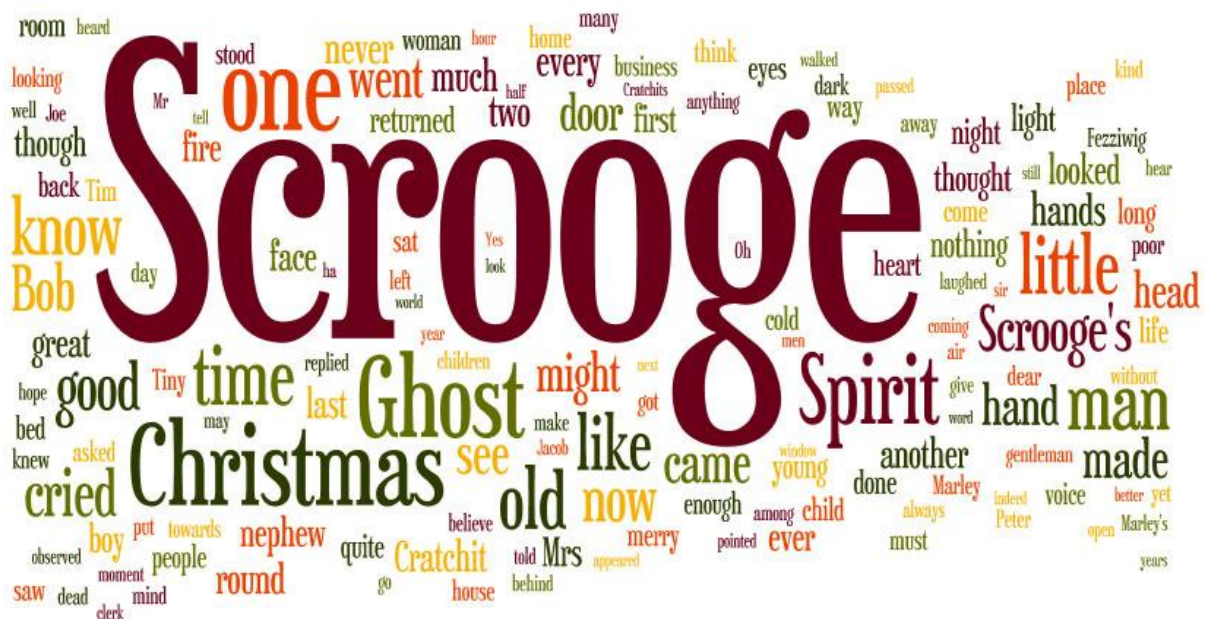


A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens



Revision Booklet

This booklet includes information and tasks on:

- Stave summaries
- Themes
- Key extracts from each Stave
- Characters
- Plot
- Comprehension questions
- Practice questions
- Sentence starters for organising your responses

In addition to completing this booklet, you need to be revising in other ways.

You could:

- Create posters on key characters and themes
- Complete any tasks on 'doddle'
- Select quotes and memorise them
- Complete the revision sheets given to you by your teacher
- Complete practice questions
- Anything else that you find useful

Author biography: Charles Dickens

Dickens was born on 7th February, 1812, the second of eight children born to John and Elizabeth Dickens. He spent the first nine years of his life living in Kent, a county in the southeast of England. Despite being a kind and loving man, John Dickens was financially irresponsible and, with a large family to provide for, found it very easy to rack up large debts.

As a result of this, the family moved to Camden Town in London, in 1822. John Dickens continued to live beyond his and his family's means and in 1824 he was finally arrested and sent to debtor's prison. Shortly afterwards, and probably as a result of being unable to provide for herself and her eight children, Elizabeth Dickens moved the rest of the family into prison with John.

Charles, however, did not join the rest of the family and was sent to live with a family friend, where, at 12 years old, he was sent out to work. He joined other child labourers at a blacking factory (where shoe polish was made), sticking labels onto bottles for 10 hours a day. This job made a lasting impression on Dickens; the conditions and pay were poor and the employers were cruel.

When John Dickens' grandmother died and left him a sum of money, John was able to pay off his debts and was released from prison. Charles did not immediately leave the factory, at his mother's request and this only served to heighten his disregard for the poor working and living conditions that the working classes had to endure.

When eventually Charles returned to school, he attended The Wellington House Academy, which he described as being haphazard, full of poor discipline, brutality, unfocused teaching and a run-down atmosphere. Despite this, Charles did well at school, becoming a law clerk and then a court reporter, which taught him a great deal about the bureaucracy and shortcomings of the English legal system.

Dickens' first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, was published in monthly instalments in 1836, when Dickens was still only 25. *Oliver Twist*, *Nickolas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Barnaby Rudge* were all published in monthly instalments between 1837 and 1841.

Dickens married Catherine Hogarth in 1836 and they went on to have 10 children. *A Christmas Carol*, one of Dickens' most famous and well-loved works, was published in 1843, reportedly under rushed circumstances in order to meet the financial demands of his wife's fifth pregnancy.

In 1858, Dickens left his wife Catherine, although they did not divorce: it was still unheard of for someone as famous as he was. It is widely believed that Dickens had a long standing affair with an actress named Ellen Ternan, who was with him for the last 13 years of his life. On his death, Dickens settled an annuity (an annual sum of money) on Ternan, meaning she was financially secure for the rest of her life.

Dickens travelled a great deal, visiting America twice, Switzerland and Italy and wrote a great many novels on top of those mentioned above: *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *Hard Times*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations* being the most well-known.

How do Dickens' childhood experiences link to the events in the novella? Give examples.

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Context

Christmas	Religion
Dickens is often credited with inventing Christmas as we know it today. His descriptions of family meals, turkey and stuffing, games, holly and mistletoe have become key parts of the modern Christmas. Even the Ghost of Christmas Present is said to have shaped our image of Father Christmas. Perhaps the most important aspect of Christmas that Dickens has influenced is the idea of goodwill to all. In Victorian England many people, including employers like Scrooge, did not do anything special for Christmas at all. The influence of this novella on Christmas traditions has been so great that when Dickens died a girl in Covent Gardens, London, supposedly asked “Will Father Christmas die too?”	Dickens’ view of social responsibility came from his understanding of Christian teachings. He didn’t agree with the rigid interpretation of the Bible but embraced more liberal readings which focused on the New Testament. Most people at this time would have attended a church service on Sundays and holidays. The novella generally reflects the stories told in Church which tend to include an individual who is instructed to look after those less fortunate than themselves.
Poverty	Industrial Revolution
Poverty and what to do about poor people were a real concern because big slums had built up in the city where factory workers lived; different families often shared one tap and a toilet. In order to deal with the large numbers of poor people, the government passed the New Poor Law in 1834. This meant that any able-bodied unemployed people would be supported only if they entered the workforce (which was a harsh environment to work in). Families would be separated and the food was basic in order to discourage the ‘lazy poor’ from choosing to go there. ¼ of Britain’s entire population at this time lived in poverty. Opportunities including good health care were only available to people who could afford it. Dickens’ disapproval of this law can clearly be seen in the novella. Dickens, and a wealthy friend of his, worked to provide help for poor people. In the 1840s they were involved in the Ragged Schools which aimed to give poor children a basic education. Dickens believed that education was the way out of poverty, crime and despair; this can be seen in the two children he includes in Stave 3: Ignorance and Want.	The Industrial Revolution is the term used to describe changes in working and living conditions which began in the 1760s. During this time, Britain moved from being a country based on 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 to people 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. Victorian literature, and Dickens in particular, tended to make the countryside as an ideal, romanticised way.
Children / Women	
The population in Britain increased drastically during this time. Contraception was not widely available or used. Many women died during childbirth and lots of children would not survive. Children in poor families wouldn’t have as good health care and so the infant mortality (death) rate was high. Rich children would go to boarding school. Many poorer parents who could afford to send their children away to school would but the conditions were often terrible. Children in very poor families would be expected to work from a very young age. Compulsory education didn’t exist in Britain until the 1870s so Dickens was writing at a time when education was not readily available. Most education would come from Sunday School at Church. Women did not have the right to vote at this time. They were seen as second rate citizens. Women could not divorce their husbands no matter what. Any money that a woman owned would go directly to her husband when they married. Women were often forced into marriage for money	

