

Teaching Pack: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Cambridge IGCSE™ / IGCSE (9–1)
Literature in English 0475 / 0992

Cambridge O Level
Literature in English 2010

For examination from 2028



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Contents

Introduction	4
1. Themes and text summary	6
2. Character summaries and quotation analysis	8
3. Character animations	17
4. Reflection and activities	19
5. Quiz	23
Quiz answers	25

Introduction

This *Teaching Pack* supports teachers and learners when studying Cambridge IGCSE / IGCSE (9–1) and O Level Literature in English set texts.

Set texts regularly rotate on the syllabus and may change from one year of examination to the next. Before you begin teaching, check the set text list for the year in which your candidates will take their examinations.

Teachers may use this teaching pack to engage their learners when introducing a set text, or as a revision tool.

The content of these set text resources will need to be expanded on to cover what candidates are expected to know and be able to comment on in an examination.

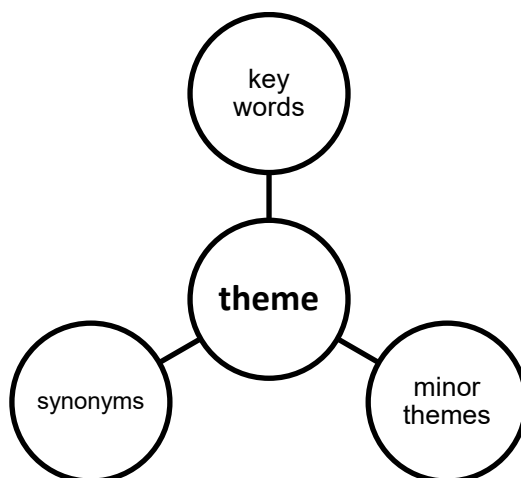
To increase learners' understanding and appreciation of the set text we recommend learners to set up a **reading log**, which could include:

- brief synopses of chapters/acts (in no more than a couple of sentences in their own words)
- a timeline of events (useful when a narrative is arranged non-chronologically)
- a list or diagram of characters and their relationships with each other
- first impressions of main characters
- initial thoughts about the main themes or ideas in the text.

The teaching pack aims to help learners to understand and think about the themes of the text, key quotations and their meanings, the significance of character behaviour, relationships and actions and how characters are depicted in the set text being studied.

The key words we use for the themes in this *Teaching Pack* are not exhaustive.

We suggest teachers discuss synonyms and alternative key words for themes that are identified for a text. Create key major theme mind maps and then from each of those key themes map connected and subsidiary/minor themes.



Animation videos

This *Teaching Pack* can be used with the videos which were produced using the software *Video Scribe* www.videoscribe.co/en/, but a range of other alternative animation and storyboarding tools may equally be used:

- www.storyboardthat.com
Online digital storytelling tool – free and pay for subscriptions available
- <https://wonderunit.com/storyboarder/>
Storyboarding software – free to download, but has to be installed
- www.powtoon.com/edu-home/
Online video and animation creation – free and pay for subscriptions
- www.animaker.com
Online animated video creator – free and pay for subscriptions
- https://goanimate4schools.com/public_index
Online storyboard, scene and video creation tool – pay for subscription
- <http://plasq.com/apps/comiclife/macwin/>
Downloadable and app-based tools for creating comic books
- www.openoffice.org/product/impress.html
A tool for creating multimedia presentations
- <https://products.office.com/en-gb/powerpoint>
Microsoft PowerPoint for simple presentations as well as more complex multimedia presentations.

The teaching pack and videos aim to help learners to understand and think about the key events and themes of the text, key quotations and their meanings, the significance of character behaviour, relationships and actions and how characters are depicted in the set text being studied.

Lesson resources



Included in this pack are some resources to use with your learners. You may ask your learners to create their own worksheets similar to these, around another text, which they are studying:

Character summaries and quotations – learners create their own character summaries including quotations.

