## The Knowledge

## Act 1

- 1. The Birling family live in a 'fairly large suburban house' and, at rise of curtain, they are 'pleased with themselves'.
- 2. Birling remarks awkwardly that 'it's a pity Sir George and er Lady Croft can't be with us'.
- 3. Gerland presents Sheila with an engagement ring and she exlaims, 'Oh it's wonderful!'
- 4. Birling makes predictions about the future; he says, 'we're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity'.
- 5. Birling is unrepentant about his role in the suicide of Eva Smith, remarking that 'it's a free country'.
- 6. Eric disagrees by saying that 'it isn't if you can't go and work somewhere else'.
- 7. Eva does manage to find another job because 'Milwards suddenly found themselves short-handed'.
- 8. Sheila feels deeply guilty about using her influence to get Eva sacked; she says that 'if I could help her now, I would -'.
- 9. The Inspector reveals that Eva changed her name to Daisy Renton, which prompts Gerald to ask '[startled] what?'
- 10. Gerald asks Sheila not to tell the Inspector about his relationship with Daisy; he says, 'we can keep it from him'.

Celebration	Wealth	Class	Entrepreneur	Prediction
Engagement	Provincial	Hierarchy	Labour	Strike

## Act 2

- 1. Gerald tries to deter Sheila from staying to witness the questions and answers that are 'bound to be unpleasant'.
- 2. Mrs Birling notes Eric's absence and remarks that he 'seems to be in an excitable silly mood'.
- 3. Gerald conceeds to the Inspector that he met the 'quite different' and 'young and pretty' Daisy in the disreputable Palace Bar.
- 4. Gerald says that he 'broke it off' with her before he went away for 'several weeks' on business.
- 5. The Inspector reveals that Daisy kept a diary, in which she wrote that 'she felt there'd never be anything as good again for her'.
- 6. Obviously upset, Gerald excuses himself and leaves; however, he says, 'I'm coming back'.
- 7. Mrs Birling claims that she 'did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation'.
- 8. She refused Eva charity money, stating that it is the father's 'responsibility' to support her.
- 9. Mrs Birling defiantly says, 'I blame the young man who was the father of the child she was going to have'.
- 10. When it is implied that Eric is the father, Mrs Birling becomes agitated and says, 'I won't believe it'.

Responsibility	Absence	Relationship	Investigation	Impudence
Interrogation	Deceit	Support	Charity	Confession

## Act 3

- 1. Eric says bitterly to his mother that 'you haven't made it any easier for me'.
- 2. Eric admits that he was 'a bit squiffy' when he met Eva and 'was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty'.
- 3. He saw Eva again; he 'liked' her, but 'wasn't in love with her or anything'.
- 4. Eric tells the Inspector that Eva 'didn't want me to marry her'.
- 5. Eric admits to taking money from his father; Birling reacts angrily and says that Eric has been 'spoilt'.
- 6. As the Inspector prepares to leave, he highlights to the Birlings and Gerald that each of them 'helped to kill' Eva.
- 7. He asks them to remember that 'there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us'.
- 8. The Inspector leaves and Birling says that he is 'absolutely ashamed' of Eric; Eric says that he is 'ashamed' of his father 'as well'.
- 9. Birling believes that he and the rest of the family were 'bluffed'; he later confidently concludes that the Inspector was a 'fake!'
- 10. The play ends with Birling reporting that 'a police inspector is on his way here to ask some questions'.

Guilt	Dispute	Commitment	Shame	Relief
Resentment	Anger	Dishonesty	Dread	Dismay

