**An Inspector Calls**

*You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.*

**You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the play to answer the question.**

Write about the character of Mrs Birling and the way she is presented in ‘An Inspector Calls’

In your response you should:

* Refer to the extract and play as a whole;
* Show your understanding of characters and events.

**Mrs Birling**: I'm very sorry. But I think she had only herself to blame.

**Inspector**: Was it owing to your influence, as the most prominent member of the committee, that help was refused the girl?

**Mrs Birling**: Possibly.

**Inspector**: Was it or was it not your influence?

**Mrs Birling:** (*stung*) Yes, it was. I didn't like her manner. She'd impertinently made use of our name, though she pretended afterwards it just happened to be the first she though of. She had to admit, after I began questioning her, that she had no claim to the name, that she wasn't married, and that the story she told at first – about a husband who'd deserted her – was quite false. It didn't take me long to get the truth – or some of the truth – out of her.

**Inspector**: Why did she want help?

**Mrs Birling:** You know very well why she wanted help.

**Inspector:** No, I don't. I know why she needed help. But as I wasn't there, I don't know what she asked from your committee.

**Mrs Birling:** I don't think we need discuss it.

**Inspector:** You have no hope of not discussing it, Mrs Birling.

**Mrs Birling:** If you think you can bring any pressure to bear upon me, Inspector, you're quite mistaken. Unlike the other three, I did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation. The girl asked for assistance. We were asked to look carefully into the claims made upon us. I wasn't satisfied with the girl's claim – she seemed to me not a good case – and so I used my influence to have it refused. And in spite of what's happened to the girl since, I consider I did my duty. So if I prefer not to discuss it any further, you have no power to make me change my mind.

**Inspector**: Yes I have.

**Mrs Birling:** No you haven't. Simply because I've done nothing wrong – and you know it.