Explain how this contextual information has influenced your understanding of the novella.

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Plot Summary

The tale begins on Christmas Eve in the 1840's, exactly seven years after the death of Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner, Jacob Marley. Scrooge is presented within the first chapter as a greedy and stingy businessman, who has no place in his life for kindness, compassion or charity. After being warned by Marley's ghost to change his ways (so that he may avoid a miserable afterlife like him), Scrooge is visited by three additional ghosts; each ghost accompanies him to various scenes with the hope of achieving his transformation.

The first of the spirits, the Ghost of Christmas Past, takes Scrooge to the scenes of his boyhood and youth, which stir the old miser's gentle and tender side by reminding him of a time when he was more innocent. The second spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Present, takes Scrooge to several radically differing scenes (a joy-filled market of people buying the makings of Christmas dinner, and the family feast of Scrooge's near-impooverished clerk Bob Cratchit, among other sites) in order to create in Scrooge a sense of responsibility for his fellow man. The third spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, harrows Scrooge with dire visions of the future if he does not learn and act upon what he has witnessed. Scrooge's own neglected and untended grave is revealed, prompting him to claim that he will change his ways in hopes of changing these "shadows of what may be".

In the fifth and final chapter, Scrooge awakens Christmas morning with joy and love in his heart, then spends the day with his nephew's family after anonymously sending a prize turkey to the Cratchit home for Christmas dinner. Scrooge has become a different man overnight, and now treats his fellow men with kindness, generosity and compassion, gaining a reputation as a man who embodies the spirit of Christmas. The story closes with the narrator confirming that Scrooge's transformation is complete, is genuine and will last forever.

What do you think Dickens' overall intention was when writing this novella? Use your understanding of context to explain why this might have been his intention.

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In what way is this novella an **allegory** (a story which has a moral/ethical message)?

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Characters

Ebenezer Scrooge: The miserly owner of a London counting-house, a nineteenth century term for an accountant's office. The three spirits of Christmas visit him in hopes of reversing Scrooge's greedy, cold-hearted approach to life. He is cold, miserable and bitter at first, but as the novel progresses we see him change into a better man.

Bob Cratchit: Scrooge's clerk, a kind, mild, and very poor man with a large family. Though treated harshly by his boss, Cratchit remains a humble and dedicated employee.

Tiny Tim: Bob Cratchit's young son, crippled from birth. Tiny Tim is a highly sentimentalised character who Dickens uses to highlight the problems of England's poor and to cause the reader to feel sympathy for him in the society he lives in.

Jacob Marley: In the living world, Ebenezer Scrooge's equally greedy partner. Marley died seven years before the narrative opens. He appears to Scrooge as a ghost condemned to wander the world bound in heavy chains. Marley hopes to save his old partner from suffering a similar fate.

The Ghost of Christmas Past: The first spirit to visit Scrooge, a curiously childlike apparition with a glowing head. He takes Scrooge on a tour of Christmases in his past. The spirit uses a cap to dampen the light coming from his head.

The Ghost of Christmas Present: The second spirit to visit Scrooge, a majestic giant clad in a green robe. His lifespan is restricted to Christmas Day. He escorts Scrooge on a tour of Holiday celebrations. He also uses Scrooge's words against him to make Scrooge feel terrible.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: The third and final spirit to visit Scrooge, a silent phantom clad in a hooded black robe. He presents Scrooge with an ominous view of his lonely death.

Fred: Scrooge's nephew, a friendly man who loves Christmas. He invites Scrooge to his Christmas party each and every year, only to be refused by his grumpy uncle. Fezziwig – The cheerful merchant with whom the young Scrooge apprenticed. Fezziwig was renowned for his wonderful Christmas parties.

Belle: A beautiful woman who Scrooge loved deeply when he was a young man. Belle broke off their engagement after Scrooge became consumed with greed and the lust for wealth. She later married another man.

Peter Cratchit: Bob's oldest son, who inherits his father's stiff-collared shirt for Christmas.

Martha Cratchit: Bob's oldest daughter, who works in a milliner's shop. (A milliner is a person who designs, produces, and sells hats.)

Fan: Scrooge's sister; Fred's mother. In Scrooge's vision of Christmases past, he remembers Fan picking him up from school and walking him home.

The Portly Gentlemen: Two gentlemen who visit Scrooge at the beginning of the tale seeking charitable contributions. Scrooge promptly throws them out of his office, not giving them a single penny. Upon meeting one of them on the street after the spirits have visited him, he promises to make great donations to help the poor.

Mrs. Cratchit: Bob's wife, a kind and loving woman.

Stave 1

Complete the gaps to show your understanding of what happens in Stave 1

Eve	Christmas	spirits	poor	Cratchit	greedy	save	charity
Ebenezer	Bah! Humbug!	sleep	money	Fred	disappears	Jacob Marley	prisons

A miserly, old _____ Scrooge 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 poor should go there instead of being a drain on society.

Later that evening, after returning to his dark, cold apartment, Scrooge receives a visit from the ghost of _____. Marley’s punishment for his _____ life is that 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 Marley _____, Scrooge collapses into a deep _____.

Make a list of the characters in this stave:

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Key Extracts

Extract	How is Scrooge presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, 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. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. 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; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas. External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did.	<i>He seems to lack humanity.</i>			
"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!" He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again. "Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?" "I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough." "Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough." Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug." "Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew. "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!"	<i>Again, he is shown to have not much humanity.</i>			

Extract	How is Scrooge presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
"Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude," returned the gentleman, "a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?" "Nothing!" Scrooge replied. "You wish to be anonymous?" "I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned -- they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there." "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. Besides -- excuse me -- I don't know that." "But you might know it," observed the gentleman. "It's not my business," Scrooge returned. "It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, gentlemen!"	<i>He is shown to be isolated.</i>			
Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's-book, went home to bed. He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and frost so hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.	<i>He is presented as a lonely character.</i>			

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The same face: the very same. Marley in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent, so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind. Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now. No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before: he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

“That is no light part of my penance,” pursued the Ghost. “I am here to-night to warn you, that you have yet a chance and hope of escaping my fate. A chance and hope of my procuring, Ebenezer.”

