



A Christmas Carol: Revision



Name:

The revision booklet is designed to help you:

- Remember the events and key quotations of A Christmas Carol
- Develop your analysis of and response to the novel-meaning your ability to explain what quotations suggest about characters, why a character/place/event is important in the story etc.
- Consider context-Victorian life in 1843, and Dickens' inspirations and intentions in writing the novel.
- In the boxes below you can find some advice and guidance about the style of writing you need. This is what the examiner will be looking for in your answer:

RESPONDING TO WRITERS' EFFECTS

The two most important assessment objectives are **AO1** and **AO2**. They are about what writers do (the choices they make, and the effects these create), what your ideas are (your analysis and interpretation), and how you write about them (how well you explain your ideas).

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 1

What does it say?	What does it mean?	Dos and Don'ts
<p>Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response ● Use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations 	<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use some of the literary terms you have learned (correctly!) ● Write in a professional way (not a sloppy, chatty way) ● Show you have thought for yourself ● Back up your ideas with examples, including quotations 	<p>Don't write:</p> <p><i>Scrooge is a really horrible character. Dickens uses lots of horrible words to describe him. He's 'hard and sharp as flint' which makes him sound horrible.</i></p> <p>Do write:</p> <p><i>Dickens firmly establishes Scrooge as a miserly and harsh character at the start of the novella, encouraging us to reject him and his ways. The simile 'hard and sharp as flint' suggests his lack of human emotion and willingness to make life easier for others – something we see when he rejects the ideas presented by the charity collectors.</i></p>

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 2

What does it say?	What does it mean?	Dos and don'ts
<p>Analyse the language, form and structure used by the writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.</p>	<p>'Analyse' = comment in detail on particular aspects of the text or language</p> <p>'Language' = vocabulary, imagery, variety of sentences, dialogue/speech, etc.</p> <p>'Form' = how the story is told (e.g. first-person narrative, letters, diaries, chapter by chapter)</p> <p>'Structure' = the order in which events are revealed, or in which characters appear, or descriptions are presented</p> <p>'create meaning' = what can we, as readers, infer from what the writer tells us. What is implied by particular descriptions, or events?</p> <p>'Subject terminology' = words you should use when writing about novellas, such as character, protagonist, imagery, setting, etc.</p>	<p>Don't write:</p> <p><i>The writing is really descriptive in this bit so I get a good picture of London.</i></p> <p>Do write:</p> <p><i>Dickens conveys the sense that London is full of fun and laughter despite the severe weather. The use of the verb 'plumping' to describe the snow being shovelled from rooftops creates a sense of generosity and makes it seem soft, quite unlike the harshness of the ice that represents Scrooge.</i></p>

Stave 1 revision MODEL EXAMPLE

“But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time... - as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely,”

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	<p>Fred comes to visit Scrooge's office on Christmas eve and they argue over their different opinions about Christmas.</p>
<p>2. How does this quote present Fred and his feelings about Christmas?</p>	<p>Dickens presents Fred in a very positive way when he talks to Scrooge. Fred sees Christmas as a special, unique time, "the only time" when people are deliberately kinder to each other.</p>
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Fred's positivity? How do they help?</p>	<p>The list of adjectives used by Fred "kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant" implies that there are plenty of positive aspects to Christmas, and describes the behaviour that 'good' people like Fred display at that time of year.</p>
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	<p>Fred's happy attitude is a complete contrast to Scrooge's, and hints at Dickens' belief that people needed to show more compassion and kindness to each other, especially in terms of being "charitable" - Scrooge has money that he refuses to share or help others with. Fred's list of adjectives describes the way Scrooge will eventually behave at the end of the novel, demonstrating the way Dickens wanted his wealthy readers to behave also. By using Fred and Scrooge as narrative foils, the extremes of attitude to Christmas are shown. Through Fred's hyperbolic, exaggerated enthusiasm for Christmas, serves to show only further, how much of a miser Scrooge is at the start of the story.</p>

Stave 1 revision

“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.”

