

Answers: A Christmas Carol

Answers to the AQA exam-style and practice questions are indicative only and highlight the key things that should be included in your response. You may cover other points. It's how your answer is written and how it fits with the mark scheme that will determine the quality of your answer.

CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION

Stave One

p.12 Do it!



For example: 'You will, therefore permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a doornail.' The narrator addresses the reader directly in a playful tone as he discusses the meaning of 'dead as a doornail'. This form of narration allows Dickens to comment directly on the characters' actions and thoughts and make jokes with his readers.

p.12 Stretch it!



The 'fourth wall' comes from the theatre, when a character realises that they are in a play and speaks directly to the audience. In *A Christmas Carol*, the narrator comments on Scrooge, ensuring that the reader knows their opinion.

p.13 Do it!



'Hard and sharp as flint' – 'flint' is a type of rock that was used during the Stone Age to make tools. It is very sharp. This simile links to the 'grindstone' used earlier. Scrooge is shown to be unyielding and harsh as rock.

'solitary as an oyster' – an oyster is encased in a hard shell. It is closed against the world and lives alone on the seabed. Dickens uses this simile to show the reader how Scrooge is isolated and closed off from the world around him. As oysters also can have pearls hidden inside them, Dickens is suggesting that the wealthy businessmen are closed off from the lives of the poor, unwilling to share their hidden wealth.

p.13 Do it!



You may have annotated:

'ruddy smears' – an image of dirt and grime; this is not a comfortable scene

'palpable' – suggests that the air is intense and cloying

'brown air' – implies that the air is unhealthy, poisonous

'fog came pouring in' – the fog is described using flood water images; it is inescapable

'dense' – the fog is so thick that everything is masked and hidden

'phantom' – foreshadowing the ghosts that will appear

'fog' – Gothic literature often featured fog, and both Victorian and modern readers would

understand that it was used in literature to mask crimes and terrible deeds; fog indicates pollution

'fog' – pathetic fallacy is where writers use the weather to create a certain mood; Dickens uses fog to create menace

p.14 Do it!



Fred says that Christmas is a 'good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time' where people can 'open up their shut-up hearts freely' and think of people as 'fellow-passengers to the grave'. He expresses Dickens' belief that we should all help and support all people.

**p. 15 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents attitudes towards Christmas in *A Christmas Carol*. Possible points to include:

- Explore the presentation of Fred as representing Christmas Spirit
- Discuss how Scrooge is presented at the start of the novella as unable to embrace Christmas
- Explore the role of Christmas as unifying all social classes as seen in Christmas Street scenes, Fezziwig
- Comment on Christmas as a symbol for the need for social responsibility through the presentation of the Cratchit family
- Explore Scrooge's path to redemption and how he can embrace Christmas at the end of the novella

p.15 Stretch it!

In Stave Five, Scrooge goes to Fred's home for dinner and enjoys a 'Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happiness'. The repetition of the adjective 'wonderful' reinforces the contrast between Scrooge's attitude in Stave One and his attitude at the end of the novella. The way Dickens breaks up the 'won-der-ful' allows the reader to hear Scrooge's joy and excitement.

p.15 Do it!

Answers the question – from 'Dickens demonstrates...' to 'regardless of his wealth'.

Provides evidence – 'dine with [them]'

Explains how the evidence links to the question, including contextual awareness – from 'Dickens is showing...' to 'still relevant today'.

p.16 Do it!

Your paragraph could contain the following points:

The charity collectors are shocked by Scrooge's point of view, saying that they wished that prisons and workhouses were not in use. Dickens uses humour to show Scrooge's satisfaction with the provision in contrast to the two gentlemen's feelings. He highlights the inhumanity of the system, causing the reader to reflect on their own views.

**p. 17 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with these extracts, explore how Dickens presents attitude to poverty and the poor in *A Christmas Carol*.