Character animations – after watching the animation, learners can work in pairs to fill in the blank worksheet.

Reflection – after reading the text / watching the videos, learners reflect, consider and explore.

Quiz – a fun quiz to test the learners' knowledge of the text before or after watching the videos.

1. Themes and text summary

Some of the themes Wilde explores include:

- marriage
- hypocrisy and double lives
- social class
- religion
- morality
- education

Act 1

The play opens in Algernon Moncrieff's London flat. Algernon (known as Algy) is expecting his aunt (Lady Augusta Bracknell) and her daughter (Gwendolen Fairfax) to visit him, but Algy's friend, Jack Worthing, calls in first. Jack says he is going to propose marriage to Gwendolen, which prompts Algy to ask who Cecily is. Jack left a cigarette case behind last time he was in the flat, and on it is inscribed '*From little Cecily with her fondest love to her dear Uncle Jack*'. Jack is Cecily's guardian and doesn't want Algy to have anything to do with Cecily, so he lies and says Cecily is his aunt. Algy is intrigued and tries to find out Jack's country address so that he can visit. Algy asks why the inscription on the cigarette case is to 'Jack' when his name is 'Earnest'. Jack answers that 'Jack' is his real name, but he uses the name Earnest whenever he goes to London. He then pretends he has a younger brother called Earnest who sometimes misbehaves. Algy understands this because he says he himself has to resort to deception whenever he needs an excuse to leave the city – he has invented a friend called 'Bunbury' who needs compassionate visits in the country. During this conversation, Algy has been eating the cucumber sandwiches which were meant for his Aunt Augusta.

Later, Lady Bracknell and Gwendolen arrive. Algy apologises to Lady Bracknell but says he is now unable to go to the dinner she has arranged, because he has to visit Bunbury. Algy then leaves the room with Lady Bracknell to help her choose music for her evening. While he is alone with Gwendolen, Jack proposes to her. She accepts and explains that she is so glad he is called Earnest because she feels it is a 'really safe' name. Jack wonders what to do about his name! When Lady Bracknell is informed of the engagement, she refuses to give her permission. She then interviews Jack to see whether he is a suitable husband. She is shocked to discover he doesn't know who his parents are, and that he was found as a baby in a handbag at Victoria Station in London, and adopted by the man who found him. She forbids the marriage and leaves. Gwendolen quietly returns to get Jack's address. Algy overhears the address and makes a note of it, intending to visit, because of his curiosity about Cecily.

Act 2

Act 2 opens in the garden of Jack's country house. Cecily is reluctantly having a German lesson with her governess, Miss Prism. Cecily persuades Miss Prism to go for a walk with Canon Chasuble, leaving Cecily writing her diary. Algy arrives and is attracted to Cecily; he pretends to be Jack's fictitious younger brother, Earnest. He plans to stay for the weekend, then leave before Jack returns from London. Algy and Cecily flirt with each other, then enter the house to find something for Algy to eat.

Miss Prism and Canon Chasuble return. Then Jack enters dressed in elaborate mourning clothes. He says his brother Earnest has died in Paris. He arranges a christening for himself with Canon Chasuble, so that he can change his name to Earnest. Cecily then re-enters and says that Earnest is in the dining room! She engineers a meeting between the two supposed brothers and leaves them to reconcile. Jack is shocked to find Algy there and orders a carriage to take him to the station and back to London; but Algy is in love with Cecily and wants to stay. Jack leaves the stage to take off his mourning clothes. Algy proposes to Cecily, who, to his surprise, tells him they have already been engaged for three months. She says she imagined it and wrote about it in her diary. She has written imagined letters from him too. She says she has always wanted to marry someone called Earnest. This makes Algy want to arrange a rechristening for himself, just like Jack.

