

Week 1: Life in 1912

-Economy: The state of a country in terms of its supply of money.

-Capitalism: An economic system where the country's trade and profit is privately owned by the wealthy few.

-Socialism: An economic system where the country's trade and profit is shared by the whole community.

-Welfare state: A system that takes care of those in financial or social need, offering monetary support or free health services.

-Democracy: A leadership style in which members of the group take part in the decision-making process.



- Priestley was influenced by the context of the class divide, industry, the Titanic, the World Wars, nuclear weapons and the miners' strike of 1910-1911.
- The play is all set in one dining room to show the Birlings' self-absorption in their own 'bubble' or 'world'.
- The stage directions show the Birlings are capitalists: they have champagne, port, cigars and Edna, the maid.

Week 2: Mr Birling and the Inspector

-Bourgeoisie: The middle class who typically own most of society's wealth.

-Proletariat: The working class who must sell their labour to financially survive.

-Individualist: Someone who believes in the pursuit of individual gain rather than community.

-Dramatic irony: The audience / reader is aware of something the characters are not.

-Materialistic: Placing a high value on expensive objects or money.



- During the celebration of Sheila and Gerald's engagement, Sheila becomes very focused on the ring itself. Mr Birling also becomes side-tracked, discussing business and money during the engagement speech, showing his capitalist mindset.
- Mr Birling gives his views of the world and Priestley uses dramatic irony: there have been two world wars, the Titanic did sink and there was not peace or prosperity, but poverty.
- Inspector Goole arrives, announces Eva's suicide and begins to interrogate Mr Birling over firing Eva for going on strike.

Week 3: The change in Sheila Birling

-Dehumanisation: the process of depriving a person or group of positive human qualities.

-Infantilise: treat (someone) as a child or in a way which denies their maturity in age or experience.

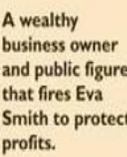
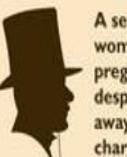
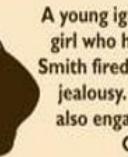
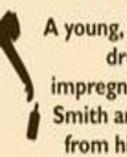
-Patriarchy: a society controlled by men in which they use their power to their own advantage.

-Juxtaposition: two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect.



- The Inspector now interrogates Sheila who had Eva fired from Milwards.
- At the beginning of the play, Sheila lacked independence, was treated like a child and was obsessed with appearance. However, Sheila begins to stand up to her father and Gerald, criticises their treatment of workers as 'cheap labour' and shows clear remorse for her actions, taking responsibility.
- Gerald asserts 'I don't come into this suicide business.'
- Mrs Birling shows prejudice against 'girls of that class.'

Knowledge Organiser: Year 10 – An Inspector Calls

~ THE INSPECTOR ~	~ MR BIRLING ~	~ MRS BIRLING ~	~ SHEILA ~	~ GERALD ~	~ ERIC ~	~ EVA SMITH ~	~ EDNA ~
							
The mysterious inspector who has each family member confess their involvement in Eva Smith's death	A wealthy business owner and public figure that fires Eva Smith to protect profits.	A self-righteous woman that turns a pregnant and desperate Eva Smith away from her charity.	A young ignorant girl who has Eva Smith fired out of jealousy. She is also engaged to Gerald.	The son of a wealthy family who keeps Eva Smith as a mistress while engaging Sheila.	A young, reckless, drunk who impregnates Eva Smith and steals from his father.	A young girl who is constantly failed by her society and ends up taking her own life.	The servant of the Birling household that quietly attends to their demands.

Week 4: Gerald's Affair and Mrs Birling's Prejudice

-Noun phrase: A noun modified by an adjective.

-Ambiguity: Being open to more than one interpretation; uncertainty.

-Hierarchy: A system that ranks people according to status.

-Superficial: Only considering surface appearance.

-Exploitative: Using someone unfairly for your own advantage or gain.

-Objectification: treating someone like an object.



- Eva turned to prostitution, common among poor women.
- Gerald shows how he is shallow about appearance as he prefers pretty, vulnerable women not 'hard-eyed dough-faced women'. Despite arguing he didn't 'install' Eva to make love to her, he clearly wanted her as a mistress.
- Mrs Birling admits to being prejudiced against Eva because she called herself 'Mrs Birling' so refuses her charity help.
- Mrs Birling denies all responsibility multiple times saying 'I was justified' and 'I accept no blame at all.'
- Both characters represent the existing class divide of 1912, believing the higher classes are naturally superior.

Week 5: Eric's assault on Eva and the Inspector's Morality.

-Mouthpiece: Being a voice for someone.

-Microcosm: A miniature example of a larger system, community or issue.

-Misogynistic: Prejudiced against women.

-Catalyst: The cause of something.

-Euphemism: Using a milder word or phrase to make something seem less unpleasant.



- Eric admits to sexually assaulting Eva, but there is a sense that this attitude to women has been normalised.
- Eric admits to stealing £50 from his father to give to Eva.
- The Inspector warns them that they will suffer 'in fire and blood and anguish' if they do not change their ways.
- Modern Capitalism, like Grenfell Tower, still exists.
- The Inspector reiterates their terrible actions showing the characters have links to the Seven Deadly Sins.
- They start to wonder whether the Inspector was a real police officer – Mr and Mrs Birling jump on this to make excuses, whereas Sheila and Eric take responsibility.

Week 6: The Ending of the Play

-Conscience: A person's moral sense of right and wrong.

-Egalitarian: Believing that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities.

-Hubris: Excessive pride or arrogance.

-Well-made play: A structure to a play, designed by Eugène Scribe, which moves through seven stages, taking the characters and audience from ignorance to knowledge.

-Circular narrative: Where events start and end at the same place.



- Gerald reveals that the Inspector isn't real.
- Eric and Sheila (who repeats 'fire and blood and anguish') have changed but Mr and Mrs Birling and Gerald have not.
- Gerald gives Sheila her engagement ring back; she refuses.
- As Mr Birling mocks the younger generation, the phone rings. A young woman has died; an Inspector is coming.
- The ending of the play, and who the Inspector really is, has a lot of debate but the moral remains: those in 1945 should take care of one another for a better, fairer world.