

GCSE English Literature Paper 2: **Modern Text** and Poetry

Key Terms			
Capitalist	The idea that the government do not own any businesses and business owner's main interest is personal profit.	Other Key Terms	
Patriarchal	That society is dominated by men and men rank higher than women.	Gender	A social construction about how the sexes are supposed behave and act.
Socialist	The government put structures in place to support the poor. This is partially funded by taxes on the rich.	Stereotype	An image or idea that is widely associated with a person or thing.
Elitist	A person or a group of people that are considered superior by others (by power, wealth or class)	Conform	Follow rules and laws.
Prejudiced	Forming opinions that are not based on factual evidence.	Conscience	A person's sense of right and wrong, viewed as acting as a guide to one's behaviour.
Dramatic Devices		Contemporary	Following modern ideas or living or occurring at the same time.
Dramatic Irony	When an audience knows more than the characters.	Hypocrisy	Having double standards or portraying themselves to a higher standard.
Stage Directions	Instructions given to actors to guide them how to act, stand, behave, speak etc.	Morality	Defining what is right and wrong.
Structure	How a play and the events are organised.	Social Responsibility	A community or person taking care of others in society.
Microcosm	A small scale representation of an idea, society, country etc.	Prosperity	Being wealthy or being in possession of material objects.
Foil	A character who contrasts with another character.	Pretentious	Attempting to impress by trying to appear more important than you are.
Omniscient	Knowing everything.	Pompous	Having a large ego or being boastful.
Subvert	To destroy or damage something especially a political system.	Egotistical	Self-centred.
Empathy	the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.	Repentant	Feeling regret or remorse.
Apathy	lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.	Collective	A group that share or are motivated by a common interest or issue.



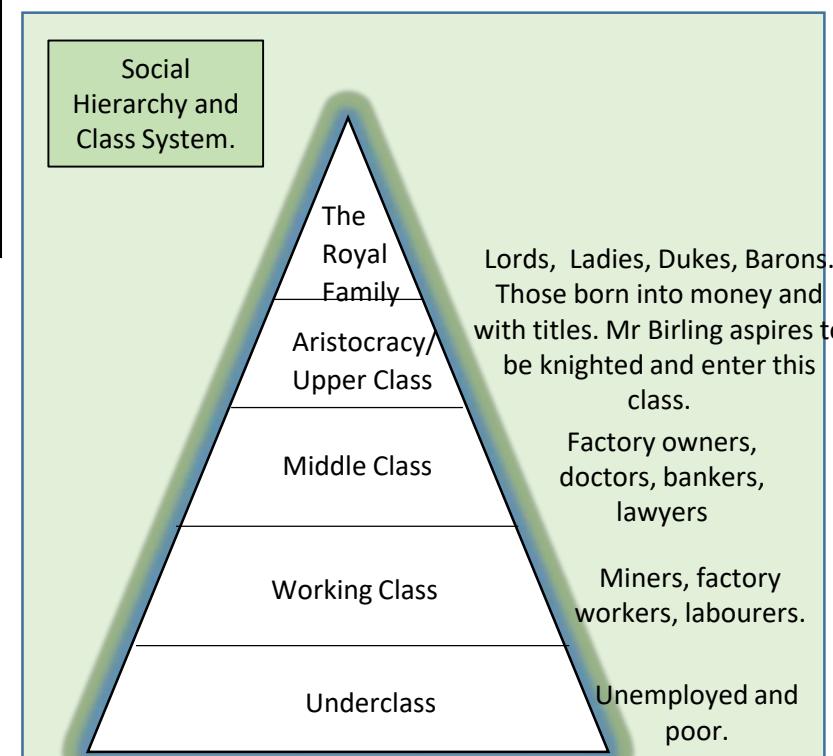
Seven Deadly Sins

Seven deadly sins, also called seven capital sins or seven cardinal sins, in Roman Catholic theology, are the seven vices that spur other sins and further immoral behaviour. The seven deadly sins can be thought of as dispositions toward sin and separation from God. Lust, for example, could result in adultery, which is a mortal sin, or could lead to somewhat less intentional immoral thoughts that would be classified as venial sins.

