



AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: MODEL ANSWER

Table of Contents

<i>AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: QUESTION</i>	2
<i>AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: 100% MODEL ANSWER OUTLINE</i>	3
<i>ESSAY OUTLINE</i>	3
<i>AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: 100% MODEL ANSWER</i>	7





AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: QUESTION

Explore How Priestley presents Sheila in the play.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]





AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: 100% MODEL ANSWER OUTLINE

ESSAY OUTLINE

Introduction

Hook (quote, question, metaphor, shocking fact/statistic)	"If men will not learn that lesson then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish" – The Inspector.
Building sentences (some background/contextual info)	One particular theme which Priestley revisited in plays such as <i>Dangerous Corner</i> , <i>I have Been Here Before</i> (1937) and <i>Time and the Calways</i> (1937) that was to feature in <i>An Inspector Calls</i> was that of the effects of an individual's actions over time. The audience and, to a certain extent, the characters in these plays are shown possible projections of their actions which contrast poignantly with their present conditions.
Thesis statement (your position on the argument you are presenting)	Linking to these themes, Priestley ensures we understand the Inspector – although mysterious - wants to expose the inequalities inherent in a capitalist society and is an ally to women as well as the working classes.

Body paragraph 1

Topic sentence (introduce what this paragraph is about)	One of the purposes of <i>The Inspector</i> is to reveal the upper classes' guilt, not just to the audience, but to themselves so that they will have a chance to change their ways, and reflecting this idea, the lighting symbolically changes from "pink and intimate" to "brighter and harder" when he arrives into the Birlings' dining room.
Supporting sentences (your your analytical and contextual evidence)	The aristocratic household and its social gatherings were often portrayed as symbols of all that was good about life through the 19th century as well as the first decades of the 20th century. However, Priestley wants to highlight the darker realities that were bubbling beneath the surface of these settings and he uses the Inspector to take the audience into this intimate space to 'shine a light' on its





	<p>hidden truths. In many ways, the Birlings’ dining room setting is reminiscent of utopian literature where a seemingly perfect world is stained by the sacrifice of innocent souls. However, Priestley’s stage directions state: ‘the lighting should be pink and intimate until the inspector arrives and then it should be brighter and harder’. We could say that the ‘pink and intimate lighting’ alludes to the idea of ‘looking at the world through rosey-tinted glasses’ which suggests that the Birlings are out of touch with reality and, consequently, Priestley felt it necessary to ‘inspect’ the upper classes and shed light on their ignorance. To draw attention to the Inspector’s message, he uses language to shock the Birlings, just as Priestley wants to shock his audience into understanding that the greedy, selfish and irresponsible ideologies of the upper classes damage lives. This is why he chooses to state that Eva has died a horrifically painful death: “Burnt her inside out, of course” ... Here, the curtailed sentences perhaps mimics her curtailed life. However, with the throw away tag “of course” The Inspector suggests it is completely normal for a working-class girl to react this way – the implication being that the oppression of the upper classes leaves them no choice.</p>
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Concluding sentence(s)</p> <p>(final thoughts this paragraph)</p>	<p>It also suggests that the manner of Eva’s death is a common occurrence; in other words, she is just a statistic among many suicides of working-class men and women.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Body paragraph 2

<p>Topic sentence</p> <p>(introduce what this paragraph is about)</p>	<p>Additionally, because Priestley decides that the Inspector’s presence should be announced by Edna, this could imply that he is allied symbolically to the working class and, specifically, to women who had become a powerful force in the voting base.</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Supporting sentences</p> <p>(your your analytical and contextual evidence)</p>	<p>In her lines, Edna is given the title of the play (or perhaps close to it) when she says "please sir, an Inspector's called". Additionally, she opens "the door" and announces his name, "Inspector Goole", thus symbolically "heralding in an opportunity for change". However, Priestley’s focus on the effects of the capitalism on women’s lives not only has a dramatic function, but it also has a very specific political function. In the Equal Franchise Act 1928, about 15 years before Priestley wrote the play, all women over 21 (not just those over 30 with property) had received full equal rights to vote, thus nearly doubling the number of eligible women to 15 million over the previous legislation of 1918; Priestley saw an opportunity to create an entirely new political system, which he believed was crucial to preventing future wars. Consequently, he makes sure The Inspector is an ally to Edna, Eva and to Sheila. Sheila reacts straight away with seemingly genuine concern to hearing about Eva’s suicide: ‘Oh – how horrible!’ Recognising this, The Inspector begins to use Sheila’s emotions to turn her into an ally of his and we see this beginning to work when she says, ‘But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people’, thus directly reflecting Priestley’s socialist message. This allied partnership between The Inspector and Sheila can be seen as symbolic of Priestley trying to</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------