Gwendolen then arrives, having followed Jack. She is disconcerted to find Cecily is young and beautiful. They discover they are both engaged to Earnest Worthing, which prompts them to become bitter enemies. They have afternoon tea, during which they are polite to each other. Jack and Algy arrive, and their other identities are discovered; the women now sympathise with each other for being deceived by their respective partners and leave together. Algy gloomily eats all the muffins while wondering how to make everything right again.

Act 3

In the drawing-room of Jack's house, Algy and Jack tell the women they will be rechristened Earnest, and the women relent and agree to stay engaged. Lady Bracknell arrives. She demands an explanation for their behaviour. When she discovers Cecily's great fortune, she gives consent to her marrying Algy, but Jack's lack of parents prevents her agreeing to his marriage to Gwendolen. However, Jack, as Cecily's guardian, says he forbids Cecily's marriage unless he himself is allowed to marry Gwendolen. Then Canon Chasuble arrives and says he is ready for the christenings, but these are cancelled, so he says he will return to Miss Prism at the church. Lady Bracknell is shocked to hear the name 'Miss Prism'. She sends for her, revealing that Miss Prism is the governess who 'lost' the baby she should have been looking after 28 years ago – Lady Bracknell's nephew. Miss Prism explains that she was focused on the three-volume novel she had written, and had placed the novel in the baby's pram and the baby in her handbag, which she left at Victoria Station. Jack runs to his room and dramatically produces the bag. Lady Bracknell reveals that Jack was christened Earnest Moncrieff, and is Algy's older brother.

Lady Bracknell approves of Jack marrying Gwendolen, and Jack's name really is Earnest, so Gwendolen is happy to marry him.

There are three loving couples on stage who embrace each other: Jack and Gwendolen, Algy and Cecily, and Canon Chasuble and Miss Prism.

The happy ending shows 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.

2. Character summaries and quotation analysis

Jack Worthing

Jack is a young man who owns a country estate in Hertfordshire, England. He appears to be a dutiful and honourable member of society. In the country, he is responsible for a ward, Cecily (Mr Cardew's granddaughter) and also for the farmers and tenants on his land. However, he lives a double life and has invented a younger brother called Earnest who is always getting into trouble. Jack uses this brother as an excuse whenever he wants to go to London, and to cover his own disreputable behaviour there. In London, he pretends to be his younger brother, calling himself Earnest, and thus escapes any blame himself for his younger brother's poor behaviour. He has found a way of leaving his social obligations behind in the country, in order to enjoy himself in London, without feeling anyone's disapproval. The name 'Earnest' suggests honesty and truth, which is the opposite of his actions.

While in London, he is friendly with Algernon Moncrieff, an idle bachelor and Lady Bracknell's nephew. Jack and Algy enjoy life in fashionable London. However, Jack does what he can to keep Algy away from his alternative, respectable life in the country. When Algy expresses his interest in Jack's ward, Cecily, Jack tries to keep him away from her too, since he is responsible for Cecily and doesn't feel Algy is a suitable match for her.

Wilde presents Jack and Algy as typical upper-class characters. He satirises Victorian hypocrisy where people adhere to an accepted moral code of duty and honour superficially, but in reality, secretly behave in accordance with their own convenience and pleasure. This often creates humour in the play as characters often say one thing but mean something else. This emphasis on the superficial is reinforced by Gwendolen, whom Jack wishes to marry. She claims to have always wanted to marry someone called Earnest, just because of how steadfast and honest the name sounds to her; she doesn't seem at all concerned about the actual character of the person behind the name. The fact that Jack is Earnest's real name is an obstacle to the marriage – until it is resolved at the end of the play.

