

An Inspector Calls: Quick Notes Revision Quiz

Plot, characters, context, themes and an exam-style plan for J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can recall the plot, characters, themes and context of *An Inspector Calls*.

✓ I know the plot ✓ I can link characters and themes ✓ I can use context

1 The plot

Number the events of *An Inspector Calls* in order.

☐

A Eric's involvement is revealed.

☐

B A phone call says an inspector is on his way.

☐

C Mrs Birling admits she refused Eva help from her charity.

☐

D The Birlings celebrate Sheila's engagement to Gerald.

☐

E Gerald admits his affair with Daisy Renton.

☐

F Inspector Goole arrives with news of Eva Smith's death.

☐

G Sheila admits she had Eva sacked from Milwards.

2 Characters

Match each character to a description.

1 Arthur Birling

☐

A their daughter, who changes most

2 Sybil Birling

☐

B Sheila's fiancé, son of a rival businessman

3 Sheila Birling

☐

C their son, who drinks heavily

4 Eric Birling

☐

D a wealthy factory owner who cares about profit

5 Gerald Croft

☐

E his wife, cold and class-conscious

3 Themes

For each theme, give one moment where it appears and the character most linked to it.

Theme	Where it appears	Linked character
Responsibility		
Social class		
Generational difference		

Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 The plot	Correct order: D, F, G, E, C, A, B The Birlings celebrate Sheila's engagement to Gerald. → Inspector Goole arrives with news of Eva Smith's death. → Sheila admits she had Eva sacked from Milwards. → Gerald admits his affair with Daisy Renton. → Mrs Birling admits she refused Eva help from her charity. → Eric's involvement is revealed. → A phone call says an inspector is on his way.
2 Characters	1 D; 2 E; 3 A; 4 C; 5 B
3 Themes	Responsibility – Where it appears: the Inspector's final speech , Linked character: the Inspector Social class – Where it appears: Mrs Birling refuses to help Eva , Linked character: Mrs Birling Generational difference – Where it appears: Sheila and Eric accept blame; parents do not , Linked character: Sheila
4 Context and themes	1 True ; 2 True ; 3 True ; 4 False – Priestley was a socialist who argued for social responsibility
5 Key words	1 wages; 2 Goole; 3 evening
6 Exam practice	Look for: • The Inspector's message about responsibility to others • Contrast between the older and younger Birlings • Context: 1912 vs 1945, class, Priestley's socialism

Teaching note: the play is still in copyright, so the sheet does not reproduce quotations; pupils should use quotations they have learned from their own copy.