Why do you think Dickens describes Jacob Marley in so much detail? How is he presented?

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What is significant about the chain around his neck? What might it represent about the way he lived when he was alive?

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What message has he come to give Scrooge? What do you think Dickens’ intention was?

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What quotations would you select from this extract to sum up the character of Jacob Marley?

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Themes

Complete this table to show each of these themes are presented in Stave 1.

	How is the theme shown in this Stave?	Identify any relevant quotations
Compassion and forgiveness		
Isolation		
Transformation		
Time		
Family		
Christmas Spirit		
Memory and the past		
Wealth / Poverty		

Comprehension questions

1. Why do you think Dickens chose to present Scrooge in such a negative way at the beginning of the novella?
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2. How does the character of Fred contrast with our understanding of Scrooge? What does Fred represent about society?
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3. Who is Bob Cratchit? How does Scrooge treat him?
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4. How is the weather / setting described in Stave 1? What might this reflect about Scrooge?
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5. What makes Scrooge fearful in Stave 1? Why might this be?
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6. What is the significance of the knocker on Scrooge's door?
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7. In what way is Scrooge presented as uncharitable?
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8. What do the words 'if they would rather die they had better do it and decrease the surplus population' mean?
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9. How would you describe Scrooge's life? Why do you think Dickens shows him living this way?
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10. What do you think is the overall purpose of Stave 1? Why has it been included in the novella?
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Stave 2

Complete the gaps to show your understanding of what happens in Stave 2

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

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 _____, his old employer, 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.

Make a list of the characters in this stave:

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Key Extracts

Extract	How is <u>Scrooge's</u> <u>past</u> presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
The Spirit touched him on the arm, and pointed to his younger self, intent upon his reading. Suddenly a man, in foreign garments: wonderfully real and distinct to look at: stood outside the window, with an axe stuck in his belt, and leading by the bridle an ass laden with wood. "Why, it's Ali Baba!" Scrooge exclaimed in ecstasy. "It's dear old honest Ali Baba. Yes, yes, I know. One Christmas time, when yonder solitary child was left here all alone, he did come, for the first time, just like that. Poor boy. And Valentine," said Scrooge, "and his wild brother, Orson; there they go. And what's his name, who was put down in his drawers, asleep, at the Gate of Damascus; don't you see him? And the Sultan's Groom turned upside down by the Genii; there he is upon his head. Serve him right. I'm glad of it. What business had he to be married to the Princess." To hear Scrooge expending all the earnestness of his nature on such subjects, in a most extraordinary voice between laughing and crying; and to see his heightened and excited face; would have been a surprise to his business friends in the city, indeed.	<i>Ali Baba...</i>			
A little girl, much younger than the boy, came darting in, and putting her arms about his neck, and often kissing him, addressed him as her "Dear, dear brother." "I have come to bring you home, dear brother!" said the child, clapping her tiny hands, and bending down to laugh. "To bring you home, home, home!" "Home, little Fan?" returned the boy. "Yes!" said the child, brimful of glee. "Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you. And you're to be a man!" said the child, opening her eyes, "and are never to come back here; but first, we're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world." "You are quite a woman, little Fan!" exclaimed the boy. She clapped her hands and laughed, and tried to touch his head; but being too little, laughed again, and stood on tiptoe to embrace him. Then she began to drag him, in her childish eagerness, towards the door; and he, nothing loth to go, accompanied her.	<i>Fan...</i>			

Extract	How is <u>Scrooge's</u> <u>past</u> presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
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. 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."	<i>Fezziwig...</i>			
He was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past. "It matters little," she said, softly. "To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve." "What Idol has displaced you?" he rejoined. "A golden one." "This is the even-handed dealing of the world!" he said. "There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!" "You fear the world too much," she answered, gently. "All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?"	<i>Belle...</i>			
And now Scrooge looked on more attentively than ever, when the master of the house, having his daughter leaning fondly on him, sat down with her and her mother at his own fireside; and when he thought that such another creature, quite as graceful and as full of promise, might have called him father, and been a spring-time in the haggard winter of his life, his sight grew very dim indeed. "Belle," said the husband, turning to his wife with a smile, "I saw an old friend of yours this afternoon." "Who was it?" "Guess!" "How can I? Tut, don't I know," she added in the same breath, laughing as he laughed. "Mr. Scrooge." "Mr. Scrooge it was. I passed his office window; and as it was not shut up, and he had a candle inside, I could scarcely help seeing him. His partner lies upon the point of death, I hear; and there he sat alone. Quite alone in the world, I do believe." "Spirit!" said Scrooge in a broken voice, "remove me from this place."	<i>Belle's family...</i>			

It was a strange figure -- like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength. Its legs and feet, most delicately formed, were, like those upper members, bare. It wore a tunic of the purest white, and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful. It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand; and, in singular contradiction of that wintry emblem, had its dress trimmed with summer flowers. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible; and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.

Even this, though, when Scrooge looked at it with increasing steadiness, was not its strangest quality. For as its belt sparkled and glittered now in one part and now in another, and what was light one instant, at another time was dark, so the figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness: being now a thing with one arm, now with one leg, now with twenty legs, now a pair of legs without a head, now a head without a body: of which dissolving parts, no outline would be visible in the dense gloom wherein they melted away. And in the very wonder of this, it would be itself again; distinct and clear as ever.

The Ghost of Christmas Past is described as both child-like and old. Why do you think Dickens describes the spirit in this way?

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What might the light coming from the ghost’s head represent?

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How does this ghost reflect the theme of memories? What impact do memories have on Scrooge?

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What quotations would you select from this extract to sum up the character of the Ghost of Christmas Past?

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Themes

Complete this table to show each of these themes are presented in Stave 1.

	How is the theme shown in this Stave?	Identify any relevant quotations
Compassion and forgiveness		
Isolation		
Transformation (physical and emotional)		
Time		
Family		
Christmas Spirit		
Memory and the past		
Rich / Poor		

Comprehension Questions

1. At what time does the Ghost of Christmas Past appear?
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2. Why do you think Dickens describes the wait in so much detail at the beginning of the Stave?
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3. In what way does the weather and sound reflect tension at the beginning of the Stave?
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.....
4. Why does Dickens focus on Scrooge's experience in school? How does this help our understanding of him?
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.....
5. Fezziwig provides a direct contrast with Scrooge. Why do you think Dickens has done this?
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.....
6. To what extent do we see Scrooge beginning to transform in this Stave?
.....
.....
7. Why do you think Scrooge wants the ghost to put its cap on?
.....
.....
8. What might the contrast between the countryside and the city suggest?
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.....
9. What might the words 'a small matter...to make these silly folks so full of gratitude' suggest about Scrooge at this point in the novella?
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.....
10. Why do you think Dickens made Belle's tears sparkle? What might this suggest about her character?
.....
.....
11. In what way does Dickens show that happiness is not linked to money in this Stave?
.....
.....
12. What do you think is the overall purpose of Stave 2? Why has this journey into Scrooge's past been included in the novella?
.....
.....

Stave 3

Complete the gaps to show your understanding of what happens in Stave 3

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

Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Present. He symbolises _____. He sits on a throne of food and wears 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 because they “_____”.