When Jack proposes marriage to Gwendolen, her mother, Lady Bracknell, refuses permission because she doesn't know Jack's family. Jack was adopted by Thomas Cardew, who discovered him as a baby in a handbag at Victoria Station in London. Lady Bracknell does not consider this to be at all respectable for a prospective son-in-law. The problem is resolved in absurd plot twists by the end of the play, when Jack's real father is discovered to be Lady Bracknell's brother; and as Jack was actually christened Earnest, the two lovers are happily united.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
<p>'When one is in town one amuses oneself. When one is in the country one amuses other people. It is excessively boring.'</p> <p><i>Act 1</i></p>	<p>... how Jack feels the constraints of society more in the country than in London.</p> <p>... the hypocrisy of society and living double lives, like Jack's.</p>	<p>Algernon is joking that city life is full of entertainment, but the countryside is dull unless you can entertain others. It highlights how upper-class Victorians often sought stimulation and disliked anything that felt predictable or conventional.</p>
<p>'I am sick to death of cleverness. Everybody is clever nowadays.'</p> <p><i>Act 1</i></p>	<p>... how Jack satirically complains about the displays of wit amongst his social circle.</p>	<p>Algernon pretends to be tired of "cleverness," even though he himself is witty and sharp. He is mocking the Victorian obsession with appearing intelligent, proper, and fashionable.</p>
<p>Mr Birling: ...a man has to make his own way - has to look after himself.'</p> <p><i>Act 1</i></p>	<p>... Mr Birling says this to Eric and Gerald, suggesting his selfishness and values of 'survival of the fittest'.</p>	<p>Mr Birling argues that individuals should be responsible only for themselves. He rejects any idea of collective responsibility or social duty. This selfish view reflects his capitalist mindset.</p>
<p>Learning focus</p>		
<p>To help learners understand narrative structure and character development.</p> <p>Learners create a visual timeline of the play, annotating key events with quotes and analysis of how Wilde uses structure to build his character arc.</p>		

Gwendolen Fairfax

Gwendolen is Algy's cousin and Lady Bracknell's daughter. She is a sophisticated and opinionated young lady, keen on self-improvement and attending lectures. Although she deliberately pretends to be an obedient daughter, she is a match for Lady Bracknell in getting exactly what she wants, even if it is against her mother's wishes. They are both strong, forceful women who readily give their unchallenged views on taste and society.

Gwendolen meets Jack Worthing, a friend of her cousin, Algy, in London, and so he is introduced to her as 'Earnest'. They are similar in some ways; they are both practical and believe in appearances and correct behaviour, even if, for Jack, this is only true in the country. They both humorously enjoy discussing trivial aspects of high society. The two fall in love. Gwendolen says she has always wanted to fall in love with someone called Earnest, because she thinks the sound of the name 'inspires absolute confidence'. Her love for the sound of his name and what she feels it represents, rather than the man's actual character, shows how superficial she is. Since Jack's name is truly not Earnest, he is uneasy at disappointing Gwendolen, and it makes him consider how best to change his name to suit her wishes.

Jack is firmly prompted by Gwendolen to propose marriage. She accepts his proposal, largely due to his name being Earnest. When Lady Bracknell refuses permission for the marriage, due to his being adopted, Gwendolen finds his story romantic and begins plotting what to do; she says she may have to 'do something desperate'. Her tendency to dramatise features in her diary. This act of desperation involves travelling on her own to visit Jack at his country house in Hertfordshire, where she is caught up in Jack's deceptions with his false name and invented younger brother.

Wilde satirises Gwendolen's obsession with appearances. He mocks Victorian hypocrisy which places importance on merely the appearance of truth and honour, rather than the virtues themselves. When Gwendolen meets Cecily, Jack's ward, they are set against each other when they discover they are both apparently in love with Earnest. They engage in a battle over afternoon tea, where they are scrupulously polite to each other while managing to insult each other at the same time. Thus, when Cecily politely offers Gwendolen some cake, she refuses, saying that cake 'is rarely seen at the best houses nowadays' - a veiled insult implying that Cecily's home is not one of the 'best houses'. This also emphasises Gwendolen's concern with trivial fashions and superficiality.

The resolution at the end of the play unites the two lovers so that they can happily marry.

