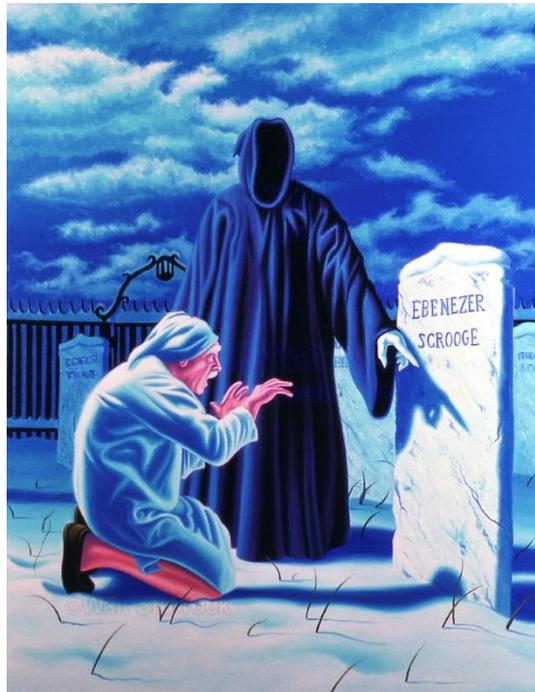


Glossopdale Community College.

A Christmas Carol

English Lit. Paper 1





A Christmas Carol: A timeline of major plot events.

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:
 - maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
 - use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
- AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Ebenezer Scrooge

- Miserable
- Tight-fisted
- Redeemed by the end

Scrooge is the main character of Dickens' novella and is first presented as a **miserly**, unpleasant man. He rejects all offerings of Christmas cheer and celebration as 'Humbug!'

On Christmas Eve he is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns that he will be visited by three ghosts. Each of the ghosts shows him a scene that strikes fear and regret into his heart and eventually he softens.

By the end of the story, Scrooge is a changed man, sharing his wealth and generosity with everyone.

	How is Scrooge like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Cold-hearted	According to Dickens's description, Scrooge is cold through and through.	<i>No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him.</i>	Dickens uses pathetic fallacy to represent Scrooge's nature. The weather is a metaphor for Scrooge's behaviour as he cannot be made either warmer or colder by it.
Miserly	Scrooge is stingy with his money and will not even allow his clerk Bob Cratchit to have a decent fire to warm him on Christmas Eve.	<i>...as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part.</i>	The indirect speech shows that Scrooge is threatening and in charge. He will not give permission for Cratchit to take more coal.
Ill-mannered	His nephew visits to wish him a 'Merry Christmas' and Scrooge is rude to him in response.	<i>"Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."</i>	Scrooge's response is comical, but unpleasant. He cannot accept the generosity that is offered him and instead turns images of Christmas into images of violence.
Self-deluded	When he sees Marley's ghost, Scrooge tries to deny its existence by attributing the vision to something he has eaten.	<i>"You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese..."</i>	Although Scrooge is afraid of the ghost, he tries to maintain his authority even over his own senses.

Bob Cratchit

- Humble
- Hardworking
- Family man

Bob Cratchit is Scrooge's clerk and works in unpleasant conditions without complaint. He obeys Scrooge's rules and is timid about asking to go home to his family early on Christmas Eve.

When the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit the Cratchits on Christmas Day, he sees Bob Cratchit carrying his sickly son Tiny Tim, and later raising a toast to Scrooge for providing the feast.

The *Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come* shows the Cratchits in a future where Tiny Tim has died and here we see how sensitive Bob Cratchit is. His love for his son is shown through his grief.

In the end, when Scrooge changes his ways for the better, Bob Cratchit is delighted. He welcomes Scrooge's new-found generosity and friendship.

	How is Cratchit like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Obedient	Bob takes orders from his bad-tempered boss, Ebenezer Scrooge without complaining.	<i>[he] tried to warm himself at the candle</i>	His efforts to warm himself at the candle are pitiful. He would prefer to do this than challenge Scrooge.
Generous	He proposes a toast to Scrooge even on Christmas Day.	<i>"I'll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!"</i>	Scrooge is too miserly to offer his clerk a decent wage, but Cratchit is generous enough to be grateful to his boss.
Sensitive	He cries openly for his son when he is 'dead'.	<i>"My little, little child!" cried Bob. "My little child!"</i>	The repetition of 'little' adds to the sad effect of Bob's cry. We feel sympathy for him at this point.
Fearful	He is afraid of Scrooge's reaction when he arrives late to work after Christmas Day.	<i>"It's only once a year, sir," pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank.</i>	Bob 'pleaded' which shows he is worried about being punished by Scrooge.

Fred

- Cheerful
- Generous
- Kind-hearted

	<i>How is Fred like this?</i>	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>Analysis</i>
Positive	Even when Scrooge puts down all his talk of Christmas festivities, Fred persists with his good cheer.	<i>"I'll keep my Christmas humour to the last. So A Merry Christmas, uncle!"</i>	We learn about Fred's positive nature from his dialogue. Everything he says focuses on the positive aspects of Christmas.
Persistent	Fred refuses to let Scrooge's miserly attitude dampen his sprits.	<i>"I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him."</i>	He shows his care for his uncle by pledging to continue visiting Scrooge regardless. His concern is revealed by his persistence and pity.
Enthusiastic	When Scrooge finally turns up for Christmas dinner, Fred welcomes him in.	<i>"Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off."</i>	Fred's enthusiasm is evident in his hearty welcome, shaking his uncle's hand with force.

The Ghost of Christmas Past

- Young and old
- Commanding
- Streaming with light

The Ghost of Christmas Past is the first spirit to visit Scrooge after the ghost of Marley. It arrives as the clock chimes one. It is an **ephemeral** spirit that appears to be both old and young at the same time with light streaming from the top of its head.

It takes Scrooge to scenes from his own past, showing him visions of his own childhood, of his young adulthood and of happier times. The final scene he presents is one that Scrooge cannot bear to witness: his lost love, Belle, with her family.

Scrooge turns on the ghost and demands to be shown no more. He attempts to extinguish the ghost's light with its own cap, wrestling it to the ground. However, the light that shines from the ghost cannot be put out.

	How is the Ghost like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Ephemeral	This ghost is shifting in appearance, seeming to be there and not be there at the same time.	<i>...what was light one instant, at another time was dark, so the figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness.</i>	The ghost is surreal and strange. It flickers like a candle and seems to reflect the fact that Scrooge's past behaviour can be redeemed.
Gentle	The ghost is not solid and is also calm and gentle in the way it communicates with Scrooge.	<i>The Spirit gazed upon him mildly. Its gentle touch, though it had been light and instantaneous, appeared still present to the old man's sense of feeling.</i>	The words ' mildly ' and ' gentle ' give us the overall sense that the ghost is well-meaning.
Quiet	The ghost does not speak much, but answers Scrooge's questions with brief replies.	<i>"Your welfare!" said the Ghost.</i>	When Scrooge asks the ghost what its business is that evening, the response is short and to the point. This ghost does not waste words!
Firm	Although the spirit is ephemeral and gentle, it is also commanding.	<i>It put out its strong hand as it spoke, and clasped him gently by the arm. "Rise! and walk with me!"</i>	The imperatives (verbs in command form) ' Rise ' and ' walk ' show that the ghost is to be obeyed. It has control here.

