

Literature Coursework

20th Century Drama: *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley

You must **demonstrate understanding** of *character, theme, structure* and *social/historical context*.

Character:

You must show that you understand the personality of each character and their role within the family and the play and you must show understanding of how each character changes, or not, through the course of the play.

Theme:

You must explore the themes of the play in your writing. They must be suitably illustrated using quotations which highlight the issues highlighted throughout the play.

Structure:

You must discuss the structure of the play; the way in which characters enter and leave the action; how they conduct themselves when not part of the action. You need to look at pauses in speech, and stage directions etc. You must also look at the dramatic impact of your choices and how they affect the action that came before.

Social/historical context:

You must show awareness that the play was written and set during a particular era. Explore the friction between classes, the sense of propriety between speakers and how and why Priestley presents this aspect of society.

Example:

You must be **explicit** when writing e.g. When Sheila is first introduced she is... (quote) then as the play progresses her character develops and she ... (quote). Therefore, it is hardly surprising that Priestley has her say... (quote) in order to illustrate ...

Point

Evidence

Analysis