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
<p>'My ideal has always been to love some one of the name of Earnest. There is something in that name that inspires absolute confidence.'</p> <p><i>Act 1</i></p>	<p>... how Gwendolen rates superficiality above substance - here, she loves the sound of the name rather than the character of the person.</p>	<p>Wilde uses Gwendolen's fixation on the <i>name</i> "Earnest" to satirise Victorian superficiality. Her "ideal" is not based on personality, morality, or genuine affection, but on a sound that "inspires absolute confidence". Ironically, the name suggests sincerity while Jack's assumed identity is anything but sincere. This exposes the comic gap between appearance and reality—one of the play's central themes. Gwendolen's romantic idealism is shown to be shallow, highlighting Wilde's critique of society's tendency to value surface over substance.</p>
<p>'I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train.'</p> <p><i>Act 2</i></p>	<p>... the humour of how Gwendolen claims she doesn't live a conventional life following society's petty rules.</p>	<p>Diaries are normally private records, yet she describes her own as "sensational"—implying she writes dramatically for her own entertainment. The humour comes from her self-absorption as well as her belief that her daily life is worthy of sensational reading. Wilde uses this to mock Victorian fascination with melodrama and self-display. It also reinforces Gwendolen's tendency to dramatise events, which becomes a running comic trait.</p>
<p>'Bread and butter, please. Cake is rarely seen at the best houses nowadays.'</p> <p><i>Act 2</i></p>	<p>... Gwendolen's humorous concern with superficial fashions.</p>	<p>This line shows Gwendolen's preoccupation with fashion, status, and social etiquette. The apparent politeness masks a subtle insult—she implies Cecily's home is not one of the "best houses". Wilde uses this to highlight the competitive, performative</p>

Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
		nature of upper-class social interactions. The triviality of arguing over bread and butter versus cake satirises how Victorian society assigns enormous importance to superficial markers of refinement.
<p>'In matters of grave importance, style, not sincerity is the vital thing.'</p> <p><i>Act 3</i></p>	<p>... how she regards appearance as more important than substance.</p>	<p>This is one of Wilde's sharpest paradoxes in the play. Gwendolen's inverted moral logic—valuing style over sincerity “in matters of grave importance”—exposes the absurdity and hypocrisy of the society she represents. Wilde uses the humour to critique Victorian emphasis on appearances and social performance. It crystallises the theme that external show is valued more highly than genuine feeling, and positions Gwendolen as both a product of her superficial culture.</p>
<p>Learning focus</p>		
<p>Understanding Oscar Wilde's Use of Paradoxes to create humour, expose hypocrisy, and critique Victorian society</p> <p>Paradoxes are central to <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>. Wilde's witty contradictions challenge social norms while entertaining the audience. Learners identify key paradoxical statements spoken by characters, annotate them, and explore how Wilde uses paradox to mock Victorian values and expose the absurdity of social convention.</p> <p>Suggested activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect examples of paradoxes from each act and explain their dramatic or comic purpose. • Rewrite selected paradoxes in students' own words to reveal the literal and implied meanings. • Discuss how Wilde's paradoxes shape the audience's understanding of character motivations. • Compare Wilde's use of paradox with other forms of wit in the play (e.g., epigrams, irony, satire). 		

Miss Prism

Miss Prism is a governess appointed by Jack to teach Cecily, his ward. She supervises Cecily's upbringing in general, trying to ensure that Cecily grows up to reflect more the respectable Jack Worthing rather than his fun younger brother Earnest. In the play, Miss Prism insists on Cecily learning German grammar, but only until Rev Chasuble appears. Cecily takes the opportunity to encourage him to take Miss Prism away for a healthy walk to dispel her headache, thus ending her study of German grammar. Miss Prism is only too delighted to take the opportunity to be alone with Rev Chasuble, whom she hopes is good marriageable material. There is much humour as Miss Prism desperately tries to persuade Rev Chasuble into marriage, which would significantly improve her own status from that of a governess in someone else's house.