The Ghost of Christmas Present

- Jolly
- Welcoming
- Prophetic

The Ghost of Christmas Present is a huge and vibrant character who appears as the bell, once again, strikes one. It appears in Scrooge's room, surrounded by a feast. The generous nature of this ghost is reflected in the abundant vision of food.

Scrooge is more humble in the presence of this second spirit and is willing to learn any lessons the ghost will show.

It shows Scrooge visions of the world on Christmas Day, including heart-warming scenes of celebration at the homes of Bob Cratchit and Scrooge's nephew, Fred.

Before it leaves Scrooge, the Ghost shows him two 'yellow, meagre' children who are hiding under its cloak. These are called Ignorance and Want and are a warning to Scrooge to change his ways.

	How is the Ghost like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Jolly	Dickens describes the ghost as open and cheerful - in actions and appearance.	<i>Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air.</i>	The adjectives that Dickens uses are positive and present a solid big and 'joyful' character, in contrast to the indistinct spirit of Christmas Past.
Welcoming	The Ghost invites Scrooge to join him in a welcoming manner.	<i>"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost. "Come in! and know me better, man!"</i>	The word 'exclaimed' makes the Ghost seem excited to see Scrooge. His invitation to 'know me better' is generous and open-hearted.
Honest	When Scrooge asks whether Tiny Tim will live , the Ghost answers with the words Scrooge had previously spoken to the portly gentlemen who were collecting for charity.	<i>"If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."</i>	The Ghost of Christmas Present uses Scrooge's own words against him. In his honest response, that Tiny Tim is likely to die, he holds a mirror up to Scrooge and his behaviour.
Prophetic	The Ghost predicts that Mankind , Scrooge included, will suffer unless the lessons of generosity and tolerance are learned.	<i>"Most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased."</i>	He presents two children called 'Ignorance' and 'Want' hiding under his cloak. He warns that 'Doom' awaits Scrooge unless a change is made.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

- Silent
- Dark
- Ominous

The final Ghost is frightening and eerie. It doesn't say a word to Scrooge, but glides along and points out scenes to him.

The spirit first shows Scrooge a funeral scene, with businessmen wondering about the money that the dead man has left. The Ghost then takes him through dark alleyways to a scene of three people picking through the belongings of the deceased. Scrooge recognises that his own death could be met this way.

Next, the Ghost takes him to the Cratchit household where Scrooge is upset to learn that Tiny Tim has died.

Finally, the Ghost shows him a tombstone engraved with the name: Ebenezer Scrooge. Clutching at the spirit's robes, Scrooge pledges to change his ways if he can avoid this solitary death. The Ghost disappears and leaves Scrooge clutching at his bed curtains.

	How is The Ghost like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Silent	This last ghost does not speak at all. It is the most haunting in appearance.	<i>...a solemn Phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground, towards him.</i>	Dickens shows a 'solemn' and spooky spirit in the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.
Frightening	The ghost fills Scrooge with terror.	<i>Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him, and he found that he could hardly stand when he prepared to follow it.</i>	The presence of this ghost makes Scrooge afraid. His trembling legs and inability to stand firm show how he is worried about the future that the ghost will show him.
Demanding	The ghost points wherever he wants Scrooge to look and does not move until he obeyed.	<i>Still the Ghost pointed with an unmoved finger to the head.</i>	The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come silently demands that Scrooge pays attention. The spirit's silence is unrelenting.

Tiny Tim

- Kind
- Disabled
- Thoughtful

Tiny Tim is one of Bob Cratchit's sons. He walks with a crutch and has 'his limbs supported by an iron frame'. Despite his physical difficulties, he is a positive and generous child. He thinks of others and is well-loved by his family.

Scrooge is affected by the child and when he is shown the Cratchit family Christmas by the Ghost of Christmas Present, he worries whether Tiny Tim will live. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows a possible future in which Scrooge's fears are realised and Tiny Tim has died.

At the end of the novella, after Scrooge changes his character, we learn that he becomes like a second father to Tiny Tim.

	How is Tiny Tim like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Kind	After Bob Cratchit raises a toast at the Christmas dinner table, Tiny Tim echoes the toast and includes everyone.	<i>"God bless us every one!"</i>	We learn that Tiny Tim is kind and able to offer an equal love to all mankind.
Thoughtful	Tiny Tim rises above his own suffering and hopes that people who see him will think of Jesus.	<i>He hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.</i>	Dickens suggests that the child is exceptionally thoughtful for his age. This highlights how ungenerous Scrooge, an adult, can be.
Patient	In the scene that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows of the Cratchits, Bob remembers his son as a patient child.	<i>...we recollect how patient and how mild he was.</i>	Tiny Tim is remembered fondly by his family for his good qualities.

Plot Summary: Stave 1

A _____, old Ebenezer _____ sits in his office on a cold Christmas _____. His clerk, Bob _____, shivers because Scrooge refuses to spend _____ on coals for a fire. Scrooge's nephew, _____, pays his uncle a visit and invites him to his annual _____ party. Scrooge reacts with bitterness and venom, spitting out an angry " _____" in response to his nephew's "Merry Christmas!"

Two _____ gentlemen also drop by and ask Scrooge to donate some money to their _____. He refuses asking them if the " _____ are still open?", if so the _____ should go there.

Later that evening, after returning to his dark, cold apartment, Scrooge receives visitation from the ghost of _____. Marley's punishment for his _____ life is his spirit has been condemned to wander the Earth weighted down with heavy chains. Marley hopes to _____ Scrooge from sharing the same fate. Marley informs Scrooge that three _____ will visit him during each of the next three nights. After the Marley _____, Scrooge collapses into a deep _____.

prisons	Jacob Marley	Bah! Humbug!	Scrooge	charity	portly	spirits	Fred		
	sleep	Christmas	money	disappears	greedy	save	Eve	miserly	poor

Plot Summary: Stave 2

Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Past. It symbolises _____ as Scrooge must relive his past to reconnect with his former, _____ self. First, Scrooge watches himself as a lonely child in school. He cries for himself and the reader feels _____ and begins to understand how he came to be so evil.

Scrooge takes the first step on the road to _____ by regretting not giving money to a child who sung him a Christmas carol. He then watches his sister, _____, and we learn she dies – Scrooge feels guilty about his nephew, _____.

