The opening to Act Three

1) What do the stage directions tell us and Eric at the beginning of the scene?

2) What comment half way down page 50 tells us that Eric is angry at his mother?

3) What have the family learnt about Eric?

4) What action by the Inspector tells us that he is in charge now, not Mr Birling?

5) Again in the stage directions on page 51, what extra information is added to our knowledge of Eric?

6) What is Eric politely suggesting that he might have done to Eva, at the top of page 52?

7) Why does Mr Birling send Sheila and his wife out? What does this tell us about gender roles during the period?

8) What does Eric’s attitude towards Eva reveal about the way wealthy young men treat poor working class women?

9) What does Eric nearly reveal about Mr Birling’s friends at the bottom of page 52?

10) What do the family discover now about Eric?

11) What is revealed about the relationship between Eric and his father on page 54?

12) Why does Mrs Birling shout out “Sheila,” and later say nothing when Eric questions her?

13) How does Priestley use punctuation to show Eric’s distress on page 55?

14) What is now revealed about the mother/son relationship?

15) Finally, the play opens with a façade (a false image) of a perfectly happy united family. How would you summarise it now?