

An Inspector Calls by J.B Priestley

Revision Work Book



Hope Academy

The Basics: Plot

First, let's revise the plot of the play. Test yourself to see what you can remember AND THEN watch the GCSE Pod video to see what you've forgotten.

1. Brain Dump. Give yourself two minutes. Write down what you can remember about the plot of the play on your A3 sheet. (You may want to use a mind map/timeline or whatever method you prefer) We are going to be adding to this sheet.

2. Watch the plot summary of *An Inspector Calls* on GCSE Pod:

GCSE Pod: Plot
Overview:



<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/chapter/62803>

The Basics: Plot

2. **Brain Dump.** Now write down anything you forgot in the first part of the task.

Overview of Act 1

1. The Birling family live in a **'fairly large suburban house'** and, at rise of curtain, they are **'pleased with themselves'**.
2. Birling remarks awkwardly that **'it's a pity Sir George and – er – Lady Croft can't be with us'**.
3. Gerald presents Sheila with an engagement ring and she exclaims, **'Oh – it's wonderful!'**
4. Birling makes predictions about the future; he says, **'we're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity'**.
5. Birling is unrepentant about his role in the suicide of Eva Smith, remarking that **'it's a free country'**.
6. Eric disagrees by saying that **'it isn't if you can't go and work somewhere else'**.
7. Eva does manage to find another job because **'Milwards suddenly found themselves short-handed'**.
8. Sheila feels guilty about using her influence to get Eva sacked; she says that **'if I could help her now, I would –'**.
9. The Inspector reveals that Eva changed her name to Daisy Renton, which prompts Gerald to ask **'[startled] what?'**
10. Gerald asks Sheila not to tell the Inspector about his relationship with Daisy; he says, **'we can keep it from him'**.

