

## GCSE Literature Paper 2 Section A Confidence Grid

An Inspector Calls	Areas to target	Confident
I understand that there will be two questions on the exam paper, but I must only answer <b>ONE</b> .		
I have <b>re-read</b> the whole play at home.		
I understand <b>each character's role</b> in the play.		
I understand the authorial intentions - <b>why</b> Priestley wrote the play and <b>what</b> his message is.		
<p>I am familiar with theatrical stagecraft/dramatic devices used in the play and the effects they achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dramatic irony</b> – Birling’s speeches, Mrs Birling’s witless implications of Eric.</li> <li>• <b>Stage directions</b> – instructions for actors e.g Gerald ‘gravely’ stating his involvement with Daisy. This adds more detail to aid the actor’s delivery. Stage directions can often be revealing, for example, the lighting change when the Inspector arrives.</li> <li>• <b>Setting</b> – constant throughout but subtle changes e.g lighting, characters on/off stage.</li> <li>• <b>Foreshadowing</b> – symbolism (The Titanic), Mr Birling’s “knighthood”, war.</li> <li>• <b>Time-lapse</b> – set in 1912, written in 1945; audience in a privileged position.</li> <li>• <b>Cliffhanger</b> – At the end of Act one, the Inspector appears and says ‘Well?’ to Gerald, leaving the audience to wonder how Gerald is implicated. Eric’s reappearance in Act 3; the ending allows the audience to make up their own minds.</li> </ul>		
<p>I understand the key themes of the play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social responsibility</b></li> <li>• <b>Capitalism</b></li> <li>• <b>Class</b></li> <li>• <b>Age</b></li> <li>• <b>Gender and attitudes towards women</b></li> <li>• <b>Guilt</b></li> <li>• <b>The supernatural</b> (The Inspector weaves a supernatural element into the play. His surname is ‘Goole’ and certainly a pun (a play on words) with ‘ghoul’ which means ghost. He is unheard of by other members of the police force, leading characters to at first dismiss him as a hoaxer, yet he seems to have prior knowledge of the characters’ actions and foresees the suicide before it happens.</li> </ul>		

I am aware of the key notes within the play:

- Priestley asks his audience to examine their **individual** and **collective responsibility** to society. Remember, he was a socialist and wanted a **welfare state**.
- The **hypocrisy** of **middle-class Edwardian** society is uncovered: **appearance & reputation** matter more than **reality and morality**.
- Priestley criticises the selfishness of **capitalism** and wants a fairer, **socialist** future after the horrors of two world wars.
- The Birlings and the Crofts are **representative** of the **wealthy middle/upper classes**. They all **misuse their social influence to benefit themselves**. Their actions adversely affect the **vulnerable** people in society.
- Priestley shows the **older generation** to be **set in their ways**, whereas the **young are open to change**.
- Eva Smith is the **embodiment** of **young, working-class women** who were **oppressed** by the **middle/upper classes**.
- The play demonstrates that when workers do not have **full employment rights**, they cannot fight back.

I have memorised a few quotes for each character:

- **Inspector Goole**
- **Mr Birling**
- **Mrs Birling**
- **Sheila**
- **Gerald**
- **Eric**
- **Edna** (the Birling's maid who says very little but introduces the Inspector – which is significant).
- **Eva** (she does NOT say anything- she is already dead at the start of the play). Characters paraphrase conversations they had with her.