

‘How does Mrs Birling show capitalist views?’

Overview of Plan:

- Para 1: duty to uphold these generational beliefs
- Para 2: rejects responsibility – “he certainly didn’t make me confess”
- Para 3: classism and neglect of her duties – “girls of that class”

Key:

- **Purple words** = my point for that paragraph
- **Orange words** = linking back to the question
- (make sure you have 1 point per paragraph constantly link back to, this can normally be another key theme but if not use a word/phrase, and then the word from the question)

Point 1

Mrs Birling is presented as **entrenched in her generational capitalists** beliefs. She believes it is her obligation to uphold the exploitative capitalist ideologies that had been passed on through generations.

- **Evidence:** *"I consider I did my duty"* (Act 2)
- **Noun "duty"** - The noun "duty" could be a tool to explore the disparity in the perspectives of **capitalists** and socialists, for **older generation** capitalists, upholding the class system and capitalist ideologies was paramount.
- **Personal pronoun:** audience hopeful accept personal responsibility, she consistently rejects the idea of being held accountable for any action that doesn't align with the **pristine persona** - she is **entrenched** in her irresponsibility encouraged by her **capitalist** ideologies

Point 2

Priestley intentionally crafts **capitalism** to be synonymous (closely linked) with **irresponsibility** through the character of Mrs Birling. She effortlessly rejects responsibility, and vehemently (strongly) opposes the development of a collective social conscience

- Evidence: *"He certainly didn't make me confess"* (Act 3)
- **Connotation of "confess":** The verb "confess" has connotations of crime, and by stating she hasn't committed any unlawful acts, she subtly implies her lack of **responsibility** - effortless denial shows **capitalists** are easily **irresponsible**.
- **Imperative verb "make":** The imperative verb "make" hints at another reason as to why she so actively rejects **responsibility**- it is a way of keeping afloat in the power struggle between her and the inspector. **Capitalists** will opt for irresponsibility over remorse.

Point 3

Mrs Birling is presented as a marionette (puppet) of her social class and capitalist conventions. She willingly **exploits the lower social classes**, rationalising it for **capitalist** advancement and gain.

- *"I don't suppose for a moment that we can understand why the girl committed suicide. Girls of that class—" (act 2)*
- **Repetition on "girl"**: "*girl*" conveys notions of innocence and vulnerability showing her willingness to **exploit the lower social classes** and rationalise it for **capitalist** advancement.
- **Demonstrative adjective on "that"**: She groups together the **lower classes** through the demonstrative adjective "*that*" to dismiss them as an aggregate (meaning they are all grouped together as one) inferior and homogeneous (all the same) group that all behave in the same way and deserve to be subject to the same **exploitation** by upper class **capitalists**