



An Inspector Calls - Revision Booklet



The Year 10 mock exam for English Literature will be on a character. You will have **45 minutes** to write about an extract from the play and then link this to the play as a whole.

How to revise?

- Use the information below to make sure you understand the plot of the whole text.
- Learn key quotations from this booklet to use when answering the question in the exam.
- Complete past exam questions on An Inspector Calls that you can find here: [GCSE English Literature | Eduqas](#)
- You could also use the BBC Bitesize revision guide to revise the play: [An Inspector Calls - GCSE English Literature - BBC Bitesize](#)

*****Act 1**

Opening

The play opens with the Birling family celebrating the engagement of Sheila and her fiancé Gerald Croft. We get an insight into the early attitudes of the various characters.

- (Mr Birling) **"A man has to mind his own business and look after himself"**
- (Mrs Birling) **"men with important work to do sometimes have to spend all their time and energy on their business."**
- (Mr Birling) **"I speak as a hard-headed business man"**
- (Mr Birling on his disliking for mixing with the lower classes) **"all mixed up like bees in a hive"**
- (Eric) **"What about war?"**
- (Birling) **The Germans don't want war. Nobody wants war."**
- (Sheila) **"(who has put on ring admiringly) I think it's perfect. Now I really feel engaged."**
- (Sheila to Gerald about the engagement ring) **"is it the one you wanted me to have?"**
- (Gerald to Sheila) **"hope I can make you as happy as you deserve to be."**
- (Birling on The Titanic) **"Unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable."**

Interviewing Mr Birling

An inspector calls and begins to question the family about their connection to the suicide of Eva Smith. Firstly, we learn that Eva had worked in Mr Birling's factory and that he had fired her after she organised a strike.

- (Birling) **"it has nothing to do with the wretched girl's suicide."**
- (Inspector) **"It's my duty to ask questions."**
- (Gerald to Birling on how he treated Eva) **"You couldn't have done anything else."**
- (Eric) **"I'd have let her stay."**
- (Inspector) **"a chain of events"**
- (Sheila) **"But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people."**

Interviewing Sheila

Next, Sheila is questioned and we learn that she had Eva fired from her next job at Millward's. Sheila admits to being jealous of Eva Smith and using her position and influence to have her sacked. Afterwards, the inspector reveals that Eva later changed her name to Daisy Renton.

- (Inspector) **"There's a lot of young women living that sort of existence in every city and big town in this country."**
- (STAGE DIRECTION when Sheila sees the photograph of Eva Smith) **"a little cry, gives a half-stifled sob, and then runs out of the room."**
- (Mr Birling) **"We were having a nice little family celebration tonight. And a nasty mess you've made of it now, haven't you?"**

- (Sheila) “I was in a furious temper.”
- (Sheila) “I’ll never, never do it again to anybody.”
- (Inspector) “You’re partly to blame, just as your father is.”

***Act 2

Interviewing Gerald

After Gerald gives away that he recognises the name Daisy Renton, the inspector questions him about an affair that he had with her. He admits that he was seeing her at the same time as he was seeing Sheila and that he set her up with lodgings to keep her as a mistress. Gerald explains how he left her with nothing when he decided to break up with her.

- (Inspector) “we have to share our guilt.”
- (Mrs Birling) “my husband was Lord Mayor”
- (Sheila about the Inspector) “he knows”
- (Gerald talking about the Palace Theatre Bar) “a favourite haunt of women of the town.”
- (Gerald about Eva/Daisy) “I felt sorry for her”
- (Sheila when she hears Gerald’s involvement with Eva/Daisy) “You were the wonderful fairy Prince.”
- (Sheila to Gerald) “I rather respect you more than I’ve ever done before”
- (Birling) “I’m a public man.”
- (Inspector) “Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges.”

Interviewing Mrs Birling

Next, we are told that Mrs Birling had dismissed Eva’s application for help from the women’s charity she is a member of. Mrs Birling admits that she used her influence to have Eva’s case dismissed, even though she was pregnant. Mrs Birling insists that the baby’s father is most responsible, even as it becomes clear to everyone around her that Eric is the father.

- (Sheila to her mum) “You mustn’t try to build up a kind of wall between us and that girl.”
- (Mrs Birling) “I did nothing I’m ashamed of”
- (Mrs Birling) “I was prejudiced against her case”
- (Mrs Birling) “girls of that class”
- (Inspector) “you did something terribly wrong – and that you’re going to spend the rest of your life regretting it.”
- (Mrs Birling) “I accept no blame for it at all”
- (Mrs Birling talking about the father of Eva’s baby) “It’s his responsibility.”
- (Birling) “when this comes out at the inquest, it isn’t going to do us much good.”

***Act 3

Interviewing Eric

Eric arrives and immediately senses that everyone knows that he was the father of Eva’s baby. He explains that he got drunk and forced himself on Eva. They then started having a relationship and Eric stole money from Mr Birling’s business to support Eva. When Eric discovers that his mother turned Eva away, the family begin to argue. The Inspector silences them and gives a final speech before departing.

- (Eric explaining how he treated Eva when he first met her) “I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty”
- (Inspector on how Eric treated Eva) “as if she was an animal”
- (Eric to his dad) “You’re not the kind of father a chap could go to”

- (Birling worried about his reputation) “I was almost certain for a Knighthood”
- (Mrs Birling) “(Very distressed now) No – Eric – please – I didn’t know – I didn’t understand –”
- (Birling trying to pay his way out of trouble) “I’d give thousands - yes thousands”
- (Inspector) “You can’t do her any more harm. And you can’t do her any good now, either. You can’t even say ‘I’m sorry, Eva Smith.’”
- (Sheila) “(Who is crying quietly) That’s the worst of it.”
- (Inspector) “there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths”
- (Inspector warns the Birlings they will be taught a lesson if they don’t change - Sheila later repeats these words) “in fire and blood and anguish.”

The End?

After the Inspector leaves, the Birlings feel very shaken and ashamed. Sheila suggests that the Inspector may not have been a real policeman. Mr and Mrs Birling eagerly take this up and revert back to their old selves. Gerald returns and confirms this by telling them that a friend of his, who is a police sergeant, had never heard of an Inspector Goole. Gerald further theorises that there may have been talking about several different girls and that there may have been no suicide at all. After Gerald phones the infirmary and discovers that there has been no suicide, the older Birlings begin to celebrate and show that they have learned nothing. Eric and Sheila are made very uncomfortable by this and insist that they should all still feel very guilty. Finally, the telephone rings. Birling answers and is told a girl has just died and a police inspector is on his way.

- (Sheila to her parents) “You don’t seem to have learnt anything”
- (Sheila) “(bitterly) I suppose we’re all nice people now”
- (Eric) “I did what I did.”
- (Birling) “There’s every excuse for what both your mother and I did.”
- (Mrs Birling) “He certainly didn’t make me confess”
- (Gerald) “(Holds up the ring). What about this ring?”