**GCSE English Literature Assessment 2**

How does Priestley present the character of Sheila in the first two acts of the play?

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| **Key Moments** |
| 1. Sheila is ‘very pleased with life and rather excited’ at the start of the play
2. She challenges Gerald in a ‘half serious, half playful’ way about being absent ‘all last summer’
3. She is shocked to hear about the ‘horrible’ suicide of Eva Smith
4. She demonstrates empathy with Eva’s plight and states that ‘girls’ like her ‘aren’t cheap labour’
5. She leaves the stage with a ‘half-stifled sob’ when she recognises Eva from the Inspector’s photograph
6. She provides a detailed, honest account of the reasons why she made the complaint
7. She challenges Gerald when he attempts to coerce her into secrecy
8. She sarcastically calls Gerald a ‘fairy prince’ after he provides his account of the affair and hands back the ring
9. She concedes that ‘in some odd way’ she ‘rather respects’ Gerald just before he leaves the stage
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| **Key Points** |
| * Sheila’s lifestyle and circumstances completely contrast with those of Eva Smith She is **privileged**
* Sheila seems (initially) unaware of how precarious life is for working class women like Eva She is **naive**
* Sheila is empathetic when she learns of the suicide and this contrasts to Birling’s callousness She is **empathetic**
* Sheila represents the ‘younger generation’ and the remorse she shows offers hope for the future She is **remorseful**
* Sheila becomes increasingly assertive and this signals her strong desire for social change She is **assertive**
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| **Academic Writing Targets** |
| 1. Practise adapting the statement-evidence-inference (S-E-I-Z-E) model of analysis by using different sentence stems
2. Try to develop your ideas further by writing more for the ‘inference’ stage of your analysis
3. Use the conjunctions ‘because’, ‘but’ and ‘so’ to help develop and sequence your ideas
4. Practise using the verbs ‘suggests’, ‘shows’ and ‘highlights’
5. Think hard about the adjectives you use and always aim to choose the most precise words
6. Proof-read each paragraph before moving on and make a particular effort to check for capitalisation errors
7. Read each paragraph to yourself before moving on to make sure that your writing ‘makes sense’
8. Work hard to improve the legibility (i.e. presentation) of your handwriting
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| **Reflection Task** |
| * Copy and complete the academic writing sentence stems
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