

# KAZUO ISHIGURO

*The Remains of the Day*

1.

'The Remains of the Day' was Ishiguro's first book not set in Japan. Although first impressions would imply this was a very English story, how much do you think that it has remained in essence a post-colonial and international novel?

2.

At the end of the novel, the reader concludes that Mr Stevens and Miss Kenton have spent most of their lives suppressing their romantic feelings for each other. How far do you feel that this could have been avoided?

3.

Mr Stevens realises that he had made mistakes in life, but only allowed himself to admit to so much in order to preserve his notions of "greatness in service". Do you think this level of self-preservation is intrinsic to the human condition?

4.

Mr Stevens' identity seems to be very much tied to his father's values. How do you think that this strong parental influence led to such self-deception and ultimately, denial?

5.

Dignity and loyalty are strong themes of this book and the narrative ensures that the reader questions the exploitation of both. How far do you think that Mr Stevens is able to explore his own guilt in relation to Lord Darlington's enthusiasm for German appeasement?