

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**

Step 4 CLOSE ANALYSIS

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

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



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

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