2.18 Literature: An Inspector Calls - Themes in Depth: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 For each theme below, give two separate, specific examples from the play (without quoting Priestley's own wording).

(a) Social responsibility. **(2)**

(b) Class. **(2)**

(c) Gender. **(2)**

(d) Age and generation. **(2)**

(e) Guilt. **(2)**

(Total for Question 1 is 10 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.18 Literature: An Inspector Calls - Themes in Depth: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) Birling's dismissal of any responsibility toward his workforce or the wider community beyond his own family and business (oe) **B1**

(a) the Inspector's direct assertion that everyone bears some responsibility for everyone else's wellbeing (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: Any two of: Birling's dismissal of responsibility beyond his own family and business; the Inspector's assertion that everyone is responsible for everyone else; Mrs Birling's refusal, as a charity committee member, to accept any responsibility for turning Eva away.

(b) Birling's pride in the engagement linking his family to the higher-status Crofts (oe) **B1**

(b) Birling's dismissal of Eva's request for fairer factory wages as an inconvenience from an easily replaced worker (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: Any two of: Birling's pride in the engagement to the Crofts; Birling's dismissal of Eva's wage request; Gerald's ability to conduct an affair with a working-class woman at little cost to his own reputation.

(c) Eva's dismissal from her shop job after a complaint engineered by Sheila's jealousy (oe) **B1**

(c) Mrs Birling's harsher judgement of the woman who sought her charity than of the men involved (oe) **B1**

(c) Answer: Any two of: Eva's dismissal from Milward's after Sheila's jealous complaint; Mrs Birling judging the pregnant woman more harshly than the men involved; Eva's near-total lack of power compared with the male characters who affect her fate.

(d) Sheila's and Eric's shock and guilt contrasted with their parents' calmer, more defensive reactions (oe) **B1**

(d) Mr and Mrs Birling's wish to treat the matter as closed once doubt is cast on the Inspector's identity, opposed by Sheila and Eric (oe) **B1**

(d) Answer: Any two of: Sheila and Eric's distress contrasted with their parents' calm; the older Birlings' relief once the Inspector's identity is doubted, opposed by Sheila and Eric; Gerald aligning with the older generation's response despite being closer in age to Sheila.

(e) Eric's drinking and restlessness as questioning approaches his own involvement (oe) **B1**

(e) Mrs Birling's confident, undeserved certainty that she has nothing to be ashamed of (oe) **B1**

(e) Answer: Any two of: Eric's drinking and restlessness before his part is revealed; Mrs Birling's undeserved confidence that she has done nothing wrong; Sheila's immediate self-blame on realising her complaint contributed to Eva's dismissal.

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