Scrooge watches _____ throw a party for his workers. Scrooge begins to enjoy himself and learns that living a _____ is harmful and that being disconnected from people doesn't make life better.

Finally, Scrooge watches the break-up of his _____ with Belle: he becomes distressed as he is forced to see how a " _____" has become his obsession (i.e. money). Scrooge sits alone and realises he hasn't had a friend since _____ and the ghost disappears; Scrooge falls into a deep sleep.

memory	salvation	solitary life	Fezziwig	golden idol	Marley	engagement
innocent		Little Fan		sympathy		solitary life

Plot Summary: Stave 3

Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Present. He symbolises _____ . He sits on a throne of food and wear a _____ with no sword (which symbolises peace). The ghost shows Scrooge the Christmas of other people: he waves his torch to spread the Christmas Spirit, focusing on poor people as they " _____ " .

They visit the Cratchit family, who offer the reader an idealised version of the Christmas for the poor. They wear " _____ " to celebrate the day and work as a team to create their meagre Christmas dinner. They _____ Scrooge, despite the fact that he underpays Bob and treats him poorly. Scrooge becomes upset for Tiny Tim when the ghost reveals he will die.

At Fred's Christmas party, everyone enjoys themselves. The Cratchit family represents the poor and Fred's party represents the _____ . They make fun of Scrooge and his behaviour. Fred says his wealth is of no use as he " _____ " .

The ghost shows Scrooge _____ : they are personified problems of society. Scrooge is horrified and asked if they can be helped, but the ghost uses his own words to shame him: " _____ " The ghost dies.

Ribbons toast	middle classes	Ignorance and Want	scabbard	need most
generosity and goodwill	doesn't do any good with it	Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?		

Plot Summary: Stave 4

Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: he looks like the _____ (symbolising death). The ghost doesn't speak; Scrooge does all the talking. This shows Scrooge's _____ as he has learnt lessons from the other ghosts.

The ghost shows us Scrooge's business acquaintances (representing Ignorance in society). They are uninterested in what has happened to Scrooge and are only interested in a _____. Like Marley, Scrooge's funeral is " _____ " .

The ghost then takes Scrooge to a _____ where people have plundered his house and body and are selling his possessions (representing Want in society). _____, Scrooge's employee, says that the theft is a " _____ " on him.

Next we meet some debtors of Scrooge who are relieved he has died. Scrooge also learns that _____ has died. He is forced to witness the pain and suffering of _____, who tries to remain strong for his family's sake.

Finally, the ghost shows Scrooge his grave. Scrooge repents and admits he is a changed man by declaring "I'm not the man I was" and " _____ " .

Grim Reaper	cheap	Mrs Dilber	Bob	Tiny Tim	transformation
free meal	I will honour Christmas in my heart	judgement		pawn shop	

Plot Summary: Stave 5

Scrooge awakens a new man: he sets about making amends. He is “_____” and “_____”. He orders a Christmas turkey to be sent to the Cratchit family and gives money to the poor through the Portly Gentleman (paralleling Stave 1).

Scrooge goes to _____ (like the Cratchit family in Stave 3) and spends Christmas with Fred (paralleling Stave 1).

Finally, Scrooge pretends to be his old, miserable self with Bob but then _____. He orders a _____ to be lit in the Counting House (symbolising the Christmas Spirit that has filled his heart). He becomes a second father to _____.

merry as a schoolboy	Tiny Tim	church fire	light as a feather	raises his wages
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An (Abridged) Christmas Carol – Quotes and Plot

Stave 1: Marley's Ghost

- “Marley was dead, to begin with.”

The narrator goes on to state more than once that there was no doubt about Marley being dead. The repetition adds a humorous tone as well as emphasizing the intrusive narration which offers opinions on characters and their behaviour reinforcing the authorial message on politics and the poor.

- “Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.”

Despite being Marley’s only friend, Scrooge does not seem to grieve much. The fact that Scrooge has taken to answering to both the names on the company sign ‘Scrooge and Marley’ - ‘it was all the same to him’ demonstrates the link between the two showing that they are very similar (and therefore, without change, their fates will be similar)

- ‘Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend and sole mourner’

The repetition of the adjective ‘sole’ emphasizes the solitary loneliness of Scrooge.

The narrator goes on to describe Scrooge.

- “a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.”
- “A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him.”
- “External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge.”
- “No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him.”

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is in his counting house. The weather, in an instance of pathetic fallacy is freezing

- “It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal.”

Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit works in a little cell and is poorly treated by Scrooge who will not allow Cratchit to take any coal for his fire, and pays him so little that he does not own a coat, only a 'comforter'.

- "Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal."

Scrooge's nephew, Fred enters wishing all a Merry Christmas. He is described as the complete opposite of Scrooge, represented by his heat compared to the cold surrounding Scrooge

- "He was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked."

Scrooge's response to his greeting is

- "Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

Scrooge asks, "What right have you to be merry? ...You're poor enough." and Fred's response is "What right have you to be dismal? ... You're rich enough."

Fred represents the ideal of Christmas spirit as he sees it as the time of year when people are kind, forgiving and charitable and a time when people:

- "Think of the people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."

Scrooge asks what good Christmas has ever done - implying by 'good' that he means monetary good. But Fred responds:

- "I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

Fred invites Scrooge for dinner but Scrooge refuses and Fred leaves, wishing Bob the greetings of the season.

Two 'portly gentlemen' then call, asking Scrooge to give them money to help the poor at this time of harsh weather.

- "Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts"

Scrooge's response is to ask about the prisons and workhouses which is where he believes the poor should go. This is a direct reference to the economist Thomas Malthus who argued that due to population growth outweighing economic growth that poverty was inevitable.

- "Are there no prisons?" And the workhouses..."
- The portly gentlemen reply that "Many can't go there; and many would rather die."
- "If they would rather die," said Scrooge, "they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."

Scrooge refuses to give them money as he wants only to look after himself.

- "It is not my business."

The weather continues to deteriorate and when a boy tries to sing a carol at the keyhole, Scrooge throws a ruler at the door to scare him off. When it is time to close, Scrooge goes for a lonely supper at his 'melancholy' tavern whereas Bob runs off and slides down a slide before rushing home.

Scrooge's home is described. It is dark and miserable.

- "Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it."

On arriving home, Scrooge sees his knocker turn into the face of Jacob Marley. But he dismisses it. Inside, he checks his rooms, then sits down next to his weak fire to eat his gruel. A bell begins to ring, followed by all the other bells in the house. When they suddenly stop, Scrooge hears a clanking noise deep down below. His response is that he 'won't believe it.' When he finally sees Marley's ghost, he is wearing a chain which "he forged in life" it is:

- "Long and wound about him like a tail... made of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds and heavy purses."