Miss Prism contrasts with Cecily; she is much older, old-fashioned and moralistic. She is quick to judge others for their actions, like those of Jack's imaginary younger brother, Earnest. This makes her seem rigid and unforgiving. She readily views people and actions as being either right or wrong. She tells Cecily of the three-volume fiction novel she wrote, in which 'the good ended happily', as she claims happens in all fiction. Wilde satirises how she frequently voices a rigid morality which has become thoughtless and meaningless. However, this doesn't stop her pursuing Rev Chasuble, and she is successful at the end of the play.

We learn of the importance of Miss Prism's role in the plot towards the end. Lady Bracknell recognises Miss Prism as the person who was employed to look after her nephew when he was a baby. Despite her severe criticism of others for their sins, Miss Prism shows she too is not the morally upright character she pretends to be. She confesses her own crime in shame. She admits that she took the baby out in a pram one day and never returned. We now learn that on that day, Miss Prism was preoccupied with the three-volume novel she had written. She says a lack of concentration made her put the manuscript in the pram, and the baby in the handbag. She is to blame for Jack having been left as a baby in a handbag in Victoria Station in London, where Mr Cardew discovered the baby and adopted him. When Miss Prism discovered the baby was gone, she dared not return, so the family never knew what had happened.

These absurd coincidences mean that Jack is really Lady Bracknell's nephew and Algy's elder brother. Lady Bracknell now views Jack as eminently suitable to marry her daughter, Gwendolen. The last coincidence is that that Gwendolen even gets to marry someone called Earnest, because Lady Bracknell confirms that her brother had christened his son Earnest. The play ends with her approval of the marriage.




Quotation	This suggests...	Quotation analysis
<p>'The good ended happily, and the bad unhappily. That is what Fiction means.'</p> <p><i>Act 2</i></p>	<p>... humorously, that in real life the good do not end happily and the bad unhappily.</p>	<p>Miss Prism explains her simplistic view of fiction: moral people should be rewarded and immoral people punished. Wilde uses this to mock rigid Victorian moral expectations.</p>
<p>'And you do not seem to realise, dear Doctor, that by persistently remaining single, a man converts himself into a permanent public temptation. Men should be more careful; this very celibacy leads weaker vessels astray.'</p> <p><i>Act 2</i></p>	<p>... humorously, that Miss Prism is hinting to Rev Chasuble that she is in favour of marriage, preferably herself to Rev Chasuble.</p>	<p>Miss Prism humorously suggests that an unmarried man is a "temptation," flipping traditional expectations about women being the ones who must preserve virtue. She implies that celibate men endanger women's morality.</p>
<p>'I have often spoken to the poorer classes on the subject. But they don't seem to know what thrift is.'</p> <p><i>Act 2</i></p>	<p>... Miss Prism's lack of sympathy for the poor and the irony of her accusing them of being irresponsible with money when they have little.</p>	<p>Miss Prism claims she teaches "the poor" about thrift but blames them for not understanding it. Her patronising attitude reveals her privilege and lack of real insight.</p>
<p>Learning focus</p>		
<p>To build analytical skills and collaborative learning.</p> <p>Place key quotations about or by [character] around the room. Learners rotate in groups, annotating each with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What it reveals about [character] • How language is used • What themes it connects to. 		

Quotation	This suggests...



3. Character animations

Can you identify the names of the different characters in the videos?

Character name	Character image
	
	
	
	
	

Here are the answers.

Character name	Character image
Algernon Moncrieff	
Lady Augusta Bracknell	
Jack Worthing	
Cecily	
Gwendolen	

5. Quiz



1. What sandwiches does Algy eat at the start of the play?

- A) Egg
- B) Cucumber
- C) Salmon
- D) Cheese

2. Why is Algy intrigued with Jack's cigarette case?

- A) The cigarette case is empty.
- B) The cigarette case is made of silver.
- C) The inscription of 'Uncle Jack' and 'little Cecily'.
- D) The inscription on the case is in French.

