Year 10 Research Project

The life and times of J.B. Priestley and the politics of 'An Inspector Calls'

Task: Research J.B Priestley and form an understanding of how Priestley's life influenced 'An Inspector Calls'

Use the advice below to help structure your research project. You could create a bibliography, fact file or context mind map to record your research.

Research Priestley's background:

- Where did he grow up?
- What was his life like as he was growing up?
- Was Priestley from a working class, middle class or upper class background?
- What did Priestley do during the First World War?
- What role did Priestley perform during the Second World War?
- Why do you think Priestley rejected a knighthood and peerage but accepted the Order of Merit?

The Edwardian Era:

- How was life different for people in the working classes compared to the upper classes?
- How did attitudes towards poor people from the rich change during this period?
- How did attitudes change towards women during this period? What could the reasons be for the change?

Research the Two World Wars:

- How did the two World Wars impact on Priestley’s own life?
- How did Priestley view the Second World War and its impact on society?
- What did Priestley say about his experiences of being in the First World War himself?

Research the Post-War period:

- After the unprecedented death and destruction of World War I and World War II, how did Britain change?
- What is the National Health Service?
- How does the NHS (National Health Service) fit into Priestley’s political views?
Useful Websites:

The British Library - [https://www.bl.uk/people/j-b-priestley](https://www.bl.uk/people/j-b-priestley)

National Website - [https://jbpriestley.co.uk/](https://jbpriestley.co.uk/)

Special Collection Bradford University
[https://specialcollectionsbradford.wordpress.com/2015/09/01/the-inspectors-russian-journey/](https://specialcollectionsbradford.wordpress.com/2015/09/01/the-inspectors-russian-journey/)

J.B Priestley and World War One- [https://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/inside-first-world-war/part-five/10544050/jb-priestley-first-world-war.html](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/inside-first-world-war/part-five/10544050/jb-priestley-first-world-war.html)

The Post-War Period
[http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/1945to1951/about.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/1945to1951/about.htm)

Useful clips to watch:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zk7b4wx](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zk7b4wx)
An interview with Priestley's son provides further insight into his father's aspirations for his play to echo the feelings of ordinary people.

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z82g9i6](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z82g9i6)
An evaluation of 'An Inspector Calls' as an expression of J.B. Priestley's socialist beliefs. The film clip focuses on the relevance of the play being set in 1912, a time that represented the exact opposite of what people were hoping for in 1945.

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zdmrkqt](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zdmrkqt)
An analysis of how the appalling social conditions of 1940s England influenced J.B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fXw8lWWtIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fXw8lWWtIA)
Useful context and background information.