

PAST PAPER ESSAY QUESTIONS

You should aim to complete each of these questions within an hour (inclusive of planning time). This is essential for your revision!

(Remember you don't *always* need to write the whole essay. If you are short of time, ten minutes a day thinking through and planning an essay answer will make sure you keep all you have learnt fresh in your mind!)

1. Look again at the engagement party at the beginning of the play, up to the point where the Inspector first enters.

In what ways does Priestly present Mr Birling to us here so that we are prepared for his attitudes and behaviour in the rest of the play? You should refer in detail to language and events.

2. In what ways does Sheila help to make us aware of the weight of responsibility on the Birling family for Eva Smith's death? Give reasons in full, referring closely to what she has to say.
3. The mood in Act 1 of the play changes from relaxed to tense. Explore the ways in which Priestly achieves this effect.
4. In Act II, how does Priestly contrast the behaviour of the Birling family and Gerald Croft with that of 'Eva Smith' and what effect does this have?
5. Write about the presentation of marriage in the play. Do you think Priestly had a positive or negative view of it?
6. How does Priestly suggest Eric's guilt in Acts I and II?
7. Write about the role of the Inspector in the play. To what extent do you think Priestly presents him as a narrative device rather than a character?
8. How does Priestly compare and contrast the attitudes of the Birlings and Inspector Goole?
9. In Act I how does Priestly suggest and hint at tensions between the characters that will emerge later in the play?
10. Explain how Priestly presents views on Social Responsibility in the play?