‘An Inspector Calls’

‘how does Priestley present Mr Birling as a conventional patriarchal capitalist in Act One of ‘An Inspector Calls’

Priestley portrays Mr Birling as a conventional capitalist throughout act one. He is shown to the audience as a materialistic man who uses money to cover his insecurities. This is shown when he tries to show off his status and his money to Gerald, whose parents are at a higher status than Mr Birling. This is shown when he says “You ought to like this port, Gerald” right at the outset. This shows that he is rich because he can afford to give expensive port to his guests. Mr Birling constantly shows off his riches and status to Gerald. He is over-compensating his to hide his social insecurities.

Mr Birling is shown to be a capitalist that sees money in everything. This is clearly revealed when he sees his daughter’s marriage as a company deal to become more powerful. “you’ve now brought us together. Mr Birling is shown to care more about money and social status than his daughter’s relationship. He also describes himself as a “hard-headed practical man of business”. This shows that he always wants more money and cares more about business than social matters. This is a trait of a stereotypical capitalist.

WWW: a good analysis of Mr birling which shows the reader his character and his personality. A good range of quotations.

EBI: completion