

ISOC Play Main Character List

This is NOT an exhaustive character list, merely a sketch of our main characters:

MP: our protagonist. Female, in her early thirties, clearly well-educated, has worked her way up the political ladder into her current position. She is fundamentally a decent person, but is often entrapped in the schizophrenic nature of her existence, i.e. constituency (Muslim/cultural roots) vs white, middle-class political scene. Her 'bad' elements come out most in this political environment.

Government authority figure: middle-aged man, our most senior figure in the play. He embodies Government and official policy, and his word is law. He is a scary figure, will not take rubbish from anybody, but will often dish it out. Devoid of sentiment and ruthless. Most importantly, he is funny in his eccentric way of laying down the law to people below him.

Select Committee member: in his 20s, holds a non-threatening position (e.g. member of Select Committee). However, he has a real problem with Sara, and their feud underpins the play and is the catalyst for the pivotal media leak which occurs. He is a stereotypical Durham University type – middle-class, rich background, posh, pretentious. He is underhand and sly. He will come across as comic nonetheless as this stereotype will be played on through his lines.

Aides: they constantly surround our MP like annoying flies. They serve a useful and instructive purpose, but Sara often becomes irritated by their presence. They are fiercely loyal, and will take a verbal hit and carry on the next minute as normal. They help to develop the plot in several scenes, instructing the MP (and thus the audience) of major developments (e.g. newspapers headlines relating to her, etc).

Intern: teens/early 20s, unconfident, follows instruction blindly. He is very likeable to the audience in a sympathetic way. He might come across as annoying to more important figures such as MP, but he doesn't mean any harm. The key is that he does actually have a mind of his own.

Imam: a pillar of the community, our imam is a first-generation immigrant, into his 50s, who likes to think he is erudite but he really is not. He talks a lot of nonsense without really realising it. Lots of malapropisms, and an eccentric, reactionary nature. He is hilarious, probably our funniest character. He serves the purpose of embodying the constituent community within the play, as well as moments of hilarity (such as his creation of the Pakistani English Defence Organisation).

Student Journalist: he runs a Muslim student newspaper. Comes across as a bit of a wide-boy, and his interview with the MP highlights his forthright manner. Think Ali G-style interview.

Journalist: middle-aged figure, will report on several key events and also chair the Question Time debate. Cutting wit, serves as a narrator-type figure for several key events, only more subtle.