1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?	
2.How does this quote present Scrooge as an outsider?	
3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help?	
4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Scrooge is presented as an outsider?	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise.....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...

2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 1 revision

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this quote present Scrooge as an employer?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge's attitude? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:

- a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 1 revision

``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 [to the workhouses] ; 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!"

1. Who is this conversation between?	
2.How does this quote present Scrooge's attitude to others?	
3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge's cruel disinterest? How do they help?	
4.What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	
--	--

Stave 1 revision

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 have 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.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this description of Scrooge's habits and home suggest his character?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to suggest Scrooge's character through his habits/home?</p>	
<p>4. Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens uses the weather/temperature to suggest Scrooge's character?</p>	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 1 revision

“Marley's face. It was not in impenetrable shadow as the other objects in the yard were, but had a dismal light about it, like a bad lobster in a dark cellar. It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look: with ghostly spectacles turned up on its ghostly forehead. The hair was curiously stirred, as if by breath or hot air; and, though the eyes were wide open, they were perfectly motionless. That, and its livid colour, made it horrible; but its horror seemed to be in spite of the face and beyond its control, rather than a part of its own expression.”

1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?	
2.How does this quote present Marley's ghost?	
3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Marley's host? How do they help?	
4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens uses sound to create a sense of fear	

around Marley's ghost?	
------------------------	--

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 1 revision

“Man of the worldly mind!” replied the Ghost, “do you believe in me or not?”

“I do,” said Scrooge. “I must. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?”

“It is required of every man,” the Ghost returned, “that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow-men, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world -- oh, woe is me! -- and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!”

Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain, and wrung its shadowy hands.

“You are fettered,” said Scrooge, trembling. “Tell me why?”

“I wear the chain I forged in life,” replied the Ghost. “I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you?”

Scrooge trembled more and more.

1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?	
2. How does this quote present Marley's ghost and its torment?	
3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Marley's	

ghost's torment? How do they help?	
<p>4.What might be Dickens' intention in presenting the ghost's feelings in this way?</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Stave 2 revision

When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark, that looking out of bed, he could scarcely distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber. He was endeavouring to pierce the darkness with his ferret eyes, when the chimes of a neighbouring church struck the four quarters. So he listened for the hour.

To his great astonishment the heavy bell went on from six to seven, and from seven to eight, and regularly up to twelve; then stopped. Twelve! It was past two when he went to bed. The clock was wrong. An icicle must have got into the works. Twelve!

He touched the spring of his repeater, to correct this most preposterous clock. Its rapid little pulse beat twelve: and stopped.

“Why, it isn't possible,” said Scrooge, “that I can have slept through a whole day and far into another night. It isn't possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is twelve at noon!”

The idea being an alarming one, he scrambled out of bed, and groped his way to the window. He was obliged to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything; and could see very little then.

1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?	
2.How does this quote, describing the darkness, cold and the bells, create tension?	
3.Can you identify any language features that	

<p>particularly help to create tension? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.What might be Dickens' intention in using church bells in his tense description? What could church bells nearby to Scrooge connote?</p>	

Stave 2 revision

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.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2.How does this quote present the Ghost of Christmas Past?</p>	
<p>3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the ghost and its contradictions?</p>	
<p>4.What might be Dickens' intention in</p>	

<p>presenting the ghost this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	
---	--

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 2 revision

“The school is not quite deserted,” said the Ghost. “A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.”

Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

...They went, the Ghost and Scrooge, across the hall, to a door at the back of the house. It opened before them, and disclosed a long, bare, melancholy room, made barer still by lines of plain deal forms and desks. At one of these a lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire; and Scrooge sat down upon a form, and wept to see his poor forgotten self as he used to be.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this quote present Scrooge's childhood and his reaction to it?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that</p>	

<p>particularly help to present Scrooge's childhood/reaction? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens suggest Scrooge's childhood was unhappy?</p>	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 2 revision

``Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!"

Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shows to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

... ``Yo ho, my boys!" said Fezziwig. ``No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let's have the shutters up," cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, ``before a man can say, Jack Robinson!"

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2.How does this quote present Fezziwig?</p>	
<p>3.Can you identify any language features that</p>	

<p>particularly help to present Fezziwig positively? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Fezziwig this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 2 revision

``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."

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
---	--

2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s changing attitude?	
3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge’s attitude? How do they help?	
4.Can you think of another point in the novel when past memories begin to inspire a change in Scrooge?	

Stave 2 revision

For again Scrooge saw himself. He was older now; a man in the prime of life. His face had not the harsh and rigid lines of later years; but it had begun to wear the signs of care and avarice. There was an eager, greedy, restless motion in the eye, which showed the passion that had taken root, and where the shadow of the growing tree would fall.

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.”

1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about?	
2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s greed?	

<p>3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge's greed? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 3 revision

The house fronts looked black enough, and the windows blacker... The sky was gloomy, and the shortest streets were choked up with a dingy mist, half thawed, half frozen, whose heavier particles descended in shower of sooty atoms, as if all the chimneys in Great Britain had, by one consent, caught fire, and were blazing away to their dear hearts' content. There was nothing very cheerful in the climate or the town, and yet was there an air of cheerfulness abroad that the clearest summer air and brightest summer sun might have endeavoured to diffuse in vain.

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.

<p>1. <u>Where's</u> being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
---	--

<p>2.How does this description present London society?</p>	
<p>3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present society? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.What might be Dickens' intention in presenting society this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates.....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 3 revision

``And how did little Tim behave?" asked Mrs Cratchit...

``As good as gold," said Bob, ``and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

Bob's voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
---	--

<p>2.How does this quote present Bob's character?</p>	
<p>3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Bob's character? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens presents Bob's character?</p>	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 3 revision

It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour. When Scrooge's nephew laughed in this way: holding his sides, rolling his head, and twisting his face into the most extravagant contortions: Scrooge's niece, by marriage, laughed as heartily as he. And their assembled friends being not a bit behindhand, roared out lustily.

``Ha, ha! Ha, ha, ha, ha!"

``He said that Christmas was a humbug, as I live!" cried Scrooge's nephew. ``He believed it too!"

1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?	
2. How does this quote present Fred?	
3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help?	
4. Look carefully at this line – what do you think Dickens means?	<p>...that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour.</p>

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents.....demonstrates.....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 3 revision

From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

“Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!” exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this quote present the children?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the children? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting the children in this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Stave 3 revision

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

.... 'Have they no refuge or resource?' cried Scrooge.

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

1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about?	
2. How does this quote suggest the message the ghost wants Scrooge to understand?	
3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the message? How do they help?	
4. What might be the message Dickens wants readers (then AND now) to understand? Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 4 revision

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.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this quote present the ghost of Christmas yet to come?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the ghost? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting the ghost of the future in such a terrifying way? <i>- Remember it's the ghost of Scrooge's future, but also of society's future (if nothing changes)</i></p>	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise.....understand....question.....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 4 revision

“Ha, ha!” laughed the same woman, when old Joe, producing a flannel bag with money in it, told out their several gains upon the ground. “This is the end of it, you see! He frightened every one away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead! Ha, ha, ha!”

“Spirit!” said Scrooge, shuddering from head to foot. “I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now. Merciful Heaven, what is this!”

1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about?	
2. How does this quote present Scrooge-how others saw him, and his reaction (now) to this?	
3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge? How do they help?	
4. What might be Dickens’ purpose in including the characters of the 4 thieves – is their behaviour shocking to us? Why?	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents.....demonstrates.....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...
2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 4 revision

He recoiled in terror, for the scene had changed, and now he almost touched a bed: a bare, uncurtained bed: on which, beneath a ragged sheet, there lay a something covered up, which, though it was dumb, announced itself in awful language.

