

Scheme of Learning: Literature Set Text: An Inspector Calls (Autumn Year 11)

Topic Sequence:			
1	2	3	4
Historical Context Pre and Post war Britain	Reading the play – An Inspector Calls by J. B Priestley	Close study of the play (themes and characters)	Applying Literature exam skills

Topic Overview:

All pupils must study a modern text (play or prose) as part of their GCSE in English Literature.

An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley is modern text which explores the themes of social responsibility, age, class, and gender. Set in 1912, written and first performed in the 1940s, the themes and ideas in this play are very relevant in modern society.

The play raises questions about the idea of collective responsibility and highlights how individuals cannot successfully isolate themselves from a community. The political ideas in the play engage and encourage pupils to consider the impact of characters' behaviour on those close to them, and on other members of a bigger community. Pupils will be familiar with many ideas of the period following their study of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in year 10.

All pupils are required to have a personal copy of the text so they can make annotations throughout the study.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons on *An Inspector Calls* have been carefully sequenced to take pupils on a journey of exploration through pre and post war Britain: this play is set in 1912 but was first performed to an audience after WW2 in 1945.

The topic begins with an introduction to the Britain in 1912, exploring the social and historical contexts in which the play was set; pupils will also explore links between 1912 and 1945 and the questions which Priestley was posing to the audience.

Next, pupils will read the play closely for comprehension of plot and characters, then reread the play studying characters and themes closely, while making notes in their own copy of the play. Throughout their study, pupils will use a summary booklet to record and consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the plot, characters, and themes in the play. Included in this booklet will be the knowledge organiser for this text.

The course delves into the ethical and philosophical questions raised by the play. Pupils will discuss the concepts of social responsibility, class, gender and the potential for society to change. They will be challenged to think critically about these issues and develop their own opinions.

The final sequence of lessons explores the relevance of the play to modern-day society, and how it continues to be relevant in our lives today.

The assessment for this unit will take the form of a GCSE exam question which has two distinct parts: pupils will be given a choice of two questions and asked to explore the way a specific theme or character is presented through the play.

Homework: during this study, pupils will be set an independent research project into the play and its context.

Sequence of Learning:		Topic Resources:		
1	Social and Historical context of the play	Knowledge Map:	An Inspector Calls	
2	First read of the play			Any other Resources:
3	Close reading of the play, including annotations (in pupils' own copies) and regular notes in summary booklets.	Assessment:		
3	Watch the film version to consolidate understanding	Knowledge:	Pupils will complete a 20 question, multiple choice knowledge test on the play. Questions will focus on characters, plot, context, and key quotations.	
4	Close study of characters: The Birling family, Gerald Croft, Eva Smith			
5	Close study of theme: Social Class	Application of Knowledge:	Pupils will answer a GCSE question from a past paper on a character or theme. The assessment will be marked according to a GCSE exam mark scheme.	
6	Close study of theme: Lies and secrecy			
7	Close study of theme: responsibility			
8	Close study of theme: morality			

Supportive Reading:	
Any supported reading listed here	<p>An Inspector Calls revision guides</p> <p>Recommended publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGP • Collins Snap Revision • York Notes • Lightbulb Revision <p>Linked fiction texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noughts and Crosses – M Blackman • Fences – A Wilson • Darling – R Edwards