

Practice Questions

Congratulations — that's another section done. As a special reward for your hard work, here's a trophy and a huge cake. Oh no, sorry, it's two pages of practice questions. Well, don't spend too long on these quick and in-depth questions — just use them to warm up for the next page. What a treat.

Quick Questions

- 1) Give two examples of how the Inspector manages to unsettle Mr Birling.
- 2) Summarise the message of the Inspector's speech in one sentence.
- 3) Find three stage directions that show how the Inspector is supposed to talk and look.
- 4) Give an example of how Arthur tries to impress the Inspector.
- 5) In one sentence, describe how Sheila comes across at the beginning of the play.
- 6) Name three ways in which Sybil and Sheila are different from each other.
- 7) Which character first suggests that the photograph is key to finding out Eva/Daisy's true identity? What does this character say about the photograph?
- 8) Find a quote to show that Eric regrets his actions.
- 9) Give two reasons why Gerald Croft is seen to be socially superior to the Birlings.
- 10) How did each of the Birlings affect the life of Eva/Daisy?

In-depth Questions

- 1) Who or what is the Inspector? Do you think that Priestley wants us to know?
- 2) At the start of the play, Birling is in control. When and how do you think the balance of power shifts from Birling to the Inspector?
- 3) If you were in charge of costume design for *An Inspector Calls*, how would you dress Mr Birling and the Inspector? You can sketch out an idea or write a paragraph explaining why you chose these costumes.
- 4) Do you think Sheila and Gerald should get married? Why do you think this?
- 5) Do you think Mrs Birling learns anything from the Inspector's visit? Use quotations from the text to back up your answer.
- 6) Both Eric and Gerald have relationships with Eva/Daisy. What do you feel about the way each man behaves towards her?
- 7) For much of the play, the younger generation (Sheila and Eric) hold different views from the older generation (Mr and Mrs Birling). Whose views does Gerald share? Find some quotations to back up your answer.
- 8) Explain the symbolism of Eva Smith's name and how this fits in with her role in the play.

Practice Questions

Now for the biggies. You should be practiced, warmed-up and raring to go. Write your answers to these as if they're the real thing — imagine you're sitting in the exam hall, chewing the end of your pen, and you've got a side or two of paper to fill for each question. But don't fret — they're not the real thing. It's time to practise.

Exam-style Questions

- 1) 'The main character in *An Inspector Calls* is never even on stage.' Write about how Priestley presents the character of Eva Smith/Daisy Renton?
- 2) 'The Birling family are presented as a close and happy family at the beginning of the play, but are left broken by the end.' How far do you agree with this assessment of the presentation of the Birling family?
- 3) Which character is the most responsible for the death of Eva/Daisy? Use details from the play to explain your answer.
- 4) "Everything's all right now, Sheila. [*Holds up the ring.*] What about this ring?" How does Priestley present the changing relationship between Sheila and Gerald over the course of the play?
- 5) 'The Inspector's an outsider — he comes in from the outside and turns the Birling family inside out.' What is the role of the Inspector in the play and how does Priestley use him to carry the play's message?
- 6) 'Sybil is perhaps the most unsympathetic character of them all.' How does Priestley present the character of Sybil Birling to the audience during the play?
- 7) 'The Birling family don't seem to consider Gerald's affair to be as shameful as Eric's relationship with Daisy Renton.' Does Priestley's portrayal of Gerald encourage the audience to feel more sympathetic towards Gerald than Eric?
- 8) 'No character in *An Inspector Calls* is entirely good or bad. This is what makes them so complex.' How does Priestley's portrayal of the Birlings suggest that they are flawed but have potential to change?