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Level 2 English, 2018

91098 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

9.30 a.m. Monday 19 November 2018
Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL

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You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than five paragraphs. Your analysis is more important than the length of your essay.

Support the points you make with specific details from the text.

Begin your written text(s) essay here:

Question number: 3

The drama, An Inspector Calls, by J.B. Priestley, set in 1912 England, tells the story of the middle-class Birling family who are interrogated by a police inspector, following the suicide of Eva Smith - an ex-worker at their family company. An idea which ~~was~~ reinforced to the audience's at the end of the play was character Arthur Birling's. The ending of the play reinforced the audience's understanding of character Arthur Birling. Priestley utilises the techniques of dramatic irony, character interactions and symbolism to portray Arthur Birling as untrustworthy, arrogant and selfish. Reinforcing these character aspects at the end of the play develops the theme ^{of} how a thoughtless pursuit for personal gain can not only compromise the lives of others, but impact our chance of success.

At the beginning of the play, Arthur Birling is characterised as an arrogant businessman, whose traits are revealed to the audience ^{through} his predictions for the future. Lecturing his family about success, he casualises the threat of World War II as "silly little war scenes" and predicts that "in 1940", his family would, once again, be celebrating their future

achievements. Priestley is implying that Arthur Birling's success in business ~~has~~ is influencing his expectations for the world; ~~this~~ ^{his} mindset ~~was~~ developed from his position in the middle-class. During 1900s England, members of the upper and middle class experienced luxurious lifestyles which were void of adversity. Arthur's Birling's idyllic vision of the future demonstrates how his lifestyle ~~&~~ and success in business consequently lead him to expect the world ~~to~~ ^{will} mimic his success. Priestley characterises Birling in this manner to reveal how one's success can influence their expectations for the world around them. The audience responds to Birling's predictions with uneasiness. This is because his vision for the future is an aberration of historic events. Priestley writes "in 1940" with ironic hindsight, ~~and~~ implodes the audience to consider the true nature of the events Birling predicts. In reality, World War I did occur and, "in 1940" the world ~~was~~ ^{was once} again, engaged in global conflict. Birling's idyllic ~~visions~~ for the future ~~greatly~~ ~~contrast~~ contrast with the audience's understanding of historical events. We quickly lose trust in Birling as his cocky personality demonstrates he is an adamant believer of his opinions and is resistant to change. Through the use of dramatic irony, Priestley demonstrates how one's success in life can affect their judgement in life. He implodes us to keep a neutral stance on life's events and prevent our hubris from influencing our opinions.

During the Inspector's Interrogation, Priestley demonstrates Birling's selfish character traits through his workplace relationship with Eva Smith. Upon being questioned for discharging Eva from his company, Birling states how increasing her wage would add "twelve percent" to his labour costs. This demonstrates to the audience Birling's desire for wealth; an ambition he prioritises over ~~the~~ ^{draws parallels} ~~represents~~ his employees' livelihoods. Priestley implies his affinity for profits resulted in Eva being discharged from his company. Birling's mindset ^{draws parallels} ~~represents~~ the prevalence of corporate greed in 1900s England, where the working class were being disadvantaged by members of the middle class who held positions of power. Relating Birling's attitude to that of ~~scite~~ society in the 1900s is utilised by Priestley to condemn capitalist mindsets. Emphasising Birling's concern for labour cost increases demonstrates to the audience how possessing a profit-oriented mindset ~~tes~~ results in selfishness. Priestley encourages the audience to ~~consider the consequences of our actions~~ ^{Furthermore} ~~consider~~ ^{concludes} Birling justifies his decision to discharge Eva by stating how people like her would "soon be asking for the Earth" if they are not kept in check. This evokes a feeling of outrage in the audience. Instead of considering the possibility that Eva may be experiencing financial hardship, Birling ~~considers~~ ^{concludes} her pleads for a wage increase as a threat to his profit margins. Consequently, Birling ~~dis~~ makes Eva redundant. Priestley encourages the audience to ~~consider the consequences of our~~

~~actions have on others.~~ Eva's suicide adds a sense of drama. Her ~~decision to end her own life~~^{this} implies her dismissal of the ~~to~~ command of Birling caused her ~~an~~ immense misery - enough to take her own life.

This aspect of the play shocks the audience as it implies Birling is the main culprit ~~of her death~~^{in influencing}.

Priestley demonstrates how we all have a responsibility for others in the pursuit of our goals. Revealing Birling's relationship with Eva Smith demonstrates how we should ~~not~~ consider the repercussions our actions have on others.

The ending of the play reinforces the audience's ideas of Arthur Birling through the use of symbolism. Upon discovering the Inspector's interrogation was hoaxed, Birling ~~to~~ hastens to conclude the case was

"moonshine." This implies he is willing to discredit the Inspector's presence and continue as if nothing happened.

The audience's idea that he is untrustworthy is emphasised through the use of contrast. Birling's over-optimistic tone contrasts to his daughter's more cautious and thoughtful ~~to keep~~^{attitude}.

Priestley emphasises the audience's perceptions by encouraging us to consider the events of the play. From Birling's aberration of ~~WWI~~ events regarding World War I, the audience understand that he has been incorrect before. In

this final ~~see~~ Act, we are sceptical of Birling's optimism and question if his hubris will result in his downfall. Birling's dismissal of the Inspector's interrogation also emphasises his selfish traits.

His decision to claim ignorance implies he will continue ~~his own~~ pursuing his ambitions for profits, and will continue prioritising wealth over his employees - perhaps in a similar case to Eva Smiths. Priestley demonstrates the consequences of possessing a fixed mindset when the phone rings in the end. This time, a real police inspector is coming to interrogate Birling following the suicide of one of his workers. The phone call is a symbol which signifies Birling's downfall. Throughout the play, Birling feared the reputational damage the interrogation would incur. Now that a real police inspector is arriving, the repercussions he feared are becoming a reality. Birling's downfall reinforces ~~our~~ Priestley's idea of the consequences of capitalism.

~~By emphasising~~ being over-optimistic. The playwright is implying Birling's downfall is a result of his failure to learn from his mistakes. ^{This} Priestley encourages the audience to consider the impact ~~our actions have on others~~ and importance of learning from one's mistakes to ensure no one is disadvantaged by ~~our~~ actions.

Extra space if required.

Write the question number(s) if applicable.

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QUESTION
NUMBER

In conclusion, Priestley develops the character of Arthur Birling to ~~emph~~ ^{emph} ~~inf~~ ^{inf} develop influence the audiences' ideas ~~of~~ that he is untrustworthy, selfish and over-optimistic. The ending of the play reinforces these ideas by demonstrating the consequences of maintaining a fixed mindset.

Priestley implores the audience to consider the ~~repercuss~~ impact our actions have on others and to repair any damage inflicted to prevent or suffer the consequences.

Excellence Exemplar 2018

Subject	Level 2 English		Standard	91098	Total score	E7
Q	Grade score	Annotation				
3	E7	<p>An Inspector Calls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assured discussion • sophisticated language and ideas • clear grasp of the topic • comments link to broad ideas • strong sense of author's purpose • range of techniques discussed and woven into the answer 				