"Do Now" Work

How does Priestley present Mrs Sybil Birling?

Be able to identify the ways Sybil is presented and explore the effect.

1. Gerald says, "After all, y'know, we're respectable citizens and not criminals."

What does this suggest about him?

2. Look at the following quotations:

Inspector: (sharply) Yes, she's dead.

Sheila: And probably between us we killed her.

Mrs B: (sharply) Sheila, don't talk nonsense.

What do you learn about the attitudes of the younger and older generations here?

Challenge: Who else has said "nonsense" before?

In Silence Please

BOURNVILLE

<u>How does Priestley present Mrs Sybil Birling?</u>	
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effect.	

Read from page 41 - 49.

Eva Smith's timeline: 'A CHAIN OF EVENTS'

January 1911

Sacked

Milwards

from

September
1911
1912
Gerald
ends affair.
Eva goes
away.

March
1912
Asks Mrs
Birling's
committee
for help.

September November April March 1910 1912 1911 1911 (p39) Meets Returns Commits Sacked from Gerald from suicide Birling and Co. seaside

- 1. What does Mrs Birling say about class on page 30 and page 47? What are her views about the working class?
- 2. Who does Mrs Birling work for (page 44)? Why do you think Mrs Birling does this work?
- 3. What does Mrs Birling say about "duty" on page 44? How might the audience react?
- 4. Why does Mrs Birling think her actions were "justified" on page 46 and page 47?
- 5. Who does Mrs Birling think is responsible for Eva/Daisy (page 46 and page 48)?

- 1. What does Mrs Birling say about class on page 30 and page 47? What are her views about the working class?
- "Girls of that class" and "As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money." This implies that she thinks Eva had no morals.
- 2. Who does Mrs Birling work for (page 42)? Why do you think Mrs Birling does this work?
- Brumley Women's Charity Organization. Mrs Birling thinks she is charitable, but she uses her power there to stop deserving cases getting help.
- 3. What does Mrs Birling say about "duty" on page 44? How might the audience react?
- "I consider I did my duty."
- 4. Why does Mrs Birling think her actions were "justified" on page 46 and page 47?
- She thinks she was "perfectly justified" because she thought Eva was lying about her name, her situation and the stolen money.
- 5. Who does Mrs Birling think is responsible for Eva/Daisy (page 46 and page 48)?

The father of her child.

Mrs Birling (Sybil)	Sheila Birling
you, Inspector Inspector: You mean you	Sheila: I don't understand you Inspector: There's no reason why you should (p29)

1. Why does Inspector Goole react differently to Sybil and Sheila?

Mrs Birling	Mr Birling
Mrs B: I think I was justified Mrs B: I was perfectly justified Mrs B: I consider I did my duty	Birling: I was quite justified Birling: It's my duty to keep labour costs down

2. Why does Priestley use the same words for Mr and Mrs Birling?

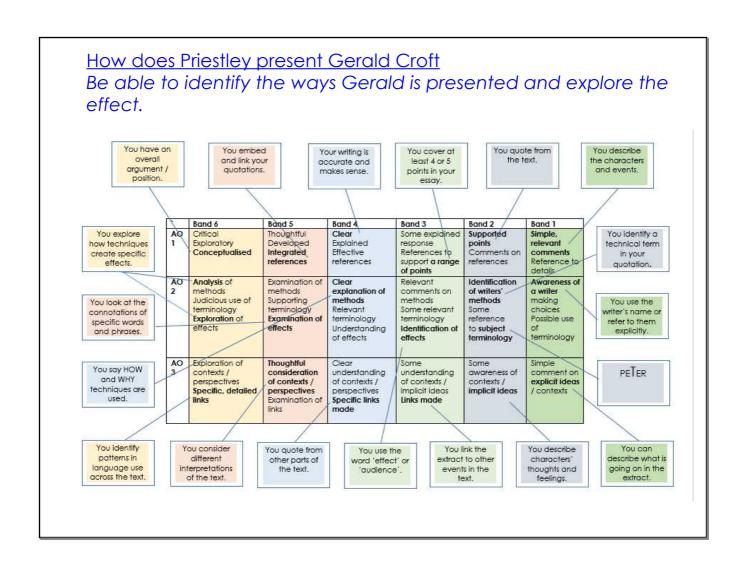
"An Inspector Calls is a play about people being selfish." Write about two characters in An Inspector Calls whom you think are selfish.

(30 marks) [AO4: 4 marks]

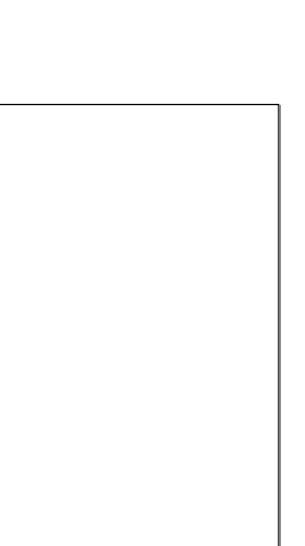
How does Priestley present ideas about social responsibility in An Inspector Calls?

(30 marks) [AO4: 4 marks]

Mrs Birling's lack of social responsibility is shown throughout the play by her refusal to accept any blame for what happened to Eva Smith. Mrs Birling thinks she was "perfectly justified in advising [her] committee not to allow her claim". She repeats the adjective "justified" several times in Act 2 to excuse her actions. This stubborn, selfish attitude is emphasised further by the adverb "perfectly". Mrs Birling shows off her social power by linking the committee to the possessive pronoun "My" and using the verb "allow", reminding the audience that she could have helped if she had wanted to.



6. M	lrs Birling.n	otebook		



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