This is an example of a response that attained 25/30 marks. This would be an approximate Grade 6/7. I have enlarged the font to allow you to understand how much this might look like in average sized handwriting. There are 733 words in this response.

How does Priestley present Sheila as a character who learns important lessons about herself and society?
Write about:
- some of the things Sheila learns in the play
- how Priestley presents Sheila as a character who learns important lessons about herself and society.

Priestley presents Sheila as a character who learns important lessons about herself and society by firstly making her the first one in the Birling family to actually realise how the real world is and by her disdain towards her parents immorality and beliefs later on in the play once she sees they are too stubborn to change their ways. Not only is this a propaganda play towards the Labour Party but it is also a morality play where it arguably connects crime to capitalists which is possibly Priestley stating how the abuse towards lower class and committing immoral acts is as well a crime.

In the play, the audience gets to view the transformation of Sheila from an infantile capitalist to a passionate socialist who finally learns how the real world is which is done cleverly by Priestley as he already in the play makes the setting in one place demonstrating how the family is in their own world “pink and intimate” further emphasising their complete unawareness of the outside world and Sheila is trapped in this due to her upbringing. Her immaturity is highlighted when the audience first meet her, describing her as “half serious, half playful”. This juxtaposition of “serious” and “playful” suggest that their is some maturity that will reveal itself later in the play and “half” further implies it to be soon. Furthermore she refers to her parents as “mummy” and “daddy” which are colloquialisms constructing her immaturity as this is childlike behaviour but also how she is innocent so it is not her fault with how she was brought up. However later on in the play she then begins to refer to them as “mother” and “father”, displaying how she has now become a passionate socialist and is now mature. As she refers to them as “they” it demonstrates her disdain after her realisation of her parent’s immoral teachings and beliefs. This realisation is also constructed when she speaks to Gerald “stop pretending....real”. The juxtaposition once again but between “pretending” and “real” tell the audience she finally understands how she was clueless to her surroundings and those suffering.

Another lesson about from learning about what actually happens outside of the house she also comes to know about the sexism and how woman are presented 1912. At first even though she was aware of the fact her and Gerald’s engagement was purely business related she still was “happy now” after been given the ring implying how she is materialistic but once she begins to defend Eva Smith and all of the women in society “they are not cheap labour” is possibly something new Sheila learns in the world as she then avoids being a typical Edwardian women by not embracing her submissive role by being assertive and demonstrating her power towards Gerald and Mr Birling as she cuts off the engagement with Gerald and begins to defy her father. This was very uncommon at the time but is hugely important as Sheila represents the power of women and the change signifying the Suffragette Movement.

Lastly Priestley mentioned how the younger generation are “impressionable” therefore was why Sheila was used to contrast this demonstration of change and change in morality. As she mirrors the inspect who is proxy to Priestley, “fire, blood and anguish” she once again reminds the audience about Priestley’s message, how capitalisation should be punishable and is a crime but is also possibly a reference to hell. This biblical connotation represents a sense of everlasting which could link to how the Birling family will forever feel guilty and affected by this and also relates to how Sheila represents ‘envy’ in the seven deadly sins. This also refers to war and the Conservative Party were the political party in charge during both world wars criticising their immorality and also the pain and remembrance will be everlasting .

[COMMENT] [MARKS]