They visit the Cratchit family, who offer the reader an idealised version of 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 the children, _____: 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.

Make a list of the characters in Stave 3:

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Key extracts

Extract	How are attitudes to Christmas presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing...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.	<i>The Cratchit's family dinner...</i>			
Again the Ghost sped on, above the black and heaving sea -- on, on -- until, being far away, as he told Scrooge, from any shore, they lighted on a ship. They stood beside the helmsman at the wheel, the look-out in the bow, the officers who had the watch; dark, ghostly figures in their several stations; but every man among them hummed a Christmas tune, or had a Christmas thought, or spoke below his breath to his companion of some bygone Christmas Day, with homeward hopes belonging to it. And every man on board, waking or sleeping, good or bad, had had a kinder word for another on that day than on any day in the year; and had shared to some extent in its festivities; and had remembered those he cared for at a distance, and had known that they delighted to remember him.	<i>Christmas day at sea...</i>			
For, the people who were shovelling away on the housetops were jovial and full of glee; calling out to one another from the parapets, and now and then exchanging a facetious snowball -- better-natured missile far than many a wordy jest -- laughing heartily if it went right and not less heartily if it went wrong. The poulterers' shops were still half open, and the fruiterers' were radiant in their glory. There were great, round, pot-bellied baskets of chestnuts, shaped like the waistcoats of jolly old gentlemen, lolling at the doors, and tumbling out into the street in their apoplectic opulence.	<i>Christmas morning...</i>			

Extract	How are attitudes to Christmas presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
After tea they had some music. For they were a musical family, and knew what they were about, when they sung a Glee or Catch, I can assure you: especially Topper, who could growl away in the bass like a good one, and never swell the large veins in his forehead, or get red in the face over it. Scrooge's niece played well upon the harp; and played among other tunes a simple little air (a mere nothing: you might learn to whistle it in two minutes), which had been familiar to the child who fetched Scrooge from the boarding-school, as he had been reminded by the Ghost of Christmas Past. When this strain of music sounded, all the things that Ghost had shown him, came upon his mind; he softened more and more; and thought that if he could have listened to it often, years ago, he might have cultivated the kindnesses of life for his own happiness with his own hands, without resorting to the sexton's spade that buried Jacob Marley. But they didn't devote the whole evening to music. After a while they played at forfeits; for it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself.	<i>Fred's Christmas ...</i>			
It was his own room. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green, that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened. The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there; and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney, as that dull petrification of a hearth had never known in Scrooge's time, or Marley's, or for many and many a winter season gone. Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, red-hot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam. In easy state upon this couch, sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see; who bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge, as he came peeping round the door.	<i>Scrooge's room transformed...</i>			

I am the Ghost of Christmas Present," said the Spirit. "Look upon me."
Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. 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. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.

The Ghost of Christmas Present is described as a jolly green giant with a wand. Why do you think Dickens describes the spirit in this way?

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What is significant about Scrooge’s reaction to him?

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How does this ghost reflect the theme of Christmas Spirit?

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What does this ghost teach Scrooge about attitudes towards the poor?

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.....

What quotations would you select from this extract to sum up the character of the Ghost of Christmas Present?

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Themes

Complete this table to show each of these themes are presented in Stave 1.

	How is the theme shown in this Stave?	Identify any relevant quotations
Compassion and forgiveness		
Isolation		
Transformation (physical and emotional)		
Time		
Family		
Christmas Spirit		
Memory and the past		
Rich / Poor		

Comprehension Questions

1. What does the description of the Ghost of Christmas Present suggest about this Stave?
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.....
2. Do you think that Scrooge has changed or is he just trying to say the right things to get through the ghosts' visits as quickly as possible?
.....
.....
3. How does the scene at the Cratchit's house contrast with Scrooge's lifestyle?
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.....
4. Why do you think Dickens makes Mrs Cratchit object to Bob's toast to Scrooge? What does this reflect about the influence he has had on their lives?
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.....
5. Do you believe that Scrooge really cares about Tiny Tim? Explain your reasons.
.....
.....
6. Why do you think Dickens brings the food and drink to life with personification and other imagery? How might this link to what we know of the time in which the novella was set?
.....
.....
7. In what way is Fred's family Christmas different to the Cratchits'? Why do you think Dickens has included this?
.....
.....
8. The Ghost shows Scrooge the two children: Ignorance and Want, and claims that they have been created by society. Although he says that both are bad, he says that ignorance is more dangerous. What message do you think Dickens is trying to give about education?
.....
.....
9. Why do you think the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to so many different places? What is Dickens' intention here?
.....
.....
10. Why has Dickens shown Scrooge seeing himself through the eyes of other people? What effect does this have on him?
.....
.....
11. What do you think is the overall purpose of Stave 3? Why has Dickens included it in the novella?
.....
.....

Stave 4

Complete the gaps to show your understanding of what happens in Stave 4

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

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 "_____".

Make a list of the characters in Stave 4:

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Key Extracts

Extract	How is Scrooge's future presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
They scarcely seemed to enter the city; for the city rather seemed to spring up about them, and encompass them of its own act. But there they were, in the heart of it; on Change, amongst the merchants; who hurried up and down, and chinked the money in their pockets, and conversed in groups, and looked at their watches, and trifled thoughtfully with their great gold seals; and so forth, as Scrooge had seen them often. The Spirit stopped beside one little knot of business men. Observing that the hand was pointed to them, Scrooge advanced to listen to their talk. "No," said a great fat man with a monstrous chin, "I don't know much about it, either way. I only know he's dead." "When did he die?" inquired another. "Last night, I believe." "Why, what was the matter with him?" asked a third, taking a vast quantity of snuff out of a very large snuff-box. "I thought he'd never die." "God knows," said the first, with a yawn. "What has he done with his money?" asked a red-faced gentleman with a pendulous excrescence on the end of his nose, that shook like the gills of a turkey-cock. "I haven't heard," said the man with the large chin, yawning again. "Left it to his company, perhaps. He hasn't left it to me. That's all I know." This pleasantry was received with a general laugh. "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. Suppose we make up a party and volunteer?" "I don't mind going if a lunch is provided," observed the gentleman with the excrescence on his nose. "But I must be fed, if I make one." Another laugh.	<i>The rich...</i>			
They left the busy scene, and went into an obscure part of the town, where Scrooge had never penetrated before, although he recognised its situation, and its bad reputation. The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched; the people half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly. Alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offences of smell, and dirt, and life, upon the straggling streets; and the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth, and misery. Far in this den of infamous resort, there was a low-browed, beetling shop, below a pent-house roof, where iron, old rags, bottles, bones, and greasy offal, were bought. Upon the floor within, were piled up heaps of rusty keys, nails, chains, hinges, files, scales, weights, and refuse iron of all kinds. Secrets that few would like to scrutinise were bred and hidden in mountains of unseemly rags, masses of corrupted fat, and sepulchres of bones. Sitting in among the wares he dealt in, by a charcoal stove, made of old bricks, was a grey-haired rascal, nearly seventy years of age; who had screened himself from the cold air without, by a frousy curtaining of miscellaneous tatters, hung upon a line; and smoked his pipe in all the luxury of calm retirement.	<i>Poverty...</i>			