The room was very dark, too dark to be observed with any accuracy, though Scrooge glanced round it in obedience to a secret impulse, anxious to know what kind of room it was. A pale light, rising in the outer air, fell straight upon the bed; and on it, plundered and bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared for, was the body of this man.

<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this quote present Scrooge's body?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge lonely body? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4. Knowledge question: Whose death does the reader hear about next? And how is their death reacted to differently?</p>	

Top Tip:

1. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
 - a. Dickens suggests.....conveys.....implies.....presents....demonstrates.....signals.....describes how...
 - b. As a reader I can infer.....recognise....understand....question....see.....am led to wonder...

2. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect.

Stave 5 revision

<p>Quote:</p> <p>“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!”</p>	
<p>1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2.How does this quote present Scrooge ‘s change?</p>	
<p>3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way?</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	

Stave 5 revision

<p>Quote: 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.</p>	
<p>1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2. How does this quote present a sense of guilt and regret?</p>	
<p>3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens</i> 	

wanted people to have	
-----------------------	--

Stave 5 revision

<p>Quote:</p> <p>But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there. If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon.</p> <p>And he did it; yes, he did! The clock struck nine. No Bob. A quarter past. No Bob. He was full eighteen minutes and a half behind his time. Scrooge sat with his door wide open, that he might see him come into the Tank.</p>	
1. Who says this or who's being described? What is this quote about?	
2. How does this quote present a sense of excitement and joy?	
3. Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help?	
<p>4. What might be Dickens' intention in presenting Scrooge this way?</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> 	

<p>- <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i></p>	
--	--

Stave 5 revision

<p>Quote:</p> <p>“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!”</p>	
<p>1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about?</p>	
<p>2.How does this quote present the joy of Christmas?</p>	
<p>3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help?</p>	
<p>4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society</i> - <i>The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have</i> 	
--	--

How does Dickens explore moral corruption and greed in ‘A Christmas Carol’?

Dickens was writing in Victorian times when it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire. It was a time of great wealth and industrial expansion on a major scale. At a time when the new middle classes were becoming increasingly wealthy conditions for the working classes were on a down ward spiral and for Dickens the poverty seen in the streets of London were particularly affecting children. At a time when Victorians were proud of their religious and moral values how could so much human misery and suffering be ignored?

The setting at Christmas adds particular significance to Dickens’ s crusades against capitalist exploitation of the poor. We are presented with the character of Scrooge and Marley in the opening chapters of the novel Scrooge’s famously inhumane words in response to the kind men’s entreaties for a charitable donation for the poor, “ if they would rather die...they had better do it and decrease the surplus population”, a nod to contemporary views on population control extolled by the likes of Malthus .

Dickens’s use of language when describing these two central characters who in many ways are offered as symbols within Dickens allegory, is of interest to the reader. Scrooges is introduced using a string of similes like’ hard and sharp as flint’ and pathetic fallacy is further used to expose how cold hearted and uncharitable he is ; the ultimate symbol of moral corruption and greed ’a frosty rime was on his fore had ... he carried his own cold temperature always about him’.

Marley too is presented as a symbol of moral corruption and greed When he appears to scrooge he is as a ghost from the past; Dickens drawing here on the Victorians fascination with the gothic and supernatural, but more particularly ghost stories them selves. Marley has a macabre appearance with his jaw attached by the assistance of a bandage so that his jaw literally hits the floor when removed. He wears ‘ the chains I forged in life’. As he declares ‘ mankind was his business!’ acknowledging the human suffering caused by his greed. His appearance to Scrooge serves as warning ; an attempt to atone for the sins of this past by saving his partner Scrooge.