	persuade the women of all classes to see the failures of capitalism and vote in the socialist Labour Party as the solution;
Concluding sentence(s) (final thoughts this paragraph)	Sheila then begins taking on heroic and rebellious qualities that oppose her parents' ignorance, culminating with these words: 'but the point is you don't seem to have learnt anything'.

Body paragraph 3 (OPTIONAL)

Topic sentence (introduce what this paragraph is about)	
Supporting sentences (your your analytical and contextual evidence)	
Concluding sentence(s) (final thoughts this paragraph)	

Conclusion

Restated thesis (your position of the argument you are presenting)	In conclusion, although a major part of the entertainment is in trying to work out who the mysterious Inspector really is, Priestley ensures we understand he wants to expose the inequalities inherent in a capitalist society and to teach the upper classes about the importance of responsibility.
Summary of controlling concept (central theme)	In fact, it could be said that the play's second death carries with it Priestley's political point that the lessons of World War 1, represented by the death of Eva, were, in reality, not learnt, so the Birlings now face, in the final word of the play, "questions". Priestley's question in 1945 is about how the ruling classes allowed World War 2 to occur, so that millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths lost their lives again. Eric and Sheila, therefore, represent the younger generation who grew up in the interwar years and failed to live up to their responsibility. To emphasise this point, in the climactic speech of the play, the Inspector warns the Birlings that 'We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are





	responsible for each other'; he is echoing Priestley's wartime message, and his hopes for the postwar world. In fact, it can be argued that Priestley more directly answers the question Dickens posed about responsibility a hundred years before. We need only substitute Eva Smith for Jo, the sweeper in Bleak House, and he goes further than posing it;
Author's purpose (why the author wrote the text)	he warns us, realistically, the disaster that continued irresponsibility will bring. Priestley's play, therefore, reflected the mood of the country, who, in 1945, ousted Winston Churchill and his Conservative government, that had taken them to war and replaced them with the socialist Labour government; therefore, it is not Sheila and Eric, but their children who have learnt the Inspector's lesson.
Final thought (What key idea(s) do we learn?)	However, through all the tragedy and disaster of the two world wars, Priestley may be telling us that second chances do come, even out of the most unpromising circumstances; and if all hope was lost in 1914, and even in 1945, all may not be lost forever if we can just learn the Inspector's lesson.

MAKE SURE YOUR ESSAY CONTAINS ALL OF THESE QUALITIES

Tick these off when you have added them to your essay

- Methods - author's techniques
- ~~Context~~
- ~~Effects of the author's methods on the audience/reader~~
- Link to another part of the text - talk about the meaning of the connection
- Symbolism
- Themes
- Author's purpose

MCELSTA





AN INSPECTOR CALLS: THE INSPECTOR: 100% MODEL ANSWER

Explore How Priestley presents The Inspector in the play.

“If men will not learn that lesson then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish” – The Inspector. One particular theme which Priestley revisited in plays such as *Dangerous Corner*, *I have Been Here Before* (1937) and *Time and the Calways* (1937) that was to feature in *An Inspector Calls* was that of the effects of an individual’s actions over time. The audience and, to a certain extent, the characters in these plays are shown possible projections of their actions which contrast poignantly with their present conditions. Linking to these themes, Priestley ensures we understand the Inspector – although mysterious - wants to expose the inequalities inherent in a capitalist society and is an ally to women as well as the working classes.

