2.11 Literature: An Inspector Calls (J.B. Priestley): 10-minute Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Identify two separate moments in Act One where Mr Birling makes a confident prediction about the future that the original audience would recognise as ironic.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain how Priestley presents Sheila Birling's character before the Inspector arrives.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.11 Literature: An Inspector Calls (J.B. Priestley): 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one valid prediction identified (e.g. his confidence that there will be no war)	**B1**
brief, accurate explanation of why it is ironic (audience knows a major war followed)	**B1**
a second, different valid prediction identified (e.g. his confidence in the unsinkable ship, or in ever-rising prosperity)	**B1**
brief, accurate explanation of why the second prediction is ironic	**B1**

Answer: Any two of: his confidence that war is not coming (later disproved by two world wars); his confidence in the safety of a famous new ocean liner (later disproved when it sinks on its first voyage); his confidence that prosperity will simply keep increasing (later disproved by economic depression and industrial unrest).

Question 2

Level 3 Clear, relevant explanation: identifies specific details of Sheila's early presentation (her excitement about her engagement, her playful teasing of Gerald, her comfortable, sheltered family position) and explains a clear effect, supported by reference to the text.	**5-6**
Level 2 Some explanation: identifies a relevant detail about Sheila's early character with a generally appropriate comment, with some reference to the text.	**3-4**
Level 1 Simple, limited explanation: makes a simple or general comment about Sheila with little development or textual reference.	**1-2**

Indicative content:

- Sheila is introduced as excited and happy about her engagement, suggesting a young woman comfortable in her privileged family life
- her light, teasing questioning of Gerald about where he was 'last summer' shows a hint of suspicion beneath the celebratory mood, foreshadowing her later development
- she initially accepts her family's celebratory, self-congratulatory mood without challenge, showing she has not yet questioned her position or her family's values
- small moments of independent thought, such as her willingness to gently tease or question rather than stay entirely silent, hint at the more perceptive character she becomes once the Inspector arrives

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