The other ghosts that succeed the appearance of Marley all serve a moral purpose. They remind Scrooge of his past as a child, as a brother, a lover and all appearances shock and appal the now ready to atone Scrooge. In particular Dickens exploits the pathos of the scene with Tiny Tim and the Cratchit family to offer the reader a window into their suffering yet stoic acceptance of their lot. Bob's charity and humility are offered as a moral example. He even toasts Scrooge's health on Xmas day, much to annoyance of his wife 'Founder of the feast indeed' and describes Scrooge as 'odious, stingy. Hard and unfeeling' whose name in itself cast a 'dark shadow'.

It is the revelations of the ghost of Xmas present that are perhaps the most shocking. As well as visiting the Cratchit family he takes Scrooge to all the places where poverty exist such as almshouse s for the poor and debtors jails, a particularly poignant memory for dickens as a boy. Scrooge notices the hideous children clinging to the robes if the ghost robe ' yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish, but prostrate too in their humility ' personified by Dickens as Ignorance and Want. Scrooge is shocked to discover that the children are ' Mans'; the misery and suffering a direct result of man's greed.

When Scrooge is presented with his future, he readily admits his faults and is resolved to atone for his greedy past. He is saved because he recognises through the visions that he faces a lonely and loveless future; happiness comes to him because of his generosity of spirit. His words ' I will not shut out the lessons you teach' are hopefully echoed throughout everyone who ever reads this short story. Dickens wrote this as a warning to those who are driven by greed and self- interest. How sadly appropriate and apt his words remain.

Read the extract below

With close reference to the text, how does Dickens establish the character of Scrooge in this section?

You may discuss:

- How Dickens talks about the weather
- Dickens use of imagery –metaphors and similes, and idioms
- How Dickens uses different sentences

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge 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.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, 'My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you c

ome 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 blind men'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.

Exemplar answer:

Charles Dickens establishes Scrooges character right near the beginning of Xmas Carol. We first meet Scrooge in his office on Xmas eve, working by candlelight, Dickens uses lots of interesting language features to describe him. Firstly, Dickens uses effective imagery, 'a tight-fisted nose to the grindstone'. The words tight-fisted suggest Scrooge gripped his money really tightly and didn't want to part with it. Someone with their nose to the grindstone is someone who works very hard all the time. Perhaps Dickens is telling us that Scrooge is a man who works really hard at his business, but doesn't find the time for friends or himself. A simile is also used, 'as solitary as an oyster'. This suggests he is a loner and has no friends or companions. This is also mentioned later in the extract when Dickens says, 'nobody ever stopped him in the street to say... how are you?'

Dickens sentences are also very interesting. The section begins with an exclamation which really stands out. This grabs the readers' attention, and makes us think that even the writer, Charles Dickens is frustrated with Scrooge. He is described in a list of verbs, 'squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching.' All these verbs suggest he grips onto his money tightly, and scrapes a living, and the long list makes these features really stand out. Dickens describes him as being a 'sinner' meaning he is committing crimes against God, and presenting him in a shocking and negative light.

Dickens uses the weather to describe Scrooge. Dickens describes 'the cold within him froze', and he uses personification to describe it 'nipping his pointed nose', and he describes how it changes Scrooges' face, shriveling his cheeks and making his face blue. Dickens also talks about how he seemed to carry his own low temperature, and how changes in temperature don't seem to affect him. What Dickens could be suggesting is that Scrooge is a really cold character, and nothing would change that.

At the end of the extract it says that Scrooge didn't really care as he it was what he liked – to be alone and have no friends, even thinking that people who had friends were 'nuts'. Overall Dickens presents us with a very lonely character who is cold and distant, and we get the feeling Scrooge will never change: this makes his development later in the novel more appealing and surprising.

What are the strengths of this response? What does it do well? Why would it achieve a grade C, or equivalent?

Comment:

Exemplar response:

In these four paragraphs, taken from very near the beginning of the First Stave, Dickens uses a variety of linguistic techniques to establish clearly for the reader the significant features of Scrooge's character and to make clear his relation to society.