Extract	How is Scrooge's future presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
They entered poor Bob Cratchit's house; the dwelling he had visited before; and found the mother and the children seated round the fire. Quiet. Very quiet. The noisy little Cratchits were as still as statues in one corner, and sat looking up at Peter, who had a book before him. The mother and her daughters were engaged in sewing. But surely they were very quiet! “And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them.” vWhere had Scrooge heard those words? He had not dreamed them. The boy must have read them out, as he and the Spirit crossed the threshold. Why did he not go on? The mother laid her work upon the table, and put her hand up to her face. v“The colour hurts my eyes,” she said. vThe colour? Ah, poor Tiny Tim! “They’re better now again,” said Cratchit's wife. “It makes them weak by candle-light; and I wouldn't show weak eyes to your father when he comes home, for the world. It must be near his time.” “Past it rather,” Peter answered, shutting up his book. “But I think he has walked a little slower than he used, these few last evenings, mother.” They were very quiet again. At last she said, and in a steady, cheerful voice, that only faltered once: “I have known him walk with -- I have known him walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed.” “And so have I,” cried Peter. “Often.” “And so have I!” exclaimed another. So had all. “But he was very light to carry,” she resumed, intent upon her work, “and his father loved him so, that it was no trouble: no trouble. And there is your father at the door!”	<i>Scrooge's sympathy for the Cratchit family shows...</i>			
A churchyard. Here, then, the wretched man whose name he had now to learn, lay underneath the ground. It was a worthy place. Walled in by houses; overrun by grass and weeds, the growth of vegetation's death, not life; choked up with too much burying; fat with repleted appetite. A worthy place! The Spirit stood among the graves, and pointed down to One. He advanced towards it trembling. The Phantom was exactly as it had been, but he dreaded that he saw new meaning in its solemn shape. “Before I draw nearer to that stone to which you point,” said Scrooge, “answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?” Still the Ghost pointed downward to the grave by which it stood. “Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead,” said Scrooge. “But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me!” The Spirit was immovable as ever. Scrooge crept towards it, trembling as he went; and following the finger, read upon the stone of the neglected grave his own name, Ebenezer Scrooge. “Am I that man who lay upon the bed?” he cried, upon his knees. The finger pointed from the grave to him, and back again. “No, Spirit! Oh no, no!” The finger still was there. “Spirit!” he cried, tight clutching at its robe, “hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope?” For the first time the hand appeared to shake. “Good Spirit,” he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it: “Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!” The kind hand trembled.	<i>Scrooge's feelings ...</i>			

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. 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. 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.

"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?"

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come is described as silent, mysterious and solemn. Why do you think Dickens describes the spirit in this way?

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.....

Given that the Ghost of Christmas Past and the Ghost of Christmas Present have both tried to teach Scrooge a lesson, why do you think Dickens describes this ghost as silent?

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.....

How does this ghost reflect the theme of transformation? What change do we see in Scrooge's behaviour as a result of this ghost?

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What quotations would you select from this extract to sum up the character of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

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Themes

Complete this table to show each of these themes are presented in Stave 1.

	How is this theme shown in this Stave?	Identify any quotations which show this theme
Compassion and forgiveness		
Isolation		
Transformation (physical and emotional)		
Time		
Family		
Christmas Spirit		
Memory and the past		
Rich / Poor		

Comprehension Questions

1. How is this ghost different from the others? Why do you think Dickens has presented it in this way?
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.....
2. Scrooge claims that he has changed. Why do you think he still has to follow the ghost?
.....
.....
3. What does the negative description of the ugly side of the city reflect about society during this time?
.....
.....
4. Why have the people in Old Joe's shop stolen the possessions of a dead man?
.....
.....
5. Dickens describes a young couple who are relieved at the death of the man. How does Dickens show us that they are to be pitied?
.....
.....
6. Dickens knew the full horror of debt and poverty because of his own father and childhood. How does Dickens' description of the young couple show his own views?
.....
.....
7. The Ghost shows a version of the future where Tiny Tim has died. Why is this significant to the novella?
.....
.....
8. What is the significance of Bob stating the 'extraordinary kindness' of Fred?
.....
.....
9. What makes Scrooge vow to change? Is it for purely selfish reasons?
.....
.....
10. Why is the gravestone such a shock to Scrooge?
.....
.....
11. Dickens makes sure that we realise that Scrooge is the dead man long before Scrooge will admit to it. Explain how this builds tension and leads to the climax of the story.
.....
.....
12. What is the overall purpose of Stave 4? Why has Dickens included it in the novella?
.....
.....

Stave 5

Complete the gaps to show your understanding of what happens in Stave 5

Tiny Tim church raises his wages light as a feather fire merry as a schoolboy

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 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 _____.

Make a list of the characters in Stave 5:

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Key Extracts

Extract	How is Scrooge's transformation presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
"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. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Christmas Time be praised for this. I say it on my knees, old Jacob, on my knees!" He was so fluttered and so glowing with his good intentions, that his broken voice would scarcely answer to his call. He had been sobbing violently in his conflict with the Spirit, and his face was wet with tears. "They are not torn down!" cried Scrooge, folding one of his bed-curtains in his arms, "they are not torn down, rings and all. They are here -- I am here -- the shadows of the things that would have been, may be dispelled. They will be! I know they will." His hands were busy with his garments all this time; turning them inside out, putting them on upside down, tearing them, mislaying them, making them parties to every kind of extravagance. "I don't know what to do!" cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoon of himself with his stockings. "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! Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!"	<i>Upon waking up...</i>			
He was checked in his transports by the churches ringing out the lustiest peals he had ever heard. 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! "What's to-day?" cried Scrooge, calling downward to a boy in Sunday clothes, who had loitered in to look about him. "Eh?" returned the boy, with all his might of wonder. "What's to-day, my fine fellow?" said Scrooge. "To-day?" replied the boy. "Why, Christmas Day." "It's Christmas Day!" said Scrooge to himself. "I haven't missed it. The Spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like. Of course they can. Of course they can!"	<i>Buying a turkey...</i>			

Extract	How is Scrooge's transformation presented?	Key quotes	Analysis of words and techniques	What's Dickens' intention?
He dressed himself all in his best, and at last got out into the streets. The people were by this time pouring forth, as he had seen them with the Ghost of Christmas Present; and walking with his hands behind him, Scrooge regarded every one with a delighted smile. He looked so irresistibly pleasant, in a word, that three or four good-humoured fellows said, "Good morning, sir. A merry Christmas to you." And Scrooge said often afterwards, that of all the blithe sounds he had ever heard, those were the blithest in his ears. He had not gone far, when coming on towards him he beheld the portly gentleman, who had walked into his counting-house the day before, and said, "Scrooge and Marley's, I believe." It sent a pang across his heart to think how this old gentleman would look upon him when they met; but he knew what path lay straight before him, and he took it. "My dear sir," said Scrooge, quickening his pace, and taking the old gentleman by both his hands. "How do you do. I hope you succeeded yesterday. It was very kind of you. A merry Christmas to you, sir!" "Mr Scrooge?" "Yes," said Scrooge. "That is my name, and I fear it may not be pleasant to you. Allow me to ask your pardon. And will you have the goodness" -- here Scrooge whispered in his ear. "Lord bless me!" cried the gentleman, as if his breath were taken away. "My dear Mr Scrooge, are you serious?" "If you please," said Scrooge. "Not a farthing less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favour?" "My dear sir," said the other, shaking hands with him. "I don't know what to say to such munificence." "Don't say anything please," retorted Scrooge. "Come and see me. Will you come and see me?"	<i>Giving to charity...</i>			
"A merry Christmas, Bob," said Scrooge, with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back. "A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year. 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. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him	<i>Raising Bob's salary...</i>			

Themes

Complete this table to show each of these themes are presented in Stave 1.

