**Staging**

**Start of the Play**

* ‘It has good solid furniture of the period’ (161 | A1)
* ‘The lighting should be pink and intimate until the Inspector arrives, and then it should be brighter and harder’ (161 | A1)
* ‘Edna, the parlour-main, is just clearing the table’ (161 | A1)
* ‘All five are in evening dress of the period, the men in tails and white ties, not dinner-jackets’ (161 | A1)

**End of the Play**

* ‘The telephone rings sharply’ (220 | A3)
* ‘As they state guiltily and dumbfounded, the curtain falls’ (220 | A3)

**Arrival of the Inspector**

* ‘We hear the sharp ring of a front doorbell’ (168 | A1)
* ‘He is a man in his fifties, dressed in a plain darkish suit of the period’ (169 | A1)
* ‘He speaks carefully, weightily, and has a disconcerting habit of looking hard at the person he addresses’ (169 | A1)
* ‘The Inspector interposes himself between them and the photograph’ (170 | A1)

**Exit of the Inspector**

* ‘He walks straight out, leaving them staring, subdued and wondering’ (207 | A3)
* ‘Birling, the only active one hears the front door slam’ (207 | A3)

**Entrances on Stage**

* ‘Now Mrs Birling enters, briskly and self-confidently, quite out of key with the little scene that has just passed’ (185 | A2)
* ‘Enter Birling, looking rather agitated’ (196 | A2)
* ‘Eric enters, looking extremely pale and distressed’ (201 | A2)
* ‘As he hesitates, there is a ring at the front door’ (211 | A3)

**Exits from Stage**

* ‘We hear the front door slam’ (194 | A2)
* ‘We hear the front door slam again’ (195 | A2)
* ‘He goes to open the door while Sheila takes her mother out’ (204 |A3)

**Changing Emotions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Birling** | **Mrs Birling** | **Sheila** | **Eric** | **Gerald** | **Inspector** |
| ‘Laugh’ | ‘Smiling’ | ‘Excited’ | ‘Noisily’ | ‘Smiling’ | ‘Calmly’ |
| ‘Angrily’ | ‘Staggered’ | ‘Distressed’ | ‘Miserably’ | ‘Startled’ | ‘Harshly’ |
| ‘Excitedly’ | ‘Triumphantly’ | ‘Bitterly’ | ‘Sulkily’ | ‘Decisively’ | ‘Masterfully’ |

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1. What do we learn about the **Birling family** and wider **context** of the play from the opening stage directions?
2. What effect do the ‘**loud**’ **noises** have as the play progresses (i.e. generated by doorbells, slamming doors and the phone)?
3. Why is it necessary for members of the Birling family **leave** the stage throughout the play?
4. How do the **emotions** of the Birling family change as the play progresses?
5. How does the **appearance** and **manner** of the Inspector mark him out as different to the Birlings?