

# TASKS

1. Read through the notes and example essay questions.
2. Make notes on how you would answer the two questions.
3. Write the introduction to both of them.
4. Write the rest of one of them. You can time yourself 45 minutes.



How does Priestley create tension and drama in the play, 'An Inspector Calls'?



THEATRICAL

MEMORABLE

ENGAGING

POWERFUL

DRAMATIC

MELODRAMATIC

EXCITING

CAPTIVATING

TENSE

*THRILLING*

MOMENTOUS

SPECTACULAR

# Tension

dark

cold

unnerve

anxiety

nervous

alarmed

on edge

dangerous

agitated

ominous

uneasy

apprehensive

frightened

# Key Words

Dramatic Irony

Retrospectively

Irony

Hyperbole

Symbolic

Morality Play

Connotations

Visually presented

Pun

Pronouns

Repetition

Religious Overtones

## The Inspector is...

enigmatic  
mysterious  
dramatic  
impatient  
aggressive  
ability to pierce and tear down  
the protective barriers...  
unexpected  
unforeseen  
omniscient  
apparitions  
ghosts  
morality  
authoritative  
imposing  
impressive  
striking  
destructive

## Priestley uses the Inspector to convey/communicate his...

political and moral ideology  
socialist views  
attitudes towards the exploitation of the  
working classes...

## The Inspector's arrival creates...

tension, worry, apprehension, panic,  
uneasiness, alarm, anxiety, nervousness,  
fear,

As the play progresses the Inspector  
ensures that the family are...

guilty, responsible, accountable, desperate,  
shamed, in regret, saddened, broken,  
brittle, laid bare, accused, changed,

How does Priestley create drama using the Inspector's **entrance** and ***exit***?

# The Entrance

## INTRODUCTION

- **Describe the Inspector. How does Priestley present him to the audience? What are the general uses of the Inspector in the play? Link this to the entrance and exit.**

enigmatic, mysterious, frightening, intimidating, authoritative, impressive, introduced as Inspector Goole (pun – connotations are?), communicates the moral and socialist voice of Priestley, promotes an egalitarian (equal) society, strong message to a middle class audience, used to create tension, expose the Birling family, omniscient, his identity always remains unknown, leaves the family in pieces and shattered.

*Include quotations, insert them fluently. No need to analyse them too much here.*

## **2. Describe the appearance of the Inspector and the symbolic meaning behind his attire.**

Look at the stage directions, visually he is presented as..., the 'plain darkish suit' ... and analyse what they perhaps, symbolise. Quotations are analyses in depth.



**This will take several paragraphs...**

**2. How is the Inspector introduced by Priestley? How do the stage directions (lighting) and the reactions of Birling and the family create fear of the Inspector? What does the Inspector disrupt? How does the historical context of the play enable the speech of Birling to be ironic, foolish and naïve? Why does Priestley use the Inspector to interrupt his speech?**

look at the stage directions, the ring, the lighting (various interpretations), the turn-taking, the panic, the coolness of the Inspector in contrast with the Birlings and Gerald. Describe the atmosphere previous to his arrival (briefly) analyse some of Birling's early and ironic comments, mention 1945/1912 and its benefits for the playwright.

*The Inspector's arrival creates immense disruption. The initial reactions...*

*Priestley manipulates the stage directions at this moment in the play...*

*The significant change in lighting mirrors harshness and brutal methods of the Inspector..*

*The irony within Birling's comments serve to expose his naivety, ignorance and arrogance. Priestley chose to locate the play in 1912, enabling him to...*

## 2. *Suggestions* - Order of what you could talk about...

### MR BIRLING'S SPEECH -

Previous to the Inspector's arrival, Mr Birling delivers a....

Priestley uses this speech to... By setting the play in 1912 the audience is empowered...

*Why does Inspector Goole insert Birlings' speech before the arrival of the Inspector? What key things does he say and what do these suggest about the family? Why does Priestley introduce the Insp. at the key moment in Birling's speech? Why does he interrupt him? How is all of this dramatic?*

### EDNA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INSPECTOR

Ironically, Edna, the servant of the Birlings, opens the door to the Inspector and brings him into the house... Priestley clearly uses this as a clever dramatic moment... How does Priestley make use of this low status character? Explain the irony. Mention that she delivers the resounding line! Yet, she utters very few other words.

### THE MENTION OF THE WORD 'INSPECTOR'

Describe that the mere mention of the title 'Inspector' causes alarm and drama amongst the household...short sentences, repetition, questions to convey anxiety and worry – explain the dramatic entrance

## THE CHANGE OF LIGHTING

To add dramatic effect, J. B. Priestley transforms the lighting in the Birlings' house from 'pink and intimate' to ... which implies that... Why does he change the lighting?

## THE CALM INSPECTOR, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH,

Describe the drama created by the first words of the Inspector. Why is it dramatic that the Inspector is calm, purposeful, strong, intense, enigmatic... Describe the horrors that the Inspector announces – Why are these dramatic?