Scrooge is still unwilling to believe in what he sees.

- “You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!”

As the conversation continues, Scrooge asks Marley to sit and asks why he is here and why he wears the chains

- “I wear the chain I forged in life,”

The ghost tells Scrooge that his chain will be even larger

- “You have laboured on it since. It is a ponderous chain!”

Marley explains that he is doomed to wander the earth and see all the poor people that he could have helped in life but did not, and now cannot. Scrooge can't understand as Marley was a ‘good man of business’

- “Business!” cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. “Mankind was my business. ”
- “I am here to-night to warn you, that you have yet a chance and hope of escaping my fate.”

Marley's Ghost explains that Scrooge will be visited by three spirits and tells him when they will come. Going to the window, he calls Scrooge over. Looking out, Scrooge sees the air full of phantoms, each one wearing chains. He double locks the door and falls asleep.

Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits

Scrooge awakes and listens for the chimes of the church bell which suggest he has slept for a day and a night. When one o'clock comes, the first ghost appears as the curtains of his bed are drawn aside.

- “It was a strange figure—like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man”

A stream of light comes from the top of the Spirit's head giving him an appearance like a candle: he is wearing a “tunic of the purest white” has hair that “hangs” down his back, has “strange, muscular arms.” This is the Ghost of Christmas Past who leads Scrooge by the hand. Scrooge becomes more like a child, seeming slightly vulnerable for the first time. He takes him into his past and Scrooge recognizes the scenery as they pass, finally arriving at the deserted, decaying school room. “A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.” Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

- “A lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire.”

Scrooge weeps to see him and, in response to the Spirit asking what is the matter says

- “There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that's all.”

They watch another Christmas when Scrooge is older and larger and suddenly the door bursts open and his sister Fan has come to bring him home, addressing him as

- “Dear, dear brother.”

We find out that Fred is the only son of this sister who has since died.

Next, they travel to a warehouse where young Scrooge is now apprenticed to Fezziwig who announces that it is time to shut the shop for Christmas. There is much activity as the warehouse, warm and cosy with a large fire, becomes a ballroom. Mr and Mrs Fezziwig have thrown a party and invited all of their employees, no matter their class.

- “Scrooge's heart and soul were in the scene... He remembered everything, enjoyed everything.”

At the end of the party the Fezziwig family say goodbye to their guests

- “...shaking hands with every person individually as he or she went out, wished him or her a Merry Christmas.”

The ghost comments that it is a small thing but Scrooge responds that

- “The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it costs a fortune.”

Thinking about this, he realises

- “I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now.”

Finally, the ghost shows him a scene where he sits with a fair young girl in a mourning-dress. This is Belle, Scrooge's fiancée who is releasing him from their engagement.

- Belle to Scrooge: “Another idol has displaced me... a golden one.”
- “Our contract is an old one. You are changed. When it was made you were another man. “

- “May you be happy in the life you have chosen.”
- “I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you.”

Scrooge is upset and wants the ghost to stop

- “No more. Show me no more.”

But the ghost shows him a final scene in a room, ‘not very large or handsome, but full of comfort.’ This is Belle, now a mother, with her children including a daughter.

- “He thought that such another creature, quite as graceful and as full of promise, might have called him father.”

Belle’s husband returns and, by chance, he has seen Scrooge today.

- “Quite alone in the world, I do believe.”

Scrooge extinguishes the ghost’s light and fall asleep.

Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spirits

Scrooge wakes the following night and opens his curtains to be ready for when the ghost appears. But nothing happens. Then he notices the light coming from the adjoining room. When he walks in, the room has undergone a surprising transformation and is hung with holly, mistletoe, ivy and berries. The whole room is filled with greenery and an abundance of festive food and, on top of this, a giant sits. He tells Scrooge that he is the Ghost of Christmas Present. Dressed in a loose green robe, with a holly wreath on his head, he has long free curly hair.

Scrooge says that last night he “learnt a lesson which is working now.”

- “Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it.”

Touching the ghost’s robe, they are suddenly out in the city streets on Christmas morning watching the merriment.

- “There was nothing very cheerful in the climate or the town, and yet was there an air of cheerfulness abroad.”

As the people rush around, the ghost brings them joy as he

- “Sprinkled incense on their dinners from his torch.”

The ghost takes Scrooge to Bob Cratchit’s house. Mrs Cratchit and the children are preparing the Christmas meal. Mrs Cratchit is:

- “Dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons”

Martha, the eldest daughter, arrives home and hides before Bob Cratchit comes in with Tiny Tim. They joke that Martha is not coming, but unable to bear his disappointment, she comes out quickly and Bob hugs her. Bob explains that Tiny Tim was as good as gold.

- “He hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple and it might be pleasant for them to remember on Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”

The Cratchits are full of praise and thanks for their food - even though it is all rather small

- “There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn’t believe there ever was such a goose cooked.”

After dinner, the Cratchits offer toasts and Tiny Tim’s is:

- “God bless us every one.”

Scrooge is moved and asks the Ghost if the boy will live.

- “If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.”

The Ghost adds:

- “If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.” Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words... and was overcome with penitence and grief.”

When Bob suggests a toast to Scrooge, his wife can’t understand how he could toast such an ‘odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man’ but does it for Bob’s sake and the festivities continue.

- “They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were scanty... But, they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another and contented with the time.”

Leaving the Cratchit's, the ghost leads Scrooge to several other Christmases in difficult circumstances: miners; lighthouse keepers; the crew of a ship. All are festive scenes. Then, they are in Fred's house, the first sign of which is Fred's hearty laugh. Scrooge realises that they are laughing at him and the way he responded to Fred's invitation. The others ask if Fred is angry but Fred responds:

- “I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims? Himself, always.”
- “I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him.”

The group play games and music; one particular tune which reminds Scrooge of Fan, at which he ‘softened more and more’. Scrooge joins in the games and

- “begged like a boy to be allowed to stay until the guests departed”

But they leave after the next game, visiting over the long night many Christmas homes

- “always with a happy end. The Spirit stood beside sick beds, and they were cheerful; on foreign lands, and they were close at home; by struggling men, and they were patient in their greater hope; by poverty, and it was rich. In almshouse, hospital, and jail, in misery's every refuge, where vain man in his little brief authority had not made fast the door and barred the Spirit out, he left his blessing.”

As they travel, the spirit is noticeably aging, telling Scrooge that his life ends at midnight. Scrooge notices something strange beneath the Spirit's robe.

- “They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish.” Remember to distinguish between the two children: w=women=girl=want. Which is the most dangerous? Which can be solved? How is personification used here?
- “Where graceful youth should have filled their features out... a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them.”

Scrooge asks if they are the Spirit's children but he declares that they are Man's:

- “This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.