One of the purposes of *The Inspector* is to reveal the upper classes’ guilt, not just to the audience, but to themselves so that they will have a chance to change their ways, and reflecting this idea, the lighting symbolically changes from “pink and intimate” to “brighter and harder” when he arrives into the Birlings’ dining room. The aristocratic household and its social gatherings were often portrayed as symbols of all that was good about life through the 19th century as well as the first decades of the 20th century. However, Priestley wants to highlight the darker realities that were bubbling beneath the surface of these settings and he uses the Inspector to take the audience into this intimate space to ‘shine a light’ on its hidden truths. In many ways, the Birlings’ dining room setting is reminiscent of utopian literature where a seemingly perfect world is stained by the sacrifice of innocent souls. However, Priestley’s stage directions state: ‘the lighting should be pink and intimate until the inspector arrives and then it should be brighter and harder’. We could say that the ‘pink and intimate lighting’ alludes to the idea of ‘looking at the world through rosey-tinted glasses’ which suggests that the Birlings are out of touch with reality and, consequently, Priestley felt it necessary to ‘inspect’ the upper classes and shed light on their ignorance. To draw attention to the Inspector’s message, he uses language to shock the Birlings, just as Priestley wants to shock his audience into understanding that the greedy, selfish and irresponsible ideologies of the upper classes damage lives. This is why he chooses to state that Eva has died a horrifically painful death: “Burnt her inside out, of course” ... Here, the curtailed sentences perhaps mimics her curtailed life. However, with the throw away tag “of course” The Inspector suggests it is completely normal for a working-class girl to react this way – the implication being that the oppression of the upper classes leaves them no choice. It also suggests that the manner of Eva’s death is a common occurrence; in other words, she is just a statistic among many suicides of working-class men and women.

Additionally, because Priestley decides that the Inspector’s presence should be announced by Edna, this could imply that he is allied symbolically to the working class and, specifically, to women who had become a powerful force in the voting base. In her lines, Edna is given the title of the play (or perhaps close to it) when she says “please sir, an Inspector's called”. Additionally, she opens “the door” and announces his name, “Inspector Goole”, thus symbolically “heralding in an opportunity for change”. However, Priestley’s focus on the effects of the capitalism on women’s lives not only has a dramatic function, but it also has a very specific political function. In the Equal Franchise Act 1928, about 15 years before Priestley wrote the play, all women over 21 (not just those over 30 with property) had received full equal rights to vote, thus nearly doubling the number of eligible women to 15 million over the previous legislation of 1918; Priestley saw an opportunity to create an entirely new political system, which he believed was crucial to preventing future wars. Consequently, he makes sure *The Inspector* is an ally to Edna, Eva and to Sheila. Sheila reacts straight away with seemingly genuine concern to hearing about Eva’s suicide: ‘Oh – how horrible!’ Recognising this, The Inspector begins to use Sheila’s emotions to turn her into an ally of his and we see this beginning to work when she says, ‘But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people’, thus directly reflecting Priestley’s socialist message. This allied partnership between The Inspector and Sheila can be seen as symbolic of Priestley trying to persuade the women of all classes to see the failures of capitalism and vote in the socialist Labour Party as the solution; Sheila then begins taking on heroic and rebellious qualities that oppose her parents’ ignorance, culminating with these words: ‘but the point is you don't seem to have learnt anything’.





In conclusion, although a major part of the entertainment is in trying to work out who the mysterious Inspector really is, Priestley ensures we understand he wants to expose the inequalities inherent in a capitalist society and to teach the upper classes about the importance of responsibility. In fact, it could be said that the play's second death carries with it Priestley's political point that the lessons of World War 1, represented by the death of Eva, were, in reality, not learnt, so the Birlings now face, in the final word of the play, "questions". Priestley's question in 1945 is about how the ruling classes allowed World War 2 to occur, so that millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths lost their lives again. Eric and Sheila, therefore, represent the younger generation who grew up in the interwar years and failed to live up to their responsibility. To emphasise this point, in the climactic speech of the play, the Inspector warns the Birlings that 'We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other'; he is echoing Priestley's wartime message, and his hopes for the postwar world. In fact, it can be argued that Priestley more directly answers the question Dickens posed about responsibility a hundred years before. We need only substitute Eva Smith for Jo, the sweeper in Bleak House, and he goes further than posing it; he warns us, realistically, the disaster that continued irresponsibility will bring. Priestley's play, therefore, reflected the mood of the country, who, in 1945, ousted Winston Churchill and his Conservative government, that had taken them to war and replaced them with the socialist Labour government; therefore, it is not Sheila and Eric, but their children who have learnt the Inspector's lesson. However, through all the tragedy and disaster of the two world wars, Priestley may be telling us that second chances do come, even out of the most unpromising circumstances; and if all hope was lost in 1914, and even in 1945, all may not be lost forever if we can just learn the Inspector's lesson.