	How is this theme shown in this Stave?	Identify any quotations which show this theme
Compassion and forgiveness		
Isolation		
Transformation (physical and emotional)		
Time		
Family		
Christmas Spirit		
Memory and the past		
Rich / Poor		

Comprehension Questions

1. How does Dickens use similes at the beginning of Stave 5? What do they reflect about Scrooge?
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.....
2. Why do you think Dickens uses so many exclamation marks in this section?
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.....
3. How does the description of the weather reflect Scrooge's transformation?
.....
.....
4. Why do you think Dickens shows us that Scrooge is nervous about knocking on Fred's door?
.....
.....
5. What message does Dickens teach us about forgiveness in this Stave?
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.....
6. Why do you think Dickens uses repetition of the word 'wonderful' in this Stave?
.....
.....
7. The novella follows the typical structure of a story. In What way is Stave 5 a satisfactory ending?
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.....
8. What is the significance of the churchyard being overgrown?
.....
.....
9. Why do you think Dickens concludes with the narrator's summary of Scrooge as a man and how he is regarded as knowing 'hot to keep Christmas well'?
.....
.....
10. What do you think is the overall purpose of Stave 5? Why has Dickens included it in the novella?
.....
.....

General Questions

Answer these questions to help your understanding of the novella

1. What did the sign outside the counting house say in Stave 1?
2. How many years before the story began did Marley die?
3. What organisations did Scrooge tell the two portly gentlemen that he supports in Stave 1?
4. Where does Scrooge first see Marley's face appear?
5. What does Scrooge blame for his visions of Marley: alcohol, food poisoning, sleep deprivation or old age?
6. At what time does Scrooge go to bed in Stave 2?
7. In what way has Marley been punished in the afterlife?
8. What is unusual / supernatural about the Ghost of Christmas Past's appearance?
9. How do Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past travel?
10. Who does Little Fan say has consented for Scrooge to return home for Christmas in Stave 2?
11. Scrooge pulls down the Ghost of Christmas Past's hat to send him away. What might this represent about Scrooge's attitude at this point in the novella?
12. What does the Ghost of Christmas Present sit on a throne made of?
13. How many brothers does the Ghost of Christmas Present say he has?
14. What is Mrs Cratchit preparing when Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present arrive in Stave 3?
15. In addition to the Cratchits' and his nephew Fred's, what other random locations does Scrooge visit in Stave 3?
16. What does Scrooge do when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come first appears in Stave 4?
17. What are the vagabonds in the pawn shop doing when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge there?
18. Why are the Cratchits sad when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to visit them in Stave 4?
19. What is the last location that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to in Stave 4?
20. What does Scrooge shout at the top of his voice when he returns to his bedroom?
21. What is the significance of Scrooge seeing the same portly gentleman in Stave 1 and Stave 5?
22. Where does Scrooge go after donating money to charity?
23. How late does Bob Cratchit arrive to work the day after Christmas?
24. What is the first thing Scrooge does when Bob Cratchit walks into work in Stave 5?
25. Why does Dickens show Christmas being celebrated in so many different places?
26. Why is Ignorance more dangerous than Want?
27. Why does Dickens end the novella with Tiny Tim's words?
28. In what way does the novella have a Christian message?
29. Why does the Ghost of Christmas Past show Scrooge Belle's family and her happiness? What effect does this have on him?
30. Name the three happy homes Scrooge is shown in the novella?
31. How does the novella reflect society at the time?
32. What do you think is the main reason for Scrooge being the miserable, unkind and uncharitable person he is?
33. What aspects of Christmas described in the novella do you celebrate with your family?
34. How many scenes does the Ghost of Christmas past show Scrooge?
35. Bob doesn't believe Scrooge at first when he says he will raise his salary? Why is this?
36. How does the description of Scrooge's office reflect his character?

Themes in the novella

What do you know about each of these themes in the novella?

	Which <u>characters</u> do you associate with this theme?	What <u>events</u> do you associate with this theme?
Compassion and forgiveness		
Isolation		
Transformation (physical and emotional)		
Time		
Family		
Christmas Spirit		
Memory and the past		
Rich / Poor		

Characters

Complete these tables to help your understanding of characters

Ebenezer Scrooge		
<i>At the beginning of the novella, Scrooge is presented as a mean and miserable man who cares only about making money. He treats his office clerk, Bob Cratchit, badly by making him work in the cold and fear for his job. He antagonises his nephew, Fred, who visits him at work to wish him a merry Christmas. He tells the charity collectors that poor people should die rather than be given charity. He is visited by the ghost of his old partner, Jacob Marley, who tells him that his focus on money is wrong and that he needs to change. In Stave 2, Scrooge sees his past and begins to see that he made bad choices. In Stave 3, he enjoys Christmas Day in the present and sees the celebrations at the Cratchit's and Fred's houses. In Stave 4, he is horrified to find that if he continues to behave badly no one will care about him and Tiny Tim will die. Finally, he changes his behaviour in Stave 5 and supports the Cratchit family.</i>		
Point	Evidence	Suggestion(s)
Dickens makes it clear that Scrooge is mean, both with his money and in his dealings with others.	'hard and sharp as flint'	
He used to know how to have fun.		
By the arrival of the Ghost of Christmas Present we are able to see a change in Scrooge.	'Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before the Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been'	
If he continued the way he had he would have ended up alone.	'he frightened every one away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead'	
His transformation is complete at the end of the novella.	'was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge'	

Jacob Marley		
<i>Jacob Marley was Scrooge's business partner. The narrator goes to great lengths to make us accept that he is dead. His ghost appears to Scrooge on Christmas Eve with a warning about the need to change his focus in life from money to 'mankind'. He tells Scrooge that he will have three visitors who will offer him the chance of escaping the same fate he had.</i>		
Point	Evidence	Suggestion(s)
Marley's ghost is weighed down by his sins from his life	'I wear the chains I forged in life' 'of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel'	These items symbolise the things Marley spent his life on – all are related to money and possessions.
Marley's ghost scares Scrooge		Marley's message is serious. It makes Scrooge pay attention to what he tells him.
Marley verbalises Dickens' message	'mankind was my business'	
Marley's ghost shows Scrooge the horror of not being able to help others	'the misery with them all was, clearly that they sought to interfere, for good, in human matters, and had lost the power for ever'	The use of 'them all' suggests that Marley isn't the only one in the position and shows that it can happen to anyone – Scrooge or even Dickens' readers.