Scrooge asks if there is any refuge for them and the spirit replies.”

- “Are there no prisons?” said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. “Are there no workhouses?”

Then the bell strikes twelve and the ghost disappears. Scrooge

- “lifting up his eyes, beheld a solemn Phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground, towards him.”

Stave Four: The Last of the Spirits

- “The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached. When it came, Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery. It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand.”

The Spirit fills Scrooge with dread and it does not speak, merely inclining its head to nod when Scrooge asks if he is the Ghost of Christmas yet to come. Scrooge is frightened but wants to learn from it.

- “I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart.”

They find themselves in the heart of the city and stop by a group of businessmen. They are gossiping about a man's death.

- "It's likely to be a very cheap funeral," said the same speaker; for upon my life I don't know of anybody to go to it."

One of the men comments that he will only go if there is "a lunch provided." Another group of men is also discussing the death but only mention it in passing. Scrooge understands that he is here to learn something but cannot figure out why these trivial conversations are important. He waits to see himself, but when he doesn't,

- "It gave him little surprise, however; for he had been revolving in his mind a change of life, and thought and hoped he saw his new-born resolutions carried out in this."

The ghost leads him to an infamous part of town:

- "the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth, and misery."

They enter a rag and bone man's shop just as a woman with a heavy bundle 'slunk' in followed by another woman and a man who are also carrying things: a charwoman, a launderess and an undertaker's man. They are at first surprised to see one another but then laugh. Each has taken things from the dead man. The first woman justifies herself stating

- "Every person has a right to take care of themselves. He always did!"
- "If he wanted to keep 'em after he was dead, a wicked old screw," pursued the woman, "why wasn't he natural in his lifetime? If he had been, he'd have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself."

They look at the bundles in turn and the old rag and bone man, Joe, tells each how much it is worth. The final bundle includes the curtains from around the dead man's bed, his blankets and finally his best shirt which he was to be buried in.

- "Scrooge listened to this dialogue in horror... he viewed them with a detestation and disgust,"
- "I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own."

The scene changes and they are in the room of the dead man but Scrooge is unable to move the sheet to see who it is. Scrooge thinks about the fate of this man.

- "He lay, in the dark empty house, with not a man, a woman, or a child, to say that he was kind to me in this or that, and for the memory of one kind word I will be kind to him."

Scrooge begs the spirit to show him someone who feels some emotion at the man's death. They are taken to the house of a family who are in debt and distraught but the father declares that there is some hope. The man to whom they owe the money is dead; they don't know who will take on the debt but it cannot be as "merciless a creditor."

- "the only emotion that the Ghost could show him, caused by the event, was one of pleasure."

Scrooge asks to see some tenderness in the face of death and they arrive at the Cratchits where all is silent. Scrooge realises that Tiny Tim has died. The family are waiting for Bob to come home and talk about how he walks slowly these days. He used to walk much more quickly with Tiny Tim on his shoulders.

When he comes in, he is cheerful and pleasant to the family who all try to comfort him. He has been to see Tim's burial place:

- "I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is."

And has promised that he will walk there on Sundays before breaking down."

- "My little, little child!" cried Bob. "My little child!"

Bob goes upstairs to where Tiny Tim is lying; he kisses him and composes himself before coming back downstairs at peace. He then tells the family of the extraordinary kindness of Scrooge's nephew whom he had scarcely seen but once, who, on asking why he looked so sad and hearing the news, sent his heartfelt condolences to Bob and his wife, offering his help.

- "It really seemed as if he had known our Tiny Tim, and felt with us."

Bob even thinks that he might be able to get Peter a better job. Bob urges the family to never quarrel as it would mean they'd forgotten Tiny Tim and how good he was, and they should never forget.

- “Spirit of Tiny Tim, thy childish essence was from God!”

Scrooge, sensing that their time is nearly up, asks the Spirit who the dead man was. The spirit points to the window of Scrooge’s office - which is no longer his. Then, he takes him to the graveyard. Scrooge holds on to his ignorance as if he doesn’t want to face the truth.

- “It was a worthy place. Walled in by houses; overrun by grass and weeds.”

The ghost points to a grave and, before looking, Scrooge asks him:

- “Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?”

The ghost continues to point and finally, Scrooge reads the name on the neglected gravestone which is his. Scrooge cries for the fact that he was the unloved man on the bed. He begs the spirit to see that he has changed.

- "Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at its robe, "hear me! I am not the man I was."
- “I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.”

He grasps the spirit’s hand and holds his hands up in a last prayer and the ghost shrinks down, becoming a bedpost.

Stave Five: The End of It.

Scrooge realises that the bedpost is his own in his own room.

- “Best and happiest of all, the Time before him was his own, to make amends in! ... I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!" Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed. "The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me.”

He is ‘fluttered’ and ‘glowing’ and his ‘face was wet with tears. He is laughing and crying and does not know what to do.

- “I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world!”

He looks around the room remembering all that has happened which he is certain is ‘all true’ and he laughs loudly and heartily.

- “The father of a long, long line of brilliant laughs.”

He doesn’t know what day it is or how long he was with the spirits.

- “I’m quite a baby.”

The church bells start chiming”

- “Clash, clang, hammer; ding, dong, bell! Bell, dong, ding; hammer, clang, clash! Oh, glorious, glorious!”
- “Running to the window, he opened it, and put out his head. No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; Golden sunlight; Heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious. Glorious!”

He shouts down to a young boy to ask him what day it is and the boy tells him that it is Christmas Day. Scrooge realises that he hasn’t missed it and offers the boy half a crown if he’ll go to the poulterer’s and buy the prize turkey, bringing the man back to find out where to send it. The boy, whom Scrooge thoroughly enjoys talking to, is keen for the money and rushes off. While he waits, he writes Bob’s address with an unsteady hand.

The turkey arrives and Scrooge chuckles with joy while he pays for the turkey, pays for the cab to get it to Bob’s house and pays the boy for his trouble. He goes out into the street and smiles at everyone in delight.

- “He looked so irresistibly pleasant, in a word, that three or four good-humoured fellows said, "Good morning, sir. A merry Christmas to you.”

Seeing one of the portly gentlemen who had asked him to make a charitable donation the day before, he apologises, asks for forgiveness and offers him such a large sum that the man responds

- “Lord bless me!" cried the gentleman, as if his breath were taken away.”

And Scrooge invites the man to come and visit him.

He goes to church and walks the streets all morning, enjoying everything. In the afternoon, he goes to Fred's house and walks past it a dozen times before he has the courage to knock. He surprises Fred and his wife and asks if they will let him in.

- "Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off. He was at home in five minutes."

They make him very welcome and he enjoys the evening, describing it repeatedly as 'wonderful.'

