An Inspector Calls

Question and answer

1. By whom and in what way was Priestley introduced to politics?
   ✓ his father's circle of socialist friends

2. What are the two themes recurring themes found in Priestley's plays which are mentioned in the introduction?
   ✓ the effects of an individual's actions over a passage of time, and individual and collective responsibility for those actions.

3. When did Priestley write An Inspector Calls?
   ✓ Winter of 1944-45

4. Where was the play first performed in Britain and what was the theatrical context at that time?
   ✓ New Theatre, London, 1st October 1946
   ✓ pre-1939, London theatre was popular, during the war theatres opened and closed erratically. The Old Vic transferred to Lancashire.

5. In what year is the play set?
   ✓ Spring 1912

6. Why is An Inspector Calls known as a well-made play?
   ✓ progression of ignorance to knowledge for both characters and audience

7. Explain in your own words what is meant by ‘Priestley observes the classicalunities of time, place and action in his structure’.
   ✓ time span in performance is the same as the events of the play, place is constant, action contributes to the central theme with no distraction

8. How could you describe the play in terms of genre?
   ✓ initially a detective thriller structure
   ✓ then becomes whodunit
   ✓ morality play

9. How does Priestley maintain the interest of the audience throughout?
   ✓ progressive revelation
   ✓ who is actually responsible?
   ✓ climaxes at the end of each act

10. What is the style of the play and what does this term mean?
    ✓ naturalistic - a more deliberate kind of realism, usually involving a view of human beings as passive victims of natural forces and social environment. In drama usually has a broader application, denoting a very detailed illusion of real life on the stage, especially in speech, costumes and sets.