Fred		
<i>Fred is Scrooge's nephew, the only son of Scrooge's much loved sister, Fan. He is the opposite of Scrooge and demonstrates how we should behave towards one another. He visits Scrooge in his office to wish him a merry Christmas. He has a jolly family Christmas party where he laughs at Scrooge's miserly ways but refuses to be rude about him. In Stave 3 he is shown to be kind to Bob Cratchit (when he expresses his sorrow at the death of Tiny Tim) and, in Stave 5, he welcomes Scrooge into the family Christmas without question.</i>		
Point	Evidence	Suggestion(s)
He is used as the opposite of Scrooge's hardened character.		He stands his ground against Scrooge's mean and miserly rantings. We can see that he values love over money.
He is the mouthpiece for Dickens' views about Christmas.	'a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time'	His confidence in his beliefs endears him to the reader and makes his ideas seem sensible and reasonable.
He shows us that Scrooge should be pitied.	'I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims? Himself, always'	
He is presented as someone who has good humour and laughter.	'Scrooge's nephew revelled in another laugh'	The verb 'revelled' suggests his enjoyment of laughter. He is shown to have a very positive approach to life – the opposite of Scrooge.
He accepts the change in Scrooge without question.	'Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off'	

Bob Cratchit		
<i>Bob is Scrooge's clerk and represents the lower classes. He has to accept poor wages and working conditions because he has a family to support and a badly paid job is better than no job. He is too scared to put more than one coal on the fire at a time in Scrooge's office. He has fun with his family, toasts Scrooge even though he's not paid enough and represents the loving father that we know Scrooge never had. He is alarmed when Scrooge changes.</i>		
Point	Evidence	Suggestion(s)
His appearance reflects his poverty.	'with the long ends of his white comforter dangling below his waist (for he boasted no great-coat)'	
He is good natured.		Even though Scrooge doesn't pay him enough, he still does what he considers to be the right thing even though Scrooge would never know or care.
He doesn't try to fight life's problems.	'He was reconciled to what had happened'	Bob is devastated by the death of Tiny Tim. His attitude reminds us that the death of children was much more common at this time. He always knew that he didn't have the means (money) to care for Tiny Tim properly.

Complete this table to show your understanding of other characters in the novella

Character	What they represent	Effect on the reader	Quote(s)
Fan			
Fezziwig			
Belle			
Tiny Tim			
The Ghost of Christmas Past			
The Ghost of Christmas Present			
The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come			

Key Quote Challenge

Quote	What does it suggest about character/theme/setting?	How does it link to context? / What effect does it have?
"But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge. A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!"		
"No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him."		
"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice."		
"And therefore, Uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that [Christmas] has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"		
"A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!"		
"If they would rather die they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."		
. 'Business!' cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. 'Mankind was my business.'		
'A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.'		
Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed."		
"Remember it!" cried Scrooge with fervour; "I could walk it blindfold."		
"Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so... You are changed. When it was made, you were another man."		
"Oh, a wonderful pudding!' Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he		

regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs Cratchit since their marriage.”		
“He hoped the people saw him ... to remember... who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”		
“I’ll give you Mr Scrooge, the founder of the feast!”		
“I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims? Himself always.”		
“This boy is Ignorance and 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.”		
“The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached... Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air... it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery.”		
“I fear you...but... 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.”		
“Scrooge crept towards it, trembling as he went; and following the finger, read upon the stone of the neglected grave his own name.”		
“I don’t mind going if lunch is provided.”		
“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...”		
“It would be a bad fortune indeed to find so merciless a creditor in his successor. We may sleep to-night with light hearts, Caroline.”		
“I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future! ... The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me... I say it on my knees, old Jacob, on my knees!”		
“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.”		
“Scrooge regarded every one with a delighted smile.”		

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Practice Questions

You are advised to spend 45 minutes on this question.
You will be marked out of a total of 30 marks.

Your answer will be assessed for

AO1: Interpretation

AO2: Analysis

AO3: Comparisons

AO1 (Assessment Objective 1)	Read, understand and respond to texts. <u>Students should be able to:</u> - Analyse the poems by showing understanding of different interpretations - Refer to the poems using quotations which support your points
AO2 (Assessment Objective 2)	Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate. <u>Students should be able to:</u> - Comment on key terms when analysing language, form and structure - Explain the effect on the reader
AO3 (Assessment Objective 3)	Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written. <u>Students should be able to:</u> - Show understanding of the historical, cultural and societal background of the poems - Show understanding of the poet's background and reasons for writing the poem

According to the mark-scheme, a top band response will show an *insightful understanding of the task and the text*.

Consider the following:

- Does your answer actually focus on the exam question?
- Have you included analysis of individual words as well as larger quotations?
- Is your analysis based on the extract?
- Have you shown your understanding of the whole novella by making links to different parts?
- Analysis of the writer's use of language/structure and its effect on the reader
- Have you written in PETAL paragraphs? (point, evidence, technique, analyse, link)
- Have you used key subject terms?
- Have you commented on the writer's intentions?
- Have you commented on the effect on the reader?
- Have you used connectives to show the links between your points?
- Have you commented on themes in the text?
- Have you made links to context and the wider world?

DO NOT SIMPLY RETELL THE STORY

Practice Question 1

Read this extract from Stave 2.

In this extract Scrooge is being taken back to his childhood at school.

To hear Scrooge expending all the earnestness of his nature on such subjects, in a most extraordinary voice between laughing and crying; and to see his heightened and excited face; would have been a surprise to his business friends in the city, indeed.

“There’s the Parrot!” cried Scrooge. “Green body and yellow tail, with a thing like a lettuce growing out of the top of his head; there he is! Poor Robin Crusoe, he called him, when he came home again after sailing round the island. ‘Poor Robin Crusoe, where have you been, Robin Crusoe?’ The man thought he was dreaming, but he wasn’t. It was the Parrot, you know. There goes Friday, running for his life to the little creek! Halloo! Hoop! Halloo!”

Then, with a rapidity of transition very foreign to his usual character, he said, in pity for his former self, “Poor boy!” and cried again.

“I wish,” Scrooge muttered, putting his hand in his pocket, and looking about him, after drying his eyes with his cuff: “but it’s too late now.”

“What is the matter?” asked the Spirit.

“Nothing,” said Scrooge. “Nothing. There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that’s all.”

The Ghost smiled thoughtfully, and waved its hand: saying as it did so, “Let us see another Christmas!”

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge’s growing self-awareness?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
 - how Dickens presents Scrooge’s growing self-awareness in the novel as a whole
- [30 marks]**

Practice Question 2

Read this extract from Stave 1.

In this extract Scrooge encounters the ghost of Jacob Marley.

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent; so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before; he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

“How now!” said Scrooge, caustic and cold as ever. “What do you want with me?” “Much!”—Marley’s voice, no doubt about it.

“Who are you?”

“Ask me who I was.”

“Who were you then?” said Scrooge, raising his voice. “You’re particular, for a shade.” He was going to say “to a shade,” but substituted this, as more appropriate.

“In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley.”

“Can you—can you sit down?” asked Scrooge, looking doubtfully at him.

“I can.”

“Do it, then.”

