**Practice exam questions: ‘An Inspector Calls’**

1. How does Priestley present Eric in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what Eric says and does
* how other characters respond to him
* the methods Priestley uses to present Eric.
1. Write about the differences between Sheila and Sybil Birling in the play *An Inspector Calls*.

You should write about:

* what they say and do
* their different attitudes
* the methods Priestley uses to present Sheila and Sybil Birling.
1. How does Priestley show that tension is at the heart of the Birling family?
2. Priestley criticises the selfishness of people like the Birlings. What methods does he use to present this selfishness?
3. How does Priestley present the Inspector in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what the Inspector says and does
* the methods Priestley uses to present the Inspector.
1. Write about the differences between Arthur Birling and Eric Birling in the play *An Inspector Calls*.

You should write about:

* what Arthur and Eric Birling are like
* their different attitudes
* the methods Priestley uses to present Arthur and Eric Birling.
1. Arthur Birling says, ‘If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we’d had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn’t it?’

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

1. How do you respond to Gerald in *An Inspector Calls*? How does Priestley make you respond as you do by the ways he writes?
2. How does Priestley present Sybil Birling in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what Sybil Birling says and does
* the methods Priestley uses to present her.
1. How does Priestley present the family life of the Birlings in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what the members of the Birling family say and do
* what happens within the Birling family
* the methods Priestley uses to present the family life of the Birlings.
1. In Act 2 of *An Inspector Calls*, Sheila says to her mother, Mrs Birling, “But we really must stop these silly pretences”.

How does Priestley show, in his presentation of Mrs Birling, that she often pretends to be something she is not?

1. How important do you think social class is in *An Inspector Calls* and how does Priestley present ideas about social class?
2. How does Priestley present Gerald in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what Gerald says and does
* how other characters respond to him
* the methods Priestley uses to present Gerald.
1. What do you think Priestley is trying to tell us about responsibility in the play *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what some of the characters say and do
* the methods Priestley uses to present his ideas on responsibility.
1. *An Inspector Calls* has been called ‘a play of contrasts’.

Write about how Priestley presents some of the contrasts in the play.

1. How does Priestley present the change in Sheila during the course of the play

*An Inspector Calls*? How do you think this change reflects some of Priestley’s ideas?

1. How does Priestley present Arthur Birling in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what Arthur Birling says and does
* the methods Priestley uses to present him.
1. In *An Inspector Calls* Eric and Sheila Birling are brother and sister. How are they alike and how are they different?

Write about:

* what Eric and Sheila say and do
* similarities and differences between them
* the methods Priestley uses to present Eric and Sheila.
1. What do you think is the importance of Inspector Goole and how does Priestley present him?
2. How does Priestley present the relationship between Sheila Birling and Gerald Croft in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what Sheila Birling and Gerald Croft say and do
* what their relationship is like
* the methods Priestley uses to present their relationship.
1. How does Priestley present the different attitudes of Mr Birling and the Inspector?

Write about:

* what Mr Birling and the Inspector say and do
* their different attitudes
* the methods Priestley uses to present these different attitudes.
1. In the opening stage directions, Priestley refers to Eric as ‘not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive’.

How does Priestley present these and other ideas about Eric in *An Inspector Calls*?

1. How does Priestley present Eva Smith in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what we are told about Eva Smith
* how other characters react to the news about Eva Smith
* the methods Priestley uses to present her.
1. Write about **two** characters in *An Inspector Calls* who you think feel guilty*.*

You should write about:

* what each character says and does
* why each character feels guilty
* the methods Priestley uses to show their feelings of guilt.
1. How does Priestley present ideas about gender in *An Inspector Calls*?
2. What do you think is the importance of Eva Smith in *An Inspector Calls* and how does Priestley present her?
3. How does Priestley present Sheila Birling in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

* what Sheila Birling says and does
* how other characters respond to her
* the methods Priestley uses to present Sheila Birling.
1. ‘*An Inspector Calls* is a play about people being selfish.’ Write about **two** characters in *An Inspector Calls* whom you think are selfish*.*

You should write about:

* what each character says and does
* why you think each character is selfish
* the methods Priestley uses to make you respond as you do.
1. Arthur Birling describes himself as ‘a hard-headed, practical man of business’.

How does Priestley present this and other views of Arthur Birling in *An Inspector Calls*?

1. How does Priestley present ideas about inequality in *An Inspector Calls*?