3. Why has Algy invented a friend called Bunbury?

- A) ... so that Algy has someone to go with him to society dinners.
- B) ... to make other people think he has a lot of friends.
- C) ... because Algy hasn't got many friends.
- D) ... so that Algy has an excuse to leave Aunt Augusta.

4. In Act 1, how does Jack take advantage of Lady Bracknell's absence from the room?

- A) He proposes marriage to Gwendolen in private.
- B) He eats the cucumber sandwiches.
- C) He plays his guitar to Gwendolen.
- D) He encourages Gwendolen to propose to him.

5. In Act 1, why does Lady Bracknell object to Jack marrying Gwendolen?

- A) ... because Lady Bracknell doesn't know who Jack's family is.
- B) ... because Lady Bracknell thinks Jack isn't rich enough.
- C) ... because Lady Bracknell thinks Jack is too young.
- D) ... because Lady Bracknell thinks Jack isn't handsome enough.

6. In Act 2, what subject does Miss Prism try to teach Cecily?

- A) Literature
- B) Science
- C) German
- D) Maths

7. In Act 2, why does Algy pretend to be Jack's younger brother?

- A) ... because Algy wants to put on a disguise and pretend to be someone else.
- B) ... because Algy wants to meet Cecily and needs an excuse to visit Jack's house.
- C) ... because Algy wants to annoy Jack and play a joke on him.
- D) ... because Algy wants to eat Earnest's share of the cucumber sandwiches.

8. Why does Jack ask Canon Chasuble to christen him?

- A) ... because Jack thinks it would make him become more religious.
- B) ... because Jack is religious and hasn't been christened.
- C) ... because Jack thinks a longer name is more professional.
- D) ... because Jack wants to be called 'Earnest' so that Gwendolen will marry him.

9. In Act 2, why do Cecily and Gwendolen dislike each other?

- A) ... because they don't have the same taste in clothes.
- B) ... because they don't want to share the cucumber sandwiches.
- C) ... because they think they are both engaged to the same man.
- D) ... because they think that everyone likes the other one more.

10. At the end of the play, Jack discovers he is related to Lady Bracknell. How is he related to her?

- A) Jack is Lady Bracknell's brother.
- B) Jack is Lady Bracknell's son.
- C) Jack is Lady Bracknell's father.
- D) Jack is Lady Bracknell's nephew.

Quiz answers

1. What sandwiches does Algy eat at the start of the play?

B) Cucumber

2. Why is Algy intrigued with Jack's cigarette case?

C) The inscription of 'Uncle Jack' and 'little Cecily'.

3. Why has Algy invented a friend called Bunbury?

D) ... so that Algy has an excuse to leave Aunt Augusta.

4. In Act 1, how does Jack take advantage of Lady Bracknell's absence from the room?

A) He proposes marriage to Gwendolen in private.

5. In Act 1, why does Lady Bracknell object to Jack marrying Gwendolen?

A) ... because Lady Bracknell doesn't know who Jack's family is.

6. In Act 2, what subject does Miss Prism try to teach Cecily?

C) German

7. In Act 2, why does Algy pretend to be Jack's younger brother?

B) ... because Algy wants to meet Cecily and needs an excuse to visit Jack's house.

8. Why does Jack ask Canon Chasuble to christen him?

D) ... because Jack wants to be called 'Earnest' so that Gwendolen will marry him.

9. In Act 2, why do Cecily and Gwendolen dislike each other?

C) ... because they think they are both engaged to the same man.

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D) Jack is Lady Bracknell's nephew.

Cambridge International Education
The Triangle Building, Shaftsbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
t: +44 1223 553554
e: info@cambridgeinternational.org www.cambridgeinternational.org

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