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge’s attitude to others?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
 - how Dickens presents Scrooge’s attitude to others in the novel as a whole
- [30 marks]**

Practice Question 3

Read this extract from Stave 3.

In this extract Scrooge is shown his first love, Belle, and her family.

And now Scrooge looked on more attentively than ever, when the master of the house, having his daughter leaning fondly on him, sat down with her and her mother at his own fireside; and when he thought that such another creature, quite as graceful and as full of promise, might have called him father, and been a spring-time in the haggard winter of his life, his sight grew very dim indeed.

“Belle,” said the husband, turning to his wife with a smile, “I saw an old friend of yours this afternoon.”

“Who was it?”

“Guess!”

“How can I? Tut, don’t I know?” she added in the same breath, laughing as he laughed. “Mr. Scrooge.”

“Mr. Scrooge it was. I passed his office window; and as it was not shut up, and he had a candle inside, I could scarcely help seeing him. His partner lies upon the point of death, I hear; and there he sat alone. Quite alone in the world, I do believe.”

“Spirit!” said Scrooge in a broken voice, “remove me from this place.”

“I told you these were shadows of the things that have been,” said the Ghost. “That they are what they are, do not blame me!”

“Remove me!” Scrooge exclaimed, “I cannot bear it!”

He turned upon the Ghost, and seeing that it looked upon him with a face, in which in some strange way there were fragments of all the faces it had shown him, wrestled with it.

“Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!”

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge’s distress?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s distress in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

Practice Question 4

Read this extract from Stave 1.

In this extract Scrooge is visited by his nephew, Fred.

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge’s, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

“Christmas a humbug, uncle!” said Scrooge’s nephew. “You don’t mean that, I am sure?”

“I do,” said Scrooge. “Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.”

“Come, then,” returned the nephew gaily. “What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You’re rich enough.”

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, “Bah!” again; and followed it up with “Humbug.”

“Don’t be cross, uncle!” said the nephew.

“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!”

“Uncle!” pleaded the nephew.

“Nephew!” returned the uncle sternly, “keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine.”

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as a cold character?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s coldness in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

Practice Question 5

Read this extract from Stave 2.
In this extract Scrooge is talking with Belle.

He was not alone but sat by the side of a fair young girl in mourning dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

‘It matters little,’ she said softly. ‘To you, very little Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve.’

‘What idol has displaced you?’ he rejoined.

‘A golden one.’

‘This is the evenhanded dealing of the world!’ he said. ‘There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!’

‘You fear the world too much,’ she answered gently. ‘All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?’

‘What then?’ he retorted. ‘Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed towards you.’

She shook her head.

‘Am I?’

‘Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor, and content to be so, until, in good season, we could improve our worldly fortune by our patient industry. You are changed. When it was made you were another man.’

‘I was a boy,’ he said impatiently.

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as materialistic?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s materialism in the novel as a whole

Practice Question 6

Read this extract from Stave 5.
In this extract Scrooge wakes on Christmas morning.

“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. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, old Jacob; on my knees!”

He was so fluttered and so glowing with his good intentions, that his broken voice would scarcely answer to his call. He had been sobbing violently in his conflict with the Spirit, and his face was wet with tears.

“They are not torn down,” cried Scrooge, folding one of his bed-curtains in his arms, “they are not torn down, rings and all. They are here—I am here—the shadows of the things that would have been, may be dispelled. They will be. I know they will!”

His hands were busy with his garments all this time; turning them inside out, putting them on upside down, tearing them, mislaying them, making them parties to every kind of extravagance.

“I don’t know what to do!” cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoön of himself with his stockings. “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. Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!”

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as a changed man?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s changed personality in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

A Christmas Carol – Practice Question 7

Read this extract from Stave 2.

In this extract Scrooge is shown his past when he was employed by Mr Fezziwig.

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.

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 ’em up: what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.”

He felt the Spirit’s glance, and stopped.

“What is the matter?” asked the Ghost.

“Nothing 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.”

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge changing?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge changing in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

A Christmas Carol: Practice Question 8

Read the following extract from Stave 1.

In this extract Scrooge is being introduced to the reader.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, nor wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often ‘came down’ handsomely, and Scrooge never did. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, ‘My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?’ No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o’clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blindmen's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, ‘No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!’

But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call ‘nuts’ to Scrooge.

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as an outsider to society?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge as an outsider to society in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

A Christmas Carol – Practice Question 9

Read this extract from Stave 3.

In this extract Scrooge is shown the Cratchits preparing for their Christmas meal

Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing...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.

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present poverty?

Write about:

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

[30 marks]

A Christmas Carol – Practice Question 10

Read this extract from Stave 3.

In this extract Scrooge is shown his break-up with Belle.

He was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past. "It matters little," she said, softly. "To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve." "What Idol has displaced you?" he rejoined. "A golden one." "This is the even-handed dealing of the world!" he said. "There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!" "You fear the world too much," she answered, gently. "All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?"

Question:

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present greed?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents greed in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge's greed in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

PETAL sentence starters

POINT

Throughout the text/novel/play/poem/extract...
The character of _____ is seen as...
_____ is presented as...
The theme of... is shown by...
The writer creates a sense of...
...creates/develops/increases the sense that...
The writer presents _____ as...
The plot in this extract/section is focused on...
The writer develops the character/setting/theme by...
...appears / seems...

SIMILAR ideas

Furthermore...
In addition...
Similarly...
Likewise...
This is supported by...
Moreover...
Also...

DIFFERENT ideas

In contrast...
On the other hand...
Alternatively...
Despite this...
Although...
However...

EXPLORING ideas

Perhaps
Maybe
Could
Might
Possibly

EVIDENCE

This can be seen in the words...
The sentence _____ suggests this.
An example of this is...
The writer shows this in the words...
For example...
A clear example of this is...

TECHNIQUE

The effective use of _____ shows that...
The author uses adjectives/verbs/adverbs to create the idea/sense that...
The repeated use of _____ suggests that...
The idea that... is supported by the writer's use of...
The use of _____ sentences suggests...
The paragraphs here are short/long which shows...

ADVERBS

Clearly
Obviously
Mainly
Alternatively

Analysing plot / structure phrases

At the beginning...
We are introduced to...
This links to...
Previously...
Further on...
Later/earlier on...
It concludes by...

ANALYSIS

The use of... is used to shock/amaze/draw in the reader.
This demonstrates/suggests that...
...involves the reader in the text by...
...suggests to the reader a feeling/sense of...
...has a connotation of... which makes the reader...
The impact of this on the reader is...
The writer's intention was to...
This is significant because it suggests...
This persuades the reader to feel/believe/...
...shows the reader that...
It is clear from this that...

Audience effect phrases

...makes us:
feel...
see...
imagine...
believe...
fear...
think that...
emphasise...

LINK

From this, we can understand that...
This makes the reader think of...
This is relevant because at the time...
The reader is reminded of...
The writer has used this to suggest...
This has had a significant impact on people / the world because...

COMMENT WORDS

Shows	Reveals
Suggests	Presents
Implies	Demonstrates
Indicates	Reflects
Confirms	Portrays
Highlights	

SUMMARISING

The whole text...
Overall...
The text covers...
To sum up...
All in all...