

Revision Tasks for 'An Inspector Calls'

Below is a list of possible revision activities to complete for An Inspector Calls. As a rule, revision is most productive when you have to replicate what you are doing in the exam. Try to work through the tasks in order.

FIRST STEPS

Re-read the opening of the play until the Inspector enters, focusing on foreshadowing

Re-read the rest of Act 1 and then Act 2, thinking about how the characters develop

Re-read Act 3, thinking about the importance of the ending

Revise quotations. Make study cards, using the ones provided here as a starting point

Divide up your cards into stacks of useful quotes for different characters, questions and themes

NEXT STEPS

Take each character: Gerald, Sheila, Eva, The Inspector, Mrs Birling, Mr Birling, Eric. Using your notes and quote cards, produce a mindmap for each with these sections:

- What a character symbolises / represents
- Why Priestley has constructed them in this way?
- Act 1/ Openings - what ideas are foreshadowing later events?
- Dramatic devices – why are the significant / symbolic of the character's traits?
- Figurative language and symbolism
- Significance of the denouement (ending)

Then mindmap your knowledge of key themes (responsibility, morality, social class, power, equality) deciding which parts of the text and characters you would use to answer a question, similar to the above

Revise context – look at your notes and YouTube clips to map your contextual knowledge. Then add contextual information to the quotations on your cards

FINAL STEPS

Repeat your mindmaps of each character and theme, without notes, remembering quotations and what you would say about them

Speed planning – look at the selection of questions below. Spend just 5 minutes planning your response.

Introductions - add to your plan with a 2-3 sentence introduction, showing your understanding of why the character / theme is important. Remember, make it interesting and impactful – don't just repeat the question.

Write practice essays you have planned in timed conditions. Make sure you practice a variety and not just ones on characters.

Sample Questions:

How does Priestley present Gerald's relationships with women in the play?

How does Priestley present Mr Birling in An Inspector Calls?

How does Priestley use the character of Mr Birling to communicate his political views?

How does Priestley present different ideas about blame and taking responsibility in An Inspector Calls?

How does Priestley present different ideas about morality in An Inspector Calls?

How does Priestley present different ideas about power and influence in An Inspector Calls?