain how Priestley makes her presence felt throughout the play.

(Total for Question 3 is 10 marks)

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4 Compare how Priestley presents responsibility through two contrasting characters of your choice from Mr Birling, Mrs Birling, Sheila and Eric. Refer to the whole play in your answer.

(Total for Question 4 is 20 marks)

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

Question 1

(a) Accept Arthur Birling (or Mr Birling) **B1**

(a) Answer: Arthur Birling (Mr Birling)

(b) Accept Gerald Croft (or Gerald) **B1**

(b) Answer: Gerald Croft

(c) Accept Eric Birling (or Eric) **B1**

(c) Answer: Eric Birling

(d) Accept the Inspector (or Inspector Goole) **B1**

(d) Answer: The Inspector (Inspector Goole)

(e) Accept Eva Smith (or Daisy Renton, or both names given together) **B1**

(e) Answer: Eva Smith (also known as Daisy Renton)

Question 2

Level 3 Clear, relevant explanation: analyses more than one way Birling's arrogance is presented, with clear reference to the text and some understanding of Priestley's method. **5-6**

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

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

Indicative content:

- his confident, mistaken predictions about the future (dismissing the possibility of war, or trusting the safety of a famous new ocean liner), which the audience recognises as ironic
- his pride in his position as a former Lord Mayor and magistrate, and his hope of a future honour
- his tendency to lecture the younger characters, Eric and Gerald, as though his experience makes him automatically right
- his dismissal of the idea that a business owes anything to the people it employs
- his growing irritation once his authority is questioned by the Inspector, rather than by his own family

Question 3

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured explanation: analyses several methods by which Eva's presence is sustained across the whole play, with judicious textual reference and confident subject terminology. **9-10**

Level 3 Clear explanation: explains at least two relevant methods with relevant textual reference. **6-8**

Level 2 Some explanation: identifies one relevant method with some textual reference. **3-5**

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

Indicative content:

- each family member's account, given in turn, builds up a cumulative picture of her situation and treatment
- the photograph the Inspector shows privately to each character keeps her presence central to the investigation, even though the audience never sees it
- her two names, Eva Smith and Daisy Renton, suggest how easily she was treated as replaceable or reshaped by those with power over her
- the Inspector's final speech generalises her story to represent millions of others in similar situations, rather than a single, isolated case
- her absence from the stage keeps attention firmly on the choices and words of the characters who wronged her, rather than allowing her to be individualised as a character in her own right

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Question 4

Level 4 Convincing, well-structured comparison: sustained, perceptive analysis of the contrast in how responsibility is presented, with judicious quotation and confident subject terminology; contextual understanding integrated fully. **16-20**

Level 3 Clear, relevant comparison: explains the contrast between the two chosen characters through several methods, with relevant quotation and a clear contextual point. **11-15**

Level 2 Some, generic comparison: identifies relevant moments relating to responsibility with some quotation; makes a generic or partly relevant contextual comment. **6-10**

Level 1 Simple, limited comparison: makes a simple, undeveloped point with little or no quotation; little or no contextual comment. **1-5**

Indicative content:

- a comparison of an older character (Mr or Mrs Birling) with a younger character (Sheila or Eric) is likely to be the most productive contrast, though other pairings are valid if well supported
- the older generation consistently deny or minimise personal responsibility, insisting the matter is closed once the Inspector leaves
- the younger generation accept responsibility more fully, showing genuine and sustained guilt
- the older characters' relief once doubt is cast on the Inspector's identity is directly opposed by the younger characters' continued distress and insistence that nothing has really been resolved
- this generational contrast supports Priestley's own political argument, writing after two world wars, that a fairer society depends on the younger generation learning what the older generation refuses to
- answers may also validly compare within a single generation (e.g. Mr and Mrs Birling's similarly rigid denial, or Sheila and Eric's similarly genuine guilt) if the comparison remains focused and well evidenced

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