

What? How? Why? Characterisation (A02)

1. Scrooge	symbol of Victorian capitalism; echoes Malthusianism sentiment; avaricious employer; misanthrope; isolated; the quintessential miser; redeemed by the end; a caricature of the archetypal businessman; evokes a mixture of disapproval & sympathy; undergoes a rebirth.
2. Jacob Marley	symbol of Scrooge's conscience; repentant; avaricious; condemned to wander the earth.
3. Fezziwig	symbol of compassionate capitalism; jovial; generous; epitome of Christmas cheer.
4. Belle	symbol of Scrooge's rejection of humanity; sorrowful; understanding.
5. Bob Cratchit	symbol of the plight of the poor; kind; humble; hard-working; dedicated employee.
6. Tiny Tim	angelic; evokes sympathy; warm-hearted; highly sentimentalized.
7. Fred	symbol of the Christmas spirit; enthusiastic; merry; antithesis of Scrooge.
8. Ghost of Xmas Past	represents memory; combination of young & old; sheds light on Scrooge's past.
9. Ghost of Xmas Present	jolly; a majestic giant; bestows Christmas cheer; welcoming; reveals Ignorance & Want.
10. Ghost Xmas Yet to Come	silent; ominous; seals Scrooge's fate; evokes fear.

What? How? Why? Dickens' themes and ideas (A01 & A03)

1. Wealth	wealth not shared fairly; the rich should become philanthropic; emotional wealth trumps financial wealth; rich should help the poor, not leave them to die (i.e. Malthus); deserving and undeserving poor.
2. Poverty	The Poor Laws were cruel; Victorian readers should pity the poor; innocent children were the main victims; poverty will lead to collapse of civilization.
3. Avarice	the avaricious will be punished (in this life or the next); Victorian employers were avaricious; avarice causes unhappiness; Victorian society built on avarice.
4. Altruism	Victorian poor more altruistic than the rich; altruism leads to happiness; altruism will save society; charity starts at home.
5. Family/ isolation	togetherness more important than financial wealth; rejection is painful; isolation causes unhappiness; society should behave like a big family.
6. Redemption transformation	everyone has the potential to transform; redemption brings joy; readers must examine their consciences and change; society should transform like Scrooge.
7. The Christmas spirit	Christmas spirit brings warmth to the most isolated of places; Christian values of hope & charity should not be forgotten; Christmas spirit is for the whole year; mankind is everyone's business.

What? How? Why? Context and society (A03)

1. Smith (1776)	Adam Smith argued that if you remove rules and taxes from businesses they will flourish & everyone will benefit. This is known as free-market capitalism. Wealth will trickle down to the poor.
2. Industrial Revolution	Industrial Revolution. People rush to the city as agriculture becomes mechanized and wages fall significantly. The 1840s were known as the 'Hungry '40s' because of economic recession and crop failure.
3. Malthus (1798)	An economist who thought that working-class people reproduce too rapidly & population should be controlled by allowing surplus people to die – if not, food supplies will run out. Charity should be avoided as it would only result in increased numbers of the poor. Dickens held anti-Malthusian beliefs.
4. Childhood	Dickens forced to work in a blacking factory & father sent to debtor's prison.
5. London	1831. Largest city in world. Cholera epidemic leads to 1000s of deaths.
6. Poor Law	Poor Law (1834) was supposed to help the poor but meant they got less support & were sent to workhouses & forced to work in terrible conditions.
7. Ragged School	1843. Following a visit to a 'Ragged School' and a government report on poverty, Dickens writes 'A Christmas Carol' in 6 weeks. Originally a pamphlet 'An Appeal to the People of England on behalf of the Poor Man's Child'
8. Spirits	Many Victorians were fascinated by 'spiritualism' – the belief that spirits of the dead can communicate with the living. Public séances were common. Victorians also associated Christmas with ghost stories.

What? How? Why? Authorial intention & methods (A02)

1. Literary form	social satire (uses humour, irony and exaggeration to highlight problems in society); social commentary (comments on the issues in society and promotes change by informing the general public about a problem and appealing to people's sense of justice); allegory (story with a political or moral lesson/meaning containing symbolism); prolepsis (the future is shown as reality (in Stave 4). Genre: ghost story traditionally told at Christmas; novella short novel
2. Symbolism	fog = Victorian moral blindness; Marley's chains = past will catch up with you; cold = uncaring attitude of the rich to the poor; Scrooge's counting house = greed of society & unfettered capitalism; Ignorance & Want = ragged children of London & collapse of civilisation
3. Irony	GOCP repeats back Scrooge's words; Bob toasts Scrooge for meagre dinner; dramatic irony in Stave 4 (we know about Scrooge's death before he does).
4. High emotion	S2 – Scrooge pities the child he was; S2 – Scrooge rejects Belle in favour of wealth; S3 – love & Christmas spirit at Cratchit home; Christmas; S4 – 'death' of Tiny Tim; S4 – Scrooge comes face s own grave; S5 – Scrooge's redemption.
5. Contrast	warm vs cold; light vs dark; greed vs generosity; alienation vs family; the interior vs the exterior; misanthropy vs philanthropy; Scrooge vs Fezziwig; Scrooge vs Bob; Scrooge vs Fred; GOCP vs GOCYTC; Stave 1 vs Stave 5.