**GCSE English Literature Assessment 3**

How does Priestley explore ideas about social responsibility in An Inspector Calls?

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| **Key Moments: Birling and Mrs Birling** |
| 1. **Birling** arrogantly dismisses the strike as a ‘pitiful affair’ and views Eva as ‘cheap labour’ 2. **Birling** boasts that he was formerly Lord Mayor and is ‘still on the Bench’ in an attempt to signal his social status 3. **Birling** is relieved when the prospect of the Inspector being a ‘fake’ is first suggested 4. **Mrs Birling** refused Eva ‘the pitiable little bit of organised charity’ she had in her power to grant 5. **Mrs Birling** boasts that she was the only one ‘who didn’t give in’ to the Inspector |
| **Key Moments: Gerald** |
| 1. **Gerald** supports Birling’s decision to fire Eva by arguing that he ‘couldn’t have done anything else’ 2. **Gerald** attempts to hide the truth when it becomes clear he knew Daisy Renton 3. **Gerald** took advantage of his power and privilege by starting an affair with Daisy Renton 4. **Gerald** argues ‘very cleverly’ that the Inspector isn’t real and believes that ‘everything’s alright’ in light of his discovery |
| **Key Moments: Sheila and Eric** |
| 1. **Sheila** used her social status to get Eva fired from Milwards 2. **Sheila** urges Gerald and Mrs Birling to be truthful with the Inspector 3. **Eric** highlights the hypocrisy of Birling’s decision to fire Eva by asking why the workers ‘shouldn’t try’ for higher wages 4. **Eric** treated Eva as ‘an animal, a thing’ and ‘not a person’ 5. **Sheila** and **Eric** grow increasingly angry with their parents and understand that the Inspector’s identity doesn’t matter |
| **Key Moments: Inspector Goole** |
| 1. **The Inspector** promotes the importance of social responsibility and demonstrates that ‘we don’t live alone’ 2. **The Inspector** emphasises that there are ‘millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths’ |

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| **Key Points** |
| * **Priestley** reminds the audience of the inequalities and limitations for ‘millions and millions’ of people in 1912 * **Priestley** warns the audience about the consequences of selfishness and shows that ‘community’ is not ‘nonsense’ * **Priestley** urges the audience to continue campaigning for a fairer and more supportive society |

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| **Targets and Reflection Task** |
| * Your **academic writing targets** from the two previous essays remain, but our reflection task today is on **stage directions** |

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Reflection Task

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Think of stage directions as *instructions*. They tell the actors where to stand and how to move, and how and when to enter and exit the stage, as well as how to deliver their lines (and so on). They also provide guidance on the ‘technical’ aspects of the play, like how the stage should be lit and how the actors should be dressed.

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‘**It has good solid furniture of the period**’(161 | A1)

1. The ‘good solid furniture of the period’ that is visible on stage as the play begins is significant because…

‘**Edna, the parlour-main, is just clearing the table**’ (161 | A1)

1. Edna’s conspicuous presence on stage is important for two reasons…

‘**The lighting should be pink and intimate until the Inspector arrives, and then it should be brighter and harder**’ (161 | A1)

1. The ‘pink and intimate’ lighting creates a mood on stage that is characterised by…
2. The ‘brighter and harder’ lighting after the Inspector arrives is important for two reasons…

‘**We hear the sharp ring of a front doorbell**’ (168 | A1)

1. The ‘sharp ring’ of the doorbell that marks the Inspector’s arrival has the effect of…

‘**He speaks carefully, weightily, and has a disconcerting habit of looking hard at the person he addresses**’ (169 | A1)

1. It is important that the Inspector speaks ‘carefully’ and ‘weightily’ because…

‘**The telephone rings sharply**’ (220 | A3)

1. The requirement that the telephone ‘rings sharply’ at the end of the play is significant because…

