

English Knowledge Organiser Y9 Summer 2 An Inspector Calls

Key term	Definition
Capitalist	An economic system based on private ownership.
Socialist	A political system where all property and wealth is owned by the community.
Patriarchy	A society in which men hold the power.
Social class	A person's status or position in society.
Social justice	The view everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities.
Social Responsibility	Being accountable for everyone in society.
Morality	The extent to which an action is right or wrong.
Omniscient	Being all knowing.
Stage Direction	Instructions in the script for how actors should perform.



Mr Birling

A hard-headed, capitalist businessman who fired Eva because she went on strike for higher wages. He accepts no responsibility.



Gerald Croft

Engaged to Sheila, a young business man who has an affair with Eva. He accepts some responsibility but doesn't change his views.

Act 1

- Engagement celebration
- Mr Birling interview
- Sheila interview



Mrs Birling

A cold-hearted member of the local women's charity who refused to help Eva. She accepts no responsibility and blames Eva.



Eva Smith

Mistreated by the Birlings and Gerald, Eva commits suicide as a result of the failures of the Edwardian society.



Sheila Birling

A naïve and childish woman who gets Eva fired due to her own jealousy. She accepts responsibility and changes her ways.



Inspector Goole

An omniscient and dutiful Inspector. He is Priestley's mouthpiece who prompts the characters to confess.



Eric Birling

A drunken and uneasy man who is the father of Eva's child. He accepts responsibility and regrets his earlier immoral actions.

QR Code/link to revision



Act 2

- Gerald interview
- Mrs Birling interview

Act 1

- Eric interview
- Inspector doesn't exist
- Phone call

J.B. Priestley and context

The play is set in 1912 during the Edwardian era when social class was very rigid. Priestley wrote An Inspector Calls in 1945 after WW2. He wanted the audience to consider their social responsibility and duty in the community and share his socialist ideologies.