- Explore how Bob Cratchit is presented as representing the hardworking poor.
- Explore the scene with the Charity Collectors showing how this relates to Scrooge's attitudes to the poor at this point in the novella.
- Show how Fezziwig is used to show the impact of a generous and charitable employer on the poor.
- Explore how the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come reveals to Scrooge the impact of his attitudes with the death of Tiny Tim.
- Comment on the presentation of the theme of social responsibility and Dickens' key message in the novella.

p.18 Do it!

- A hero – Dickens subverts the idea of the hero because Scrooge, as the main character, is shown needing redemption without heroic or noble traits.
- Someone in need of rescue (usually a woman) – Dickens subverts this: it is Scrooge who needs to be rescued.
- Supernatural beings or monsters – Dickens presents many ghosts in this section with the promise of more to come. We also have haunted footsteps and haunted bells.
- A dark/gloomy setting – Scrooge's house is shown to be full of 'echoes'. It is dark and gloomy and Scrooge liked the darkness because it was 'cheap'.
- Warnings or curses or prophecies – Marley comes to warn Scrooge. He also foretells the arrival of three ghosts.
- High emotion – Marley 'clanked' his chains whenever Scrooge failed to recognise the message the Ghost had given. All of the Ghosts are in torment because they have failed to help mankind during their lives.

p.19 Do it!



- 1 'Expect the first tomorrow when the bell tolls one.' 'Expect the second on the next night at the same hour.' 'The third upon the next night when the last stroke of twelve has ceased to vibrate.'
- 2 Bells signal the approach of Marley's Ghost; Scrooge is told what time the Ghosts will appear; his time is under their control; Marley's Ghost says: 'My time is nearly gone'; Marley's chains are a symbol that Scrooge will be in torment for all time unless he redeems himself.

p.19 Stretch it!



Dickens uses the theme of time to show the reader that Scrooge only has a limited chance to put right the mistakes he has made in the past before he is doomed to Marley's punishment and forced to suffer torment for all time. The Three Ghosts, appearing on consecutive nights, allow Dickens to use this timeline to structure the novella. From this point in the novella, the Ghosts dictate Scrooge's time.

p.21 Do it!



The novella explores one man's journey towards redemption. In Stave One, Scrooge is presented as a 'covetous old sinner!' who carries 'his own low temperature always about with him' which didn't even thaw at Christmas. Towards the end of Stave One, we are shown a tiny step on this journey as Scrooge recognises the judgement within Marley's warning and demands in a 'faltering' voice, 'Is that the chance and hope you mentioned, Jacob?'

p.21 REVIEW IT!



- 1 The Stave begins by talking about Marley's death. The reader expects to be introduced to Scrooge.
- 2 Scrooge keeps the door open to 'keep an eye on' the clerk.
- 3 They suggest the clerk works in a dark and confined space equivalent to a prison cell.
- 4 Scrooge and Fred are shown as opposites. Scrooge is cold and closed off whereas Fred is warm and open.
- 5 Scrooge 'growled' in response. He thinks it is the only thing more ridiculous than 'a merry Christmas'.
- 6 Scrooge thinks that people who are poor are lazy and that they deserve workhouses or prison.
- 7 Scrooge does not feel he should help the poor. Everyone should look after themselves. Workers should not be entitled to paid leave.

8	'Meanwhile the fog and darkness thickened so'	The time connective and the verb suggest the weather is closing in and getting worse.
	'as if its teeth were chattering in its frozen head'	The personification of the church conveys the extent and effect of cold.
	'The water-plug being left in solitude, its overflowings suddenly congealed, and turned to misanthropic ice.'	The use of successive clauses builds the intensity and effect of cold. Personification suggests that cold distrusts humankind.
	'Piercing, searching, biting cold.'	The list of adjectives reveals the violent and menacing nature of cold.
	'The owner of one scant young nose, gnawed and mumbled by the hungry cold as bones are gnawed by dogs, stooped down at Scrooge's keyhole'	Personification, extended by a simile alarmingly describes the effects of the weather on a face.

