Class is no longer a problem in today’s society; Priestley’s lessons have been learned.

Discuss:

• what ‘class’ is
• how class problems appear in the play
• what lessons you think the characters learn
• whether those lessons have been learned today.

Which of Gerald’s crimes is greater: his treatment of Eva or his fiancée Sheila?

Discuss:

• how Gerald appears to be with Sheila at the start of the play
• how that changes over the course of the play and the effects on their engagement
• how he treats Eva over the course of the summer
• whether this sort of thing still happens today.

Who is most to blame for Eva Smith’s death?

Discuss:

• each of the characters
• their actions and how they affect Eva Smith
• who is most to blame
• whether there are cases like Eva Smith today.
‘The Birlings are not to blame; society is.’

Discuss:

- what part each of the Birlings play in Eva’s death
- how society as a whole might be to blame for their actions i.e. Arthur Birling is not to blame; capitalism is or Eric is not to blame; drinking culture amongst the young is.
- whether today’s society is still guilty of the same mistakes.

‘It is the female characters of An Inspector Calls that are primarily to blame for Eva Smith’s death.’

Discuss:

- Sybil and her impact on Eva Smith
- Sheila and her impact on Eva Smith
- how far the men are to blame for the death of Eva Smith
- how this reflect attitudes towards women at the time
- whether these attitudes are still alive today.

‘Eric and Sheila learn from their mistakes; Arthur and Sybil do not learn anything.’

Discuss:

- the mistakes all these characters make
- the lessons that Eric and Sheila learn
- the lessons, if any, that Arthur and Sybil learn
- whether people still make these mistakes today.