**[SUMMARY TASK] THE INSPECTOR AS A MORAL FIGURE**

*The way that the Inspector uses the information he has creates an impression of someone who is both an outsider and an all-knowing creature. This makes him appear mysterious and powerful. Yet Priestley can only use him as a catalyst, as someone who creates the possibility for others to face up to what they have done.* ***They must decide for themselves whether to change or not.*** *He is a character who represents Priestley’s strong moral view. His comments show a compassion which extends to those who recognise the wrong they have done. He does not forgive what they have done, but when they freely admit their faults he allows them to see that they can find forgiveness through future good behaviour. This moral dimension makes him different from an ordinary policeman. He is more concerned with right and wrong than with what is or is not legal. His lack of fear or favour, his determined question and control of events may be what is expected of a policeman, but towards the end of the play it is those same qualities (which Mrs Birling identifies as ‘rudeness’) which fuel suspicions about him. He is perhaps too abrasive, and he is clearly someone for whom social conventions count for nothing when weighed against the desire for truth and justice.*

* + Try to find some places in the play where the Inspector focuses more on what is right than what is legal.
  + What sort of language does he use? When is he harsh or kind to the person he is interviewing?
  + Does he say anything which could be classed as rude?
  + When does he show a disregard for social conventions (consider status/class) or a lack of fear?

**[SUMMARY TASK] THE INSPECTOR’S LANGUAGE**

1. We are told that the Inspector speaks *‘carefully, weightily’ (Act 1, p.10)*. Find some examples of the Inspector speaking this way.
2. The Inspector uses a lot of questions and instructions. What effect do you think this has on his position of power/control? Find some examples of the Inspector speaking this way.
3. The Inspector frequently interrupts characters who are not going in the direction he wishes them to go in. How does this help the Inspector stay in control and shape the interviews? Find some examples of the Inspector speaking this way.
4. There are times when the Inspector produces dramatic results by the use of a short and isolated sentence – or even a single word. Find some examples of the Inspector speaking this way.

**What is the effect of this way of speaking? How does it help to show the Inspector’s role in the play?**