The next morning, Scrooge waits in the office, hoping to catch Bob coming in late. When he does, Scrooge pretends to be his 'accustomed' self and leaps from his stool saying he's 'not going to stand this sort of thing any longer.' Then tells Bob he is going to raise his salary.

- "I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob. Make up the fires, and buy another coal-scuttle before you dot another *i*, Bob Cratchit!"
- "Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world."

We are told that Scrooge did not mind those who laughed at the change in him. And the story ends by telling us: "it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us, everyone!"

Context – if you don't mention this you will not get beyond a Level one!!

- As well as being a popular author Dickens worked for social reform to improve conditions for children and poor people.
- Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, and spent the first nine years of his life living in the coastal regions of Kent, a county in southeast England. Dickens' father, John, was a kind and likable man, but he was financially irresponsible, piling up tremendous debts throughout his life. When Dickens was nine, his family moved to London. At twelve, his father was arrested and sent to debtors' prison. Dickens' mother moved seven of their children into prison with their father but arranged for Charles to live alone outside the prison, working with other child labourers at a hellish job pasting labels on bottles in a blacking warehouse. The three months Charles spent apart from his family were severely traumatic. He viewed his job as a miserable trap--he considered himself too good for it, stirring the contempt of his worker-companions. After his father was released from prison, Dickens returned to school, eventually becoming a law clerk. He went on to serve as a court reporter before taking his place as one of the most popular English novelists of his time. At age 25, Dickens completed his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, which met with great success. This started his career as an English literary celebrity, during which he produced such masterpieces as *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield*, and *A Tale of Two Cities*. Dickens' beloved novella *A Christmas Carol* was written in 1843, with the intention of drawing readers' attention to the plight of England's poor. (Social criticism, a recurring theme in Dickens' work, resounds most strongly in his novel *Hard Times*.) In the tale, Dickens stealthily combines a somewhat indirect description of hardships faced by the poor with a heart-rending, sentimental celebration of the Christmas season. The calloused character of the apathetic penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge, who opens his heart after being confronted by three spirits, remains one of Dickens' most widely recognized and popular creations.
- *A Christmas Carol* takes the form of a relatively simplistic allegory. Allegory = a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.
- Story-telling - Telling ghost stories was a popular form of fireside entertainment, and this one is written in a style that makes it suitable for reading aloud.

- The Hungry Forties (1840s) - Social changes, the rapid growth of cities and government legislation resulted in poverty, hunger and hardship for many people in England during the 1840s. Research poor houses, work houses, the treadmill, charity in Victorian London.
- The spirit of Christmas - The traditions associated with this Christian festival developed during the nineteenth century, and the ways in which people celebrated it were influenced by the royal family. Research further Christianity in the Victorian era.
- A Christian message - The Christian principles of love for one's neighbours, repentance and forgiveness are present throughout the novella. Think about the novella's title, why is it significant? What does Christmas Carols try to teach us about?
- The Industrial Revolution is the term used to describe changes in working and living conditions that began in the 1760s. During this time Britain moved from being a country based on a rural and agricultural economy to being the world's first industrial giant. The rapid pace of change put great strain on all levels of society. Workers were needed in large numbers in the cities so there was a huge movement of people from the countryside to the new cities which grew very quickly; this meant that the housing available was often dreadful. The population of London grew from about 1 million in 1800 to 6 million in 1900.
- The Industrial Revolution was good for many people; it gave them more money and better living conditions. However, for the poor, life was difficult. Adults and children would often work for long hours in dangerous conditions and then go home to squalor, hunger and disease. Dickens shows us these difficulties throughout the novella: Bob's need to keep his job; Marley's Ghost showing us phantoms who wish they could help "a wretched woman with an infant"; the Ghost of Christmas Present helping some of the poor; the children, Ignorance and Want; and the thieves with Old Joe.

Language, form, structure.

- The five chapters - The novella is structured in five sections called 'staves', an old word for verses of folk songs, to link with the 'Carol' of its title. Stave can also mean to break in, thinking about the similes used at the beginning of the novella: "As solitary as an oyster" and "as hard and sharp as flint" – why is this significant in relation to Scrooge's character?
- Literary genre - Traditional ghost story conventions include a sequence of three apparitions and mysterious shifts in time and place.
- A story to read aloud - The first-person narrative conveys a strong, sometimes ironic, authorial voice with a sense of direct, personal address from Dickens to his reader.
- Repetitive sentence structures - Patterned sentences emphasise important details or create humorous effects and rhythm when read aloud, e.g. the anaphora of starting several phrases with 'No' (Stave One,) stresses Scrooge's isolation.
- Description - Dickens creates rich descriptive effects with adjectives, e.g. he gives many types of food sensual appeal – 'juicy oranges, luscious pears' (Stave Three).

Themes.

- Social justice - Dickens expresses his social concerns and urges compassion for those in need, showing the effects of poverty through references to hardship, workhouses, debt and prisons.
- Consequences - Dickens shows the consequences of political and social policy in Victorian England as Scrooge is forced to face the consequences of his choices and actions.
- Home and family - Examples such as Fred, the Fezziwigs and the Cratchits emphasise the value that Dickens places on the comforts and pleasures of home and family life.
- Christmas traditions - The novella defines the spirit of Christmas and its traditions by emphasising universal goodwill, compassion for the poor and family celebrations.

- Transformation and redemption - Scrooge's transformation, and the forgiveness he receives from others, reflects the Christian idea of redemption for all who admit their mistakes and amend their lives.
- Playing Devil's advocate - Another technique is what we might term playing Devil's advocate: in many situations the spirits do not tell Scrooge why he is in the wrong, but let him see it for himself. The first two spirits especially do this. The Ghost of Christmas Past argues (ironically, no doubt) that Mr. Fezziwig has done nothing special, causing Scrooge to praise his generosity. And the Ghost of Christmas Present quotes Scrooge's own earlier words so that Scrooge can see why they are wrong. Elsewhere, of course, this ghost and Marley's, **do** tell Scrooge why he is wrong.
- Food - The modern reader may find this a little strange, although our ideas about eating and drinking at Christmas owe something to Dickens. Dickens' readers would not have homes so full of food as we do today. Because there were no freezers or tins most food would be bought when it was needed. And many people would not keep much food in the home, but, like Scrooge, would take their meals in public houses. (He has a hob with a pan of gruel on it.) Christmas is the one time in the year when the Cratchits can eat a filling meal. The description of Scrooge's room in Stave 3 becomes at one point a long list of foods heaped up "to form a kind of throne".

Some questions to consider...

You could: create mind maps (including quotations)/essay plans/ have a go at a full answer/ find and remember relevant quotations.

- In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Tiny Tim is a central character that the author uses to generate an emotional response in the reader. The possibility of his death, in particular, stirs up the reader's feelings as the novel draws to its close. Is Dickens being fair here, or is he manipulating the feelings of his readers in order to drive home his social criticism? Can Scrooge's response to the spirits of Christmas really determine if Tiny Tim lives or dies?