Lust: intense desire (typically sexual)
 Gluttony: excessive indulgence (typically food or drink)
 Sloth: apathy, laziness, idleness
 Envy: resentful, jealous of what others have
 Greed: selfish excessive desire for more (usually money)
 Pride: excessive arrogance, conceit, lack of humility
 Wrath: strong or vengeful anger, lack of self-control

- Big Questions:**
1. What was life like for the working classes?
 2. How is the Birling's household reflective of society at the time?
 3. Who is the Inspector?
 4. Who is Eva?
 5. What was life like in Edwardian society?
 6. Should we be socially responsible for each other?
 7. Does age equal wisdom?
 8. Is our ideal self always the same as our real self?
 9. Why are morals and warnings important?
 10. How is the play relevant in a changing society?

- Key Themes**
- *Equality*
 - *Old vs Young Generation*
 - *Love and Marriage*
 - *Social Responsibility*
 - *Morality*
 - *Ideal vs Real Self*
 - *Social Class*
 - *Guilt*
 - *Time*
 - *Gender*
 - *Redemption/ Repentance*



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J. B Priestley

John Boynton Priestley was born in Bradford, Yorkshire into a middle class family. In 1914 he fought in the First World War. He escaped death several times from gas attacks and shell explosions. He wrote 'An Inspector Calls' after the inequalities he saw in society after the First World War and leading up to the second.

Edwardian Society



Industry Boom

This period saw a huge economic growth that widely benefited the upper and middle classes and took advantage of the lower classes. It created a rigid cycle of power equals money, money equals power.

Socialism and Capitalism

There were many conflicts between business owners and workers that led to strikes. Unemployment and poverty and the world wars made people question Britain's social structure. Socialism called for the more equal sharing out of wealth.

Social Class

The class system made it so that the lower classes struggled. The upper classes had a limited sense of social responsibility-many were ignorant of the plight of the poor.

World War One 1914-1918

There was a dangerous level of tension between European countries before the First World War. The conflict cost millions of lives. After the war many British people questioned the leadership given by the upper classes.

Gender & marriage:

In 1912 men and women were supposed to behave in particular ways based on gender stereotypes. Women were seen as the weaker sex and would have been expected to class the needs of their husband above her own. Women would not have had partners before her husband whereas men could. Marriage was seen as a commodity where women families could make matches based on status and money.

The play revolves around the apparent suicide of a young woman called Eva Smith, written in 1945 but set in 1912, just before the First World War. The play is a **morality play** that aims to teach about the **selfishness of Capitalism** and the **consequences of our actions**. This is a play about the need to have a **social conscience** and act with **social responsibility**, so that the most vulnerable in society are not **neglected and abused**.

Comparison between Capitalism and Socialism

Capitalism	Socialism
Think money is more important than workers	Believe workers rights are more important than money
Everyone wants to make money as this brings status and power	Believe in abolition of class system
Believe social connections are useful for making money	Believe social connections are valuable in their own right
Think the class system and taking care of yourself is important	Believe everyone is responsible for each other's wellbeing.
People are more interested in money and themselves	People are more interested in quality of life than earnings
Everything is owned by private individuals (land, businesses etc.)	Resources are owned by the state and shared by all citizens
The government role is very limited	The government has a parental role, providing resources to those who need them
There is no welfare state or NHS	There is a welfare state to provide help, support and resources to the poorest in society.
There is little or no taxation	There is taxation of the richest to lessen the wealth gap between the rich and the poor.

Timeline

1894 J.B Priestley born in Bradford, Yorkshire	1909 Several suffragettes are imprisoned for peacefully protesting, many go on hunger strikes.	1912 Suffragettes attack private property and start fires.	1912 Titanic sinks	1914-1919 First World War many women enter the workplace due to shortage of male workers. Millions of men die.	1918 most men over the age of 21 can vote. Women over the age of 30 and are homeowners can vote.	1926 General Strike-many important industries grind to a halt.	1928 Vote is extended to all women over the age of 21.	1939 Second World War starts	1945 Second World War ends.	1945 Landslide Labour election focused on a welfare system to look after poorest in society.
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Characters

Eva Smith/ Daisy Renton
The Inspector
Arthur Birling
Sybil Birling
Sheila Birling
Eric Birling
Gerald Croft
Edna

Sample exam questions

- How does Priestley explore responsibility in An Inspector Calls?
 - How does Priestley explore the issue of class in An Inspector Calls?
 - How does Priestley present the character of Mrs Birling in An Inspector Calls?
 - How does Priestley explore the ideas of status and power in An Inspector Calls?
 - How does Priestley present the character of Gerald in An Inspector Calls?
- 30 marks**
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