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***An Inspector Calls***

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

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

Write about Mrs Birling and how she is presented at different points in the play.

In your response you should:

• refer to the extract and the play as a whole  
• show your understanding of characters and events in the play [40]

*5 of this question’s marks are allocated for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and the use of vocabulary and sentence structures.*

**M**rs B. **(smiling, social)** Good evening, Inspector.

**I**nspector Good evening, madam.

**M**rs B. **(same easy tone)** I’m Mrs Birling, y’know. My husband has just explained why you’re

here, and while we’ll be glad to tell you anything you want to know, **I don’t think we can**

**help you much.**

**S**heila No, Mother — please!

**M**rs B. **(affecting great surprise)** What’s the matter, Sheila?

**S**heila **(hesitantly)** I know it sounds silly—

**M**rs B. What does?

**S**heila You see, I feel you’re beginning all wrong. And I’m afraid you’ll say something or do

something that **you’ll be sorry for** afterwards.

**M**rs B. I don’t know what you’re talking about, Sheila.

**S**heila We all started like that — so confident, so pleased with ourselves until he began **asking us questions.**

**M**rs Birling **looks from S**heila **to the I**nspector**.**

**M**rs B. You seem to have made a great impression on this **child**, Inspector.

**I**nspector **(coolly)** We often do on the young ones. They’re more impressionable.

**He and M**rs Birling **look at each other for a moment. Then M**rs Birling **turns to S**heila

**again.**

**M**rs B. You’re looking tired, dear. I think you ought to go to bed — and forget about this absurd business. You’ll feel better in the morning.

**S**heila Mother, I couldn’t possibly go. Nothing could be worse for me. We’ve settled all that. I’m staying here until I know why that girl killed herself.

**M**rs B. Nothing but morbid curiosity.

**S**heila **No it isn’t.**

**M**rs B. Please don’t contradict me like that. And in any case I don’t suppose for a moment that we can understand why the girl committed suicide. **Girls of that class—**

**S**heila **(urgently, cutting in)** Mother, don’t — please don’t. For your own sake, as well as ours,

you mustn’t—

**M**rs B. **(annoyed)** Mustn’t – what? Really, Sheila!

**S**heila **(slowly, carefully now)** You mustn’t try to build up a kind of wall between us and that

girl. If you do, then the Inspector will just break it down. And it’ll be all the worse when

he does.

**M**rs B. I don’t understand you. (**To I**nspector.) Do you?

**I**nspector Yes. And she’s right.

**M**rs B. **(haughtily)** I beg your pardon!

**I**nspector **(very plainly)** I said Yes — I do understand her. And she’s right.

**M**rs B. That — I consider — is a trifle impertinent, Inspector.