- Given that Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* does not present a Christian view of the holiday surrounding the birth of Christ, does the novel promote principles that Christians can nevertheless support? What lessons taught by the novel are coherent with a Christian view of Christmas, and why? Be sure to cite specifics. Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is often considered an allegory. An allegory is a story where the main characters represent character traits and are not intended to be understood as real people. Choose three significant characters in the novel and discuss the character traits they are intended to represent, being sure to illustrate those character traits with specific incidents and quotations from the story.

- Discuss the structure of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The plot is simple and linear, but the symmetry of the novella is rather complex. Show how Dickens uses symmetry in the structure of the story to bring out the themes he seeks to communicate.

- Charles Dickens, the author of *A Christmas Carol*, was an active supporter of Ragged Schools - institutions for poor children who often had no other access to a basic education. The fact that the emaciated child under the robes of the Ghost of Christmas Present on whom Dickens places the greatest emphasis is Ignorance is therefore no surprise. In what aspects of the popular Christmas tale does Dickens show the consequences of ignorance? How does he show that it, more than anything else, is a threat to the stability, and even the existence, of English society?

- In commenting upon Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, George Orwell said, "There is no clear sign that he wants the existing order to be overthrown, or believes that it would make very much difference if it were overthrown. For in reality his target is not so much society as 'human nature.'" Do you agree or disagree with Orwell's assessment? Support your answer with specific details and quotations from the novel.

- Is Scrooge's transformation believable?

What can you remember?

Where is the quotation from? Can you link it to any of the novella's key themes or messages?

<u>Quotation</u>	<u>Stave</u>	<u>Theme(s)</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
"Decrease the surplus population"	One	Social responsibility	Scrooge uses economic language here to refer to the poor. This shows the negative attitude of the middle classes towards the poor.
"I wear the chain I forged in life"			Marley's chains are a symbol of greed. Scrooge is making his chain with his evil, covetous ways. He is going to hell!
"Your reclamation, then. Take heed"		Redemption	Scrooge has lost his goodness (spark/pearl). He must remember when he was a child so he can change back. Scrooge must listen to learn his lesson.
"What Idol has replaced you?" "A golden one"			Scrooge replaces love with money and becomes obsessed. Scrooge grows up poor and when he earns money, he is scared of losing it.
"To any kindly given. To a poor one most"	Three		Scrooge must learn to change his ways: he must give to charity and look after the poor (like the Cratchit family).
"I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's"			The Cratchit family toast Scrooge showing their Christmas spirit. They are thankful regardless of their poverty and display love and affection for each other.
"His wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it"		Social responsibility	Fred is the opposite of Scrooge: he is charitable. He is Dicken's version of the ideal middle class man (like Fezziwig). Fred believes that the middle class should support the poor, working class.
"This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want"			The children are symbolic of the suffering of the poor. 'Ignorance' is the middle-class attitude towards the poor, and 'Want' is the desire for material possessions. Dickens uses these characters to encourage social reform.
"I will honour Christmas in my heart"		Christmas/Redemption	Scrooge has learned his lesson – this idea is the opposite of "Bah! Humbug!" He recognises the importance of Christmas as he wants to "honour" it.
"A merry Christmas, Bob ... I'll raise your salary"			Scrooge is now changed. He is full of the Christmas Spirit. He makes things right with Bob by supporting his family. He has left his covetous ways in his past and has become a holy, charitable person.

<p>The door of Scrooge’s counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk’s fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn’t replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.</p>	5
<p>“A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!” cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge’s nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.</p>	10
<p>“Bah!” said Scrooge, “Humbug!”</p> <p>He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.</p>	15
<p>“Christmas a humbug, uncle!” said Scrooge’s nephew. “You don’t mean that, I am sure?”</p> <p>“I do,” said Scrooge. “Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.”</p>	20
<p>“Come, then,” returned the nephew gaily. “What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You’re rich enough.”</p> <p>Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, “Bah!” again; and followed it up with “Humbug.”</p>	25
<p>“Don’t be cross, uncle!” said the nephew.</p> <p>“What else can I be,” returned the uncle, “when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What’s Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in ’em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will,” said Scrooge indignantly, “every idiot who goes about with ‘Merry Christmas’ on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!”</p>	30

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present attitudes to Christmas in the novella?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents attitudes to Christmas in this episode
- How Dickens presents attitudes to Christmas in the novella as a whole.

[30 marks]

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.	
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"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.	
"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."	25
"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."	
"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"	
"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew. "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round -- apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that -- as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"	30
The clerk in the tank involuntarily applauded: becoming immediately sensible of the impropriety, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever.	35
	40

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge's nephew, Fred?

Write about:

- The way Dickens presents Fred and his relationship with Scrooge in this extract
- How Fred is important to the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

When the clock struck eleven, this domestic ball broke up. Mr and Mrs Fezziwig took their stations, one on either side of the door, and shaking hands with every person individually as he or she went out, wished him or her a Merry Christmas. When everybody had retired but the two prentices, they did the same to them; and thus the cheerful voices died away, and the lads were left to their beds; which were under a counter in the back-shop.	5
During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits. His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self. He corroborated everything, remembered everything, enjoyed everything, and underwent the strangest agitation. It was not until now, when the bright faces of his former self and Dick were turned from them, that he remembered the Ghost, and became conscious that it was looking full upon him, while the light upon its head burnt very clear. “A small matter,” said the Ghost, “to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.” “Small!” echoed Scrooge.	10
The Spirit signed to him to listen to the two apprentices, who were pouring out their hearts in praise of Fezziwig: and when he had done so, said, “Why! Is it not! He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?” “It isn’t that,” said Scrooge, heated by the remark, and speaking unconsciously like his former, not his latter, self. “It isn’t that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count them up: what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.”	15
He felt the Spirit’s glance, and stopped. “What is the matter?” asked the Ghost. “Nothing in particular,” said Scrooge. “Something, I think?” the Ghost insisted. “No,” said Scrooge, “No. I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now! That’s all.”	20
	25

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present ideas about working life in his novel?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Fezziwig as an employer in this extract
- How Dickens presents working life elsewhere in the novel.