The interjection 'Oh !' introduces the description and is almost itself a cry of horror or despair by the narrator at the character he is about to elaborate on. A series of judgmental words and phrases at once make clear Scrooge's nature. Firstly, he is 'tight-fisted' and 'a covetous old sinner'; here the explicitly religious imagery is used by Dickens to make clear Scrooge's behaviour is morally wrong (covetousness being one of the seven deadly sins). There then follows a list of five verbs that all describe Scrooge - 'squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching'. These all suggest constriction or tightness, and also imply perhaps the efforts Scrooge makes both to hold on to his money and to get as much of it as he can from others.

He is also 'hard and sharp as flint', this simile suggesting his lack of compassion. Dickens extends the imagery further in case the reader associates flint with making fire (and hence warmth). Dickens adds that in Scrooge's case, 'generous fire' never happened and he later uses the imagery of hot and cold to extend further his description of Scrooge. Scrooge's desire to keep himself to himself and have nothing to do with humanity is made clear with the three part, sibilant and sinister list of 'secret, self-contained and solitary as an oyster'. 'Oyster' suggests perhaps less than human life as well as the coldness of the sea.

The idea of coldness attaching to Scrooge is then fully developed with an extensive list (a favourite feature of Dickens' style) which fully links Scrooge with the cold. It is almost as if he is not even a warm-blooded, human creature, Dickens suggests. And this coldness, moreover, is with him all the time. Indeed, it is as if he is even worse than bad weather, as 'they often came down handsomely, and Scrooge never did.'

The third paragraph makes explicit Scrooge's relations with the rest of humanity. Dickens makes clear that normal human conversation is not part of his world, and again lists all those who shun him, including 'beggars', 'children' and ordinary 'man or woman'. Humour is added here with the wonderful description of the 'blind men's dogs' who go out of their way to avoid him. It is apparent from this paragraph that he does not want to be part of human society and that human society, in turn, has learnt to ignore him.

Finally, however, in case the reader is tempted at this point to pity Scrooge, Dickens points out with a question, 'what did Scrooge care?' He writes emphatically that this was 'the very thing he liked'. Concluding with the image of Scrooge on the very 'edge' of 'the crowded paths of life', Dickens wants the reader to understand that this is a clear choice the miser has made and drastic measures will therefore be necessary to force him to change his ways.

What makes this a better response than the previous answer?

List 5 things.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Context is an important part of exploring literature. It should not be bolted on to make your essay sound like a history essay, instead, ideas arising from the story should show you understand a bit about what life was like at the time the story was set.

Find as many examples as you can in the text that show the following:

Dickens was writing out of **social protest**, against the extremes of rich and poor in society at the time.

Dickens has a clear view of **social responsibility** – his story is influenced by a general sense of **Christian morality**, where the individual is instructed to love and look after those less fortunate than themselves.

The Industrial Revolution was good for many as it gave them more money and better living conditions. However, for the poor life remained difficult. How does Dickens show us these difficulties in the stories?

The Victorians were fascinated by **Floriography** – the symbolic association with flowers. Find examples of flowers in the story and explore the significance that might be found in them.

The Victorians had a fascination for the **supernatural**. What is the importance of the supernatural in the story?

Dickens explores the value of **education** in the story. What are Dickens' views on education in the story and how do you know?

Signs of Scrooge's Change and Development – Note the events, actions, words that show a change in Scrooge's character

Stave 1	Stave 2	Stave 3	Stave 4

Key Notes on Structure

The following are key structural features across the story. Find an example of them, and explore how they are presented by Dickens in the moment you have chosen.

Rising action	In the lead up to appearance of Marley's Ghost, a sense of rising action is shown through the sounds and movement that Dickens emphasises: Scrooge "saw this bell begin to swing", the sounds develop to a "clanking noise...some person dragging a heavy chain" then a "booming sound". Through this rising action, which is indicated through the increasingly more dramatic ways of describing the movement and sound, the reader gets a strong sense of the ever nearing approach of the ghost before it enters "without a pause".
Climactic moment	
Foreshadowing	
Falling action	
Resolution	
Narrative voice	
Syntax	