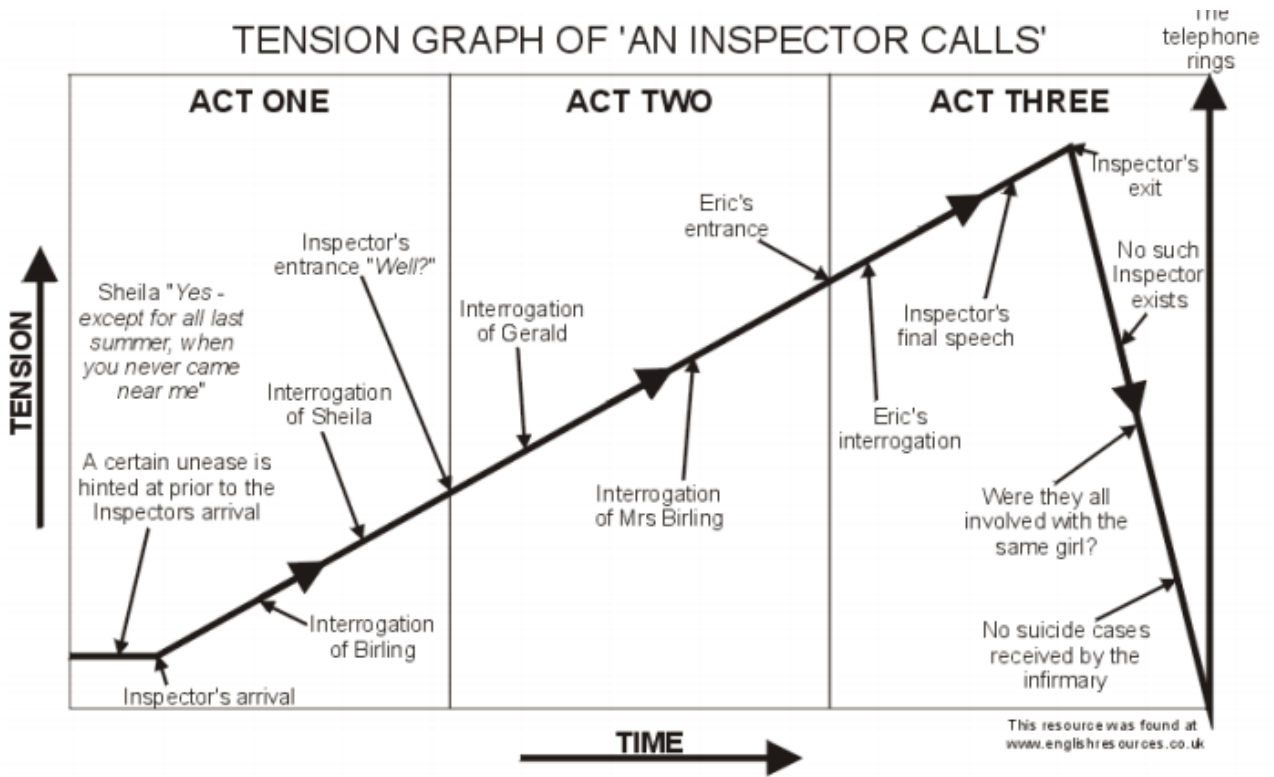
Overview of Act 2

1. Gerald tries to deter Sheila from staying to witness the questions and answers that are **'bound to be unpleasant'**.
2. Mrs Birling notes Eric's absence and remarks that he **'seems to be in an excitable silly mood'**.
3. Gerald concedes to the Inspector that he met the **'young and pretty'** Daisy in the disreputable Palace Bar.
4. Gerald says that he **'broke it off'** with her before he went away for **'several weeks'** on business.
5. Daisy kept a diary, in which she wrote that **'she felt there'd never be anything as good again for her'**.
6. Obviously upset, Gerald excuses himself and leaves; however, he says, **'I'm coming back'**.
7. Mrs Birling claims that she **'did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation'**.
8. She refused Eva charity money, stating that it is the father's **'responsibility'** to support her.
9. Mrs Birling defiantly says, **'I blame the young man who was the father of the child she was going to have'**.
10. When it is implied that Eric is the father, Mrs Birling becomes agitated and says, **'I won't believe it'**.



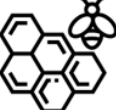














Overview of Act 3

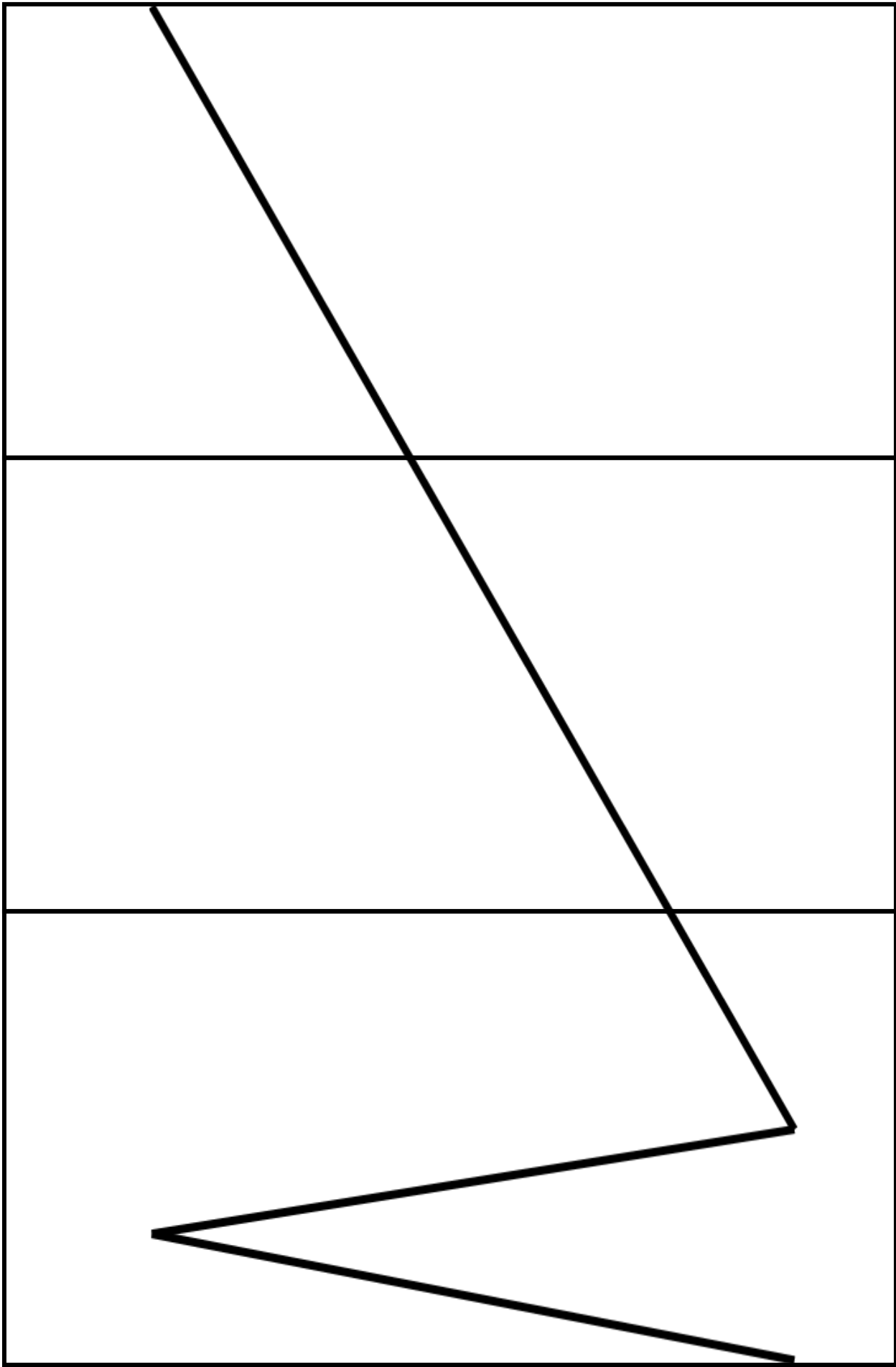
1. Eric says bitterly to his mother that **'you haven't made it any easier for me'**.
 2. Eric admits that he was **'a bit squiffy'** when he met Eva and **'was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty'**.
 3. He saw Eva again; he **'liked'** her, but **'wasn't in love with her or anything'**.
 4. Eric tells the Inspector that Eva **'didn't want me to marry her'**.
 5. Eric admits to taking money from his father; Birling reacts angrily and says that Eric has been **'spoilt'**.
 6. As the Inspector prepares to leave, he highlights to the Birlings and Gerald that each of them **'helped to kill'** Eva.
 7. He asks them to remember that **'there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths'**.
 8. The Inspector leaves and Eric says that he is **'ashamed'** of his father.
 9. Birling believes that he and the rest of the family were **'bluffed'**; he later concludes that the Inspector was a **'fake!'**
- The play ends with Birling reporting that **'a police inspector is on his way here – to ask some – questions'**.