- 9 Personification. By describing the house as once young and playful but now being old and dreary, Dickens is implying that a childhood or youth, probably Scrooge's, has been lost.
- 10 Scrooge dismisses any thoughts of a haunting with 'Pooh, pooh!'
- 11 This adjective suggests his eyes are without life, 'dead', and appear watery. The word 'glazed' is associated with a sense of numbness and lack of feeling. This fits with his ghostly nature. It could also suggest that his eyes are reflecting Scrooge's poverty of spirit.
- 12 The chains are made of 'cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds and heavy purses wrought in steel'. These elements symbolise Marley's focus on money and business during his lifetime.
- 13 Marley's spirit is doomed to 'witness what it cannot share but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!'
- 14 Marley shows his friendship by warning Scrooge that he has 'yet a hope and chance of escaping' his fate.
- 15 Scrooge sees a host of ghosts, some linked together, all in torment and unable to help humankind, even though they are desperate to do so. Dickens' message is to help humanity while you have the ability to do so.
- 16 Dickens suggests that Scrooge cannot dismiss what he has learned. He has begun his journey to redemption.

CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION

Stave Two

p.22 Do it!



Youth – ‘a child’; ‘being diminished to a child’s proportions’; ‘the face had not a wrinkle in it’, ‘tenderest bloom was on the skin’

Age – ‘like an old man’; ‘hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age’
The sense of age could suggest that the past is far away. Childhood is associated with innocence; this image implies that the past was not tainted by later actions.

p.23 Do it!



- 1 The Ghost of Christmas Past is described as looking almost like a candle, which can be ‘extinguished’ (put out) by a cap. The function of this light is to examine memories and learn from them.
- 2 The Ghost of Christmas Past fluctuates here between a child and an old man. It symbolises our need to examine the influential events in our lives. This child and old man embody how these events change us as time moves on through the contrasts and changes in our lives. The use of contrasts powerfully demonstrates the strangeness of the Ghost of Christmas Past while also showing the reader how, although he is an old man, within Scrooge is still the innocent child he once was.

p.23 Stretch it!



Dickens is suggesting that we need to examine our memories and understand how they have made us the person we are today. Scrooge dislikes the light that the Ghost of Christmas Past gives off and begs for it ‘to be covered’. Scrooge has closed down his memories, causing him to be bitter, unfeeling and unable to connect with others emotionally.

p.24 Do it!



- 1 In this section we see Scrooge’s early life as solitary and lonely. However, Dickens presents Scrooge’s fondness for the landscape and the people he sees, suggesting that his life had some bright spots too.
- 2 We see Scrooge reacting emotionally for the first time here. He cries.
- 3 The reader’s perception of Scrooge will shift to feeling some empathy for him at this point. Until this moment, Scrooge has been presented as ‘cold’ and unemotional – this is a move from his ‘hard as flint’ appearance.

p.25 Do it!



- 1 For example: Firstly, it is implied that Scrooge has been sent away or banished by his father, as he will now be allowed home ‘for ever and ever’. As his father would have been in control of the household, it would have been his decision to keep him away from the house. Secondly, Fan reports that ‘Father is so much kinder than he used to be,’ suggesting that he has not been kind in the past. Linked to this is the statement that ‘home’s like Heaven!’ implying that it was like hell previously. She says that, ‘He spoke so gently to me’, suggesting that this was unusual, and she was so happy that, ‘I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home’, suggesting that she had been afraid before.
- 2 The memory of Fan’s appearance at the school makes Scrooge appreciate her good nature and ‘big heart’.
- 3a Scrooge realises he has not fully appreciated the goodness of his sister and his nephew. He contemplates his previous attitude Fred and regrets his reaction to Fred’s invitation.
- 3b This is another step in Scrooge’s journey towards redemption. Dickens shows that Scrooge realises that his sister was a loving and good person in his life. He realises that Fred could offer him that sense of family love.

p.25 Stretch it!



It is important to show that Fan is a construct rather than a real person. She symbolises the goodness of family love that Scrooge missed as a child. Once again, the reader's sympathies shift towards Scrooge.

p.27 Do it!



heat or warmth – 'fuel was heaped on the fire'; 'the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry'
 food – 'there was a great piece of Cold Roast, and there was a great piece of Cold Boiled, and there were mince-pies, and plenty of beer'
 music and dancing – 'There were more dances, and there were forfeits, and more dances'; 'old Fezziwig stood out to dance with Mrs Fezziwig'

p.27 Stretch it!

