An Inspector Calls Revision List

You will have a choice of two Inspector Calls questions in the exam and you will need to pick one. You will have about 50 minutes to complete the question.

1. Make sure that you are very familiar with the plot of the play and what the events are in each Act. Watch the BBC 1982 version of the play on YouTube.
2. Revise notes on the social and historical background to the play. Remember that the play was written in 1945 but set in 1912. What is the significance of these dates with respect to dramatic irony?
3. Thoroughly revise character notes for all characters.

* What are the audience’s first impressions of each character from stage directions and dialogue in the early stages of the play?
* How does each character think, feel and behave before the Inspector arrives?
* What flaws in their characters can you pick up very quickly?
* What are the first clues about their relationships with each other?
* How do they each react to the news of Eva Smith’s suicide?
* How does each character react to the details of other characters’ involvement?
* Does the character change as a result of the Inspector’s visit? In what way?
* How does each character react when Gerald discovers that it was a hoax?

1. Revise the character of the Inspector. Who is he if he isn’t really an Inspector? Who or what does he represent?

**Learn brief quotations for all of the above bullet points.**

1. Stage Directions

Remember that this is a play so you must refer to it as such. You will need to write about as if you were watching the play and discuss the audience’s reaction to what is happening on stage.

Revise your notes on the following aspects of how J B Priestley’s maintains the drama of the play and keeps the audience involved:

* Setting and subtle hints
* Dramatic irony
* Tension and timing
* The ending (what is the twist at the end of the play?)

1. Themes

Revise your notes on the main themes of the play:

* Responsibility
* Class
* Gender
* Age

1. Complete practice questions under timed conditions. See model answers provided to help you with content, style and organisation. **Remember PEE** throughout and keep referring back to the question to make sure that your comments are relevant. **Don’t just retell what happens in the play**.