[30 marks]

"Spirit," said Scrooge, with an interest he had never felt before, "tell me if Tiny Tim will live."	
"I see a vacant seat," replied the Ghost, "in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die."	
"No, no," said Scrooge. "Oh, no, kind Spirit. Say he will be spared."	
"If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, none other of my race," returned the Ghost, "will find him here. What then? If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."	5
Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words quoted by the Spirit, and was overcome with penitence and grief.	
"Man," said the Ghost, "if man you be in heart, not adamant, forbear that wicked cant until you have discovered What the surplus is, and Where it is. Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child. Oh God! To hear the Insect on the leaf pronouncing on the too much life among his hungry brothers in the dust."	10
Scrooge bent before the Ghost's rebuke, and trembling cast his eyes upon the ground. But he raised them speedily, on hearing his own name.	
"Mr Scrooge!" said Bob; "I'll give you Mr Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!"	15
"The Founder of the Feast indeed!" cried Mrs Cratchit, reddening. "I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he'd have a good appetite for it."	
"My dear," said Bob, "the children. Christmas Day."	
"It should be Christmas Day, I am sure," said she, "on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr Scrooge. You know he is, Robert. Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow."	20
"My dear," was Bob's mild answer, "Christmas Day."	
"I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's," said Mrs Cratchit, "not for his. Long life to him. A merry Christmas and a happy new year! -- he'll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt!"	25
The children drank the toast after her. It was the first of their proceedings which had no heartiness. Tiny Tim drank it last of all, but he didn't care twopence for it. Scrooge was the Ogre of the family. The mention of his name cast a dark shadow on the party, which was not dispelled for full five minutes.	
After it had passed away, they were ten times merrier than before, from the mere relief of Scrooge the Baleful being done with. Bob Cratchit told them how he had a situation in his eye for Master Peter, which would bring in, if obtained, full five-and-sixpence weekly. The two young Cratchits laughed tremendously at the idea of Peter's being a man of business; and Peter himself looked thoughtfully at the fire from between his collars, as if he were deliberating what particular investments he should favour when he came into the receipt of that bewildering income. Martha, who was a poor apprentice at a milliner's, then told them what kind of work she had to do, and how many hours she worked at a stretch, and how she meant to lie abed to-morrow morning for a good long rest; to-morrow being a holiday she passed at home. Also how she had seen a countess and a lord some days before, and how the lord was much about as tall as Peter; at which Peter pulled up his collars so high that you couldn't have seen his head if you had been there. All this time the chestnuts and the jug went round and round; and by-and-bye they had a song, about a lost child travelling in the snow, from Tiny Tim, who had a plaintive little voice, and sang it very well indeed.	30
There was nothing of high mark in this. They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were scanty; and Peter might have known, and very likely did, the inside of a pawnbroker's. But, they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time; and when they faded, and looked happier yet in the bright sprinklings of the Spirit's torch at parting, Scrooge had his eye upon them, and especially on Tiny Tim, until the last.	35
	40
	45

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens presents ideas about poverty?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents ideas about poverty in this extract
- how Dickens presents ideas about poverty in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

<p>The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached. When it came, Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery.</p>	
<p>It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand. But for this it would have been difficult to detach its figure from the night, and separate it from the darkness by which it was surrounded.</p>	5
<p>He felt that it was tall and stately when it came beside him, and that its mysterious presence filled him with a solemn dread. He knew no more, for the Spirit neither spoke nor moved.</p>	10
<p>"I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?" said Scrooge. The Spirit answered not, but pointed downward with its hand. "You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us," Scrooge pursued. "Is that so, Spirit?"</p>	15
<p>The upper portion of the garment was contracted for an instant in its folds, as if the Spirit had inclined its head. That was the only answer he received. Although well used to ghostly company by this time, Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him, and he found that he could hardly stand when he prepared to follow it. The Spirit pauses a moment, as observing his condition, and giving him time to recover.</p>	20
<p>But Scrooge was all the worse for this. It thrilled him with a vague uncertain horror, to know that behind the dusky shroud there were ghostly eyes intently fixed upon him, while he, though he stretched his own to the utmost, could see nothing but a spectral hand and one great heap of black.</p>	25
<p>"Ghost of the Future!" he exclaimed, "I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?" It gave him no reply. The hand was pointed straight before them.</p>	

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the spirits in his novel.

Write about:

- How Dickens presents the spirit in this extract
- Which of the three spirits you think has the most powerful effect on Scrooge

[30 marks]

Structuring your response:

Spend 45 minutes answering this question. Analyse the extract and annotate information that is RELEVANT to the question. Remember to include a brief introduction and a conclusion. Try not to use the pronoun I, this sounds a little informal.

Aim to write at least 4/5 very detailed PETERC paragraphs:

P – **Point**, put in to your own words an aspect of the text relevant to the question.

E – Include **evidence**, don't forget to use "quotation marks"

T – **technique/terminology**. Refer to a language/structural feature – if you are unsure use: the word "..." shows us or the phrase "..." implies that...

E – **explain the effect** of a specific aspect you have evidenced. Put the evidence in your own words and tell the examiner why it is important.

R – **Refer to the reader** e.g. This shows the reader that... This reminds the reader that...

C – **Context** – this can link to another part of the novel, an element of historical/social/political/biographical importance.

Exemplar response

Dickens presents Scrooge as an outsider in this extract by the way he is described. He uses the weather in the first paragraph to show how Scrooge is 'colder' than anything the weather can throw at him: heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet'. The listing of four types of bad weather intensifies the description of Scrooge being naturally isolated and cold, as if he is, like bad weather, naturally cold¹⁸. Dickens then goes on to give examples of normal social behaviour in order to show that Scrooge is outside of society¹⁹. He uses examples of direct address: 'My dear Scrooge, how are you?' in order to highlight how unusual it would be for anyone to address Scrooge like this. This is then summarised by stating that Scrooge doesn't want to be sociable and in fact likes his isolation: it was the very thing he liked²⁰.

This attitude is shown later when Scrooge is visited by the charitable gentlemen. Even though it is Christmas, the season of goodwill, Scrooge sends them away very rudely and shows no concern for the fact that some people could really benefit from just a little bit of charity. Furthermore, his nephew cannot get him to come to dinner, even though it would mean he is on his own at Christmas. It is as if Scrooge cares nothing for the whole idea of Christmas;²¹ he is like the 'external cold' but on the inside.

It is only when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge his lonely, cold funeral,²² that Scrooge finally realises that his loneliness and isolation from society will lead to nothing but misery. He has been shown lots of examples of the warmth and happiness of social people such as the Cratchitts, and also been reminded of how happy he used to be as a member of society, before greed and loneliness made him 'cold'²³.

Commentary

This is a clear, relevant response to task, showing understanding of the ideas and of Scrooge as an outsider to society. Evidence, both direct and reference, is used to demonstrate this understanding. There is also a clear explanation of writer's use of language/structure and its effect on meanings.

Comments

18. AO2: explanation of effects of language/structural feature.

19. AO1/AO2/AO3: focus on writer linked to ideas related to context.

20. AO1: direct references to quotations to support response.

21. AO1: references outside the extract with more direct reference from extract.

22. AO1: reference to the wider novel.

23. AO1/AO3: clear understanding of context informs response to task.