A Quiz on BBC’s Texts in Context Series

*An Inspector Calls* by J B Priestley

The following questions are based on the BBC *Texts in Context* series for *An Inspector Calls*.

The answers are on the next page.

1) What adjective is used to describe J. B. Priestley’s play?
2) How does the speaker describe Priestley? As a conformist or a radical?
3) What two historical periods do we need to know about in order to understand the play?
4) How had Priestley become well known during the Second World War?
5) What, according to his son, did Priestley want for the people after WWII?
6) Write down three reasons that the social face of Britain altered during WWII.
7) What did people want after the war?
8) Why did Priestley set his play in 1912?
9) What was about to collapse?
10) How many people were paid less than 25 shillings a week?
11) Who were at the bottom of the pile?
12) Why were the British manufacturers so successful?
13) What happened on March 1st 1912?
14) How was Britain divided?
15) What does Edna represent?
16) Who were concerned about the way people were living?
17) What rarely meet in the world of Edwardian Britain?
18) What’s the best thing about Sheila?
19) What was the real purpose of the charity groups?
20) What were unmarried mothers driven into?
21) What does Eric know is coming?
22) How does Tom Priestley describe his father?
23) What happened to Edwardian Britain in 1914?
24) What would Gerald betray if he changed?
25) The actress suggests that the play finishes in a certain way. What adjective does she use?
26) The film suggests a group of people won and a group of people lost, who were they?
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The Answers !!

1) What adjective is used to describe J. B. Priestley’s play? **Controversial**

2) How does the speaker describe Priestley? As a conformist or a radical? **Conformist**

3) What two historical periods do we need to know about in order to understand the play? **1912 and 1945**

4) How had Priestley become well known during the Second World War? **He made a series of morale boosting radio broadcasts**

5) What, according to his son, did Priestley want for the people after WWII? **A better world**

6) Write down three reasons that the social face of Britain altered during WWII.
   - full employment
   - moral welfare of the workers
   - evacuation meant that poor city children could end up with wealthy country people
   - the armed forces mixed together the different classes
   - clothes rationing meant everybody looked the same

7) What did people want after the war? **A new Britain**

8) Why did Priestley set his play in 1912? **Because it represented the total opposite**

9) What was about to collapse? **The great dream**

10) How many people were paid less than 25 shillings a week? **8 million**

11) Who were at the bottom of the pile? **Working women**

12) Why were the British manufacturers so successful? **Prices high, wages low**

13) What happened on March 1st 1912? **A miners’ strike**

14) How was Britain divided? **Into different classes**

15) What does Edna represent? **The underdog**

16) Who were concerned about the way people were living? **Writers**

17) What rarely meet in the world of Edwardian Britain? **The two worlds of the different classes**

18) What’s the best thing about Sheila? **Her curiosity and willingness to learn**

19) What was the real purpose of the charity groups? **To ease the conscience of the privileged few**

20) What were unmarried mothers driven into? **Prostitution**

21) What does Eric know is coming? **Judgement day**

22) How does Tom Priestley describe his father? **As a conscience of the nation**

23) What happened to Edwardian Britain in 1914? **It was shattered forever**

24) What would Gerald betray if he changed? **His class**

25) The actress suggests that the play finishes in a certain way. What adjective does she use? **Optimistic**

26) The film suggests a group of people won and a group of people lost, who were they? **Young won, the old lost**