The Basics: Plot



On the reverse side of your A3 sheet replicate the tension graph above. Label your tension graph with key quotations from the play. Use the summary to help you.

	"But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're <i>people</i> ".		"I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty"
	"As if we were all mixed up like bees in a hive"		"As if a girl of that sort would refuse money"
	"The Titanic...unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable"		"I liked her - she was pretty and a good sport"
	"Hard-headed practical man of business"		"No, he's giving us the rope - so that we'll hang ourselves"
	"Is it the one you wanted me to have?"		"used her [...] as if she were an animal, a thing, not a person"
	"He creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness"		"They will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish"
	"alone, friendless, almost penniless, desperate"		"There are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths"
	"Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges"		"Go and look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility"
			"The girl's dead and we all helped to kill her"



The Basics: The Birlings and Gerald

Now, let's revise the characters. First, test yourself to see what you can remember and then we will do some red pen work as a class.

Character	What is their relationship to Eva Smith? To what extent do they change by the end? How much responsibility do they take for their actions?
Mr Birling	
Sheila	
Gerald	
Mrs Birling	
Eric	

The Basics: The Inspector

Thinking about Inspector Goole now First, complete the **brain dump** to see what you can remember AND THEN watch the video to see what you've forgotten.

Brain Dump

Write down anything you can remember about *Inspector Goole* – Consider how he speaks to other characters and why he may do this, what point of view does he represent, what is his purpose in the play or anything else you feel is important.

The Basics: Ideas and Themes

Link each heading to specific events or characters in the play.

Responsibility	Social Class	Gender	Young and Older Generations

Exam	Question	Question
2023		
2022	How far does Priestley present Eric as a character who learns important lessons about society in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?	'Priestley shows how inequality in society leads to tragedy.' How far do you agree with this view of <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?
2021	How does Priestley use Gerald to explore ideas about responsibility?	How far does Priestley present society as unfair in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?
2020	Mr Birling says, '...a man has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own'. How far does Priestley present Mr Birling as a man who cares only for himself and his family?	How far does Priestley present male characters as irresponsible in the play?
2019	How does Priestley present selfishness and its effects in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?	How does Priestley present Sheila as a character who learns important lessons about herself and society?
2018	How far does Priestley present Eric as a character who changes his attitudes towards himself and others during the play?	How does Priestley explore the importance of social class in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?
2017	How far does Priestley present Mrs Birling as an unlikeable character?	How does Priestley use the character of the Inspector to suggest ways that society could be improved?
SAMS3	How does Priestley present Gerald's relationships with women in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?	How does Priestley use Eva Smith to represent poverty in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?
SAMS2	How does Priestley present some of the differences between the older and younger generations in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?	What do you think is the importance of the ending of <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?
SAMS1	How and why does Sheila change in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?	How does Priestley explore responsibility in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> ?

