YOUR 4-Step CHECK-UP ON AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Step 1 PLOT AND CHARACTERS

Where are you in your An Inspector Calls studies? Start by answering these quiz-style questions to check your knowledge of the plot and characters.

1. In whose house does the play take place?
2. What event is being celebrated?
3. What award does Arthur Birling tell Gerald he is hoping to get?
4. What is the name of the Inspector? In what way could this be seen to be appropriate?
5. What details does the Inspector reveal about the death of a young woman when he arrives?
6. Why did Arthur Birling sack Eva Smith?
7. What shop did Eva go to work in after she was sacked?
8. In what way was Sheila responsible for Eva losing her job at the shop?
9. At the end of Act One, what key information does Gerald tell Sheila they should keep from the Inspector? What is her response?
10. Where did Gerald meet Eva/Daisy for the first time?
11. According to Gerald, why did he help Eva/Daisy?
12. What item does Sheila return to Gerald after he has admitted he knew Eva/Daisy?
13. Why did Eva/Daisy come to Mrs Birling’s charity committee for help?
14. Why did Mrs Birling turn down her request?
15. What fact about the situation does Sheila realise before Mrs Birling does?
16. What state was Eric in when he met Eva/Daisy in the bar?
17. How did Eric get the money he wanted to give to Eva/Daisy to help her?
18. What future event is probably being referred to when the Inspector says people will soon learn a lesson ‘taught in fire and blood and anguish’?
19. Who checks whether the Inspector was a real police-officer?
20. The play ends with a phone call. Who has phoned and what do they have to say?
Step 2  LANGUAGE AND THEMES

How much do you know about the language and themes of the play?

1. Here are five quotations from the play. Can you identify who is speaking (and, where relevant, who is being referred to)?

   a) ‘I’m talking as a hard-headed, practical man of business.’ (Act One)
   b) ‘You used the power you had, as a daughter of a good customer and also of a man well-known in the town, to punish the girl...?’ (Act One)
   c) ‘You were the wonderful Fairy Prince. You must have adored it...’ (Act Two)
   d) ‘You’ve had children. You must have known what she was feeling. And you slammed the door in her face.’ (Act Two)
   e) ‘[You] just used her for the end of a stupid drunken evening, as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person.’ (Act Three)

2. Read these further quotations. What theme(s) do you think they are linked to, or explore, e.g. Responsibility? Inequality? Why?

   a) Birling: ‘Take my word for it...a man has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own...’ (Act One)
   b) Mrs Birling (to Sheila): ‘...you’ll realise that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend all their time and energy on their business.’ (Act One)
   c) Eric (to his father, about Eva and the strike): ‘Why shouldn’t they try for higher wages? We try for the highest possible prices.’ (Act One)
   d) The Inspector: ‘We don’t live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.’ (Act Three)
   e) Eric (to his father): ‘You’re not the kind of father a chap could go to when he’s in trouble...’ (Act Three)

Step 3  WRITING SKILLS

A student has drafted this paragraph about the character of Gerald.

Although Gerald hid his relationship with Eva/Daisy, Priestley suggests that he is less ............................................. than the others for her death.

As the Inspector states about Gerald, he at least had some affection for her and made her happy for a time. Yet, we must not forget that it is Gerald who at the end of the play is the person who .................................................................

1. Copy out the paragraph and add in the missing detail in the first sentence
2. Put quotation marks around the quotation the student uses
3. Finish the paragraph, completing the last sentence
### Close Analysis

Choose ONE of the following extracts from the play, and then respond to the task that follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act</th>
<th>Extract to read</th>
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| One | **From:** Birling: …Now, about this girl, Eva Smith…  
**To:** Eric: It isn’t if you can’t go and work somewhere else. |
| Two | **From:** Inspector: And you’ve nothing further to tell me?  
**To:** Inspector (very sternly): Her position now is that she lies with a burnt-out inside on a slab. |
| Three | **From:** Birling (unhappily): Look, Inspector – I’d give thousands – yes, thousands –  
**To:** Stage direction: He walks straight out, leaving them staring, subdued and wondering. |

Why is the extract you have chosen important? Write one to two paragraphs (between 75 and 100 words) about:

- What it tells us about the characters or relationships at this point
- Any themes or ideas which are suggested from the language
- How the scene could link with other scenes or parts of the play

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**Well done for completing your 4-Step Check-Up on An Inspector Calls!**

You’ll find lots of help with studying and revising the play, including revision cards and practice tests, on our website [www.yorknotes.com](http://www.yorknotes.com)