**Scrooge:**

- gets down from his stool with 'ill-will'
- is not happy that the clerk will want 'all day tomorrow off'
- complains that wanting time off 'is not convenient' and 'not fair'
- is unhappy to pay a day's wages 'for no work'
- insists that the clerk should 'come in earlier' the following morning
- does not wish the clerk a merry Christmas.

Fezziwig:

- calls to his apprentices, 'No more work tonight'
- is excited that it is 'Christmas Eve'
- tells them to put up the shutters (close the shop) 'before a man can say Jack Robinson!' (quickly)
- 'skips' down from his desk showing his 'agility' and excitement
- calls out to them excitedly 'Hilli-ho, Dick!'
- throws a party for employees, family and town's people.

**p. 29 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the importance of being a good employer in A Christmas Carol.[]

- Explore Scrooge's interactions with Bob Cratchit in the opening stave as evidence of how not to behave as an employer.
- Contrast by examining the presentation of Fezziwig as a good employer.
- Comment on Fred's treatment of Cratchit giving hope for the future.
- Explore the death of Tiny Tim as evidence of Dicken's key messages of social responsibility and how tragedy can be avoided.
- Consider Scrooge's redemption and how he changes as an employer and the lessons for readers.

p.29 Do it!



Point 2: Include details regarding employment during the Victorian era, for example, very few rights for workers and the threat of the workhouse meant that people would not change jobs unless they had something in place. Modern readers with knowledge of the welfare state may find this difficult to appreciate.

Point 3: Treatment of Cratchit would not have been unusual. Dickens is teaching his readers that happiness can be won by treating employees well and with dignity.

Point 5: As modern readers, we have an understanding of what we want from an employer. Fezziwig demonstrates how these employers would have been part of Victorian society.

p.30 Do it!



For example:

‘There was an eager, restless motion in the eye...’

The adjective ‘eager’ suggests keenness and enthusiasm. The reader recognises that this enthusiasm is for wealth not for Belle.

The adjective ‘restless’ suggests agitation and impatience. The reader senses that Scrooge is always looking to how he can change any situation to his material gain.

‘eye’ – in literature, eyes are often used to show what is happening in a character’s soul. In this description, Dickens shows us that Scrooge’s soul is concerned with accumulating wealth ‘...which showed the passion that had taken root, and where the shadow of the growing tree would fall.’

The noun ‘passion’ suggests an emotion beyond the ordinary. It suggests a hunger and craving for money that is corrosive and destructive.

‘shadow’ has negative connotations and is linked to darkness, the opposite of all that is good and pure.

Images of growth are usually associated with positive connotations of progress and development. Instead, the verb ‘growing’ is linked to the ‘shadow’ that is cast through this growth and the passion for money has ‘taken root’ in his soul. There is no way back for Scrooge from this passion for money and wealth and no place for positive, loving relationships in his life.

p.31 Stretch it!



Phrenology was the Victorian idea of being able to tell a person’s characteristics from the size and shape of their skull. Fezziwig’s brow showing his benevolence and the description of Scrooge’s face showing his avarice are examples of this.

p.31 Do it!



Dickens presents Scrooge's actions as a violent response. Scrooge cannot face the truth of the visions the Spirit presents so he needs to extinguish its light 'with all his force'.

p.33 Do it!



Character, what they represent and their function	Key quotation
Fan represents family life and love. She is also used by Dickens to provide hints to Scrooge’s childhood and the cruelty of his father. Fan shows that Scrooge had known love as a child, but also neglect and cruelty.	‘Father is so much kinder than he used to be’
Fezziwig represents the world of business and how it can support those less well-off. Dickens presents Fezziwig as warm, jolly and larger than life. The party is described with sensual imagery, showing the warmth and festivity. Dickens shows that Scrooge has experienced a good employer and causes Scrooge to consider his own employee after this memory.	‘The happiness he gives is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.’
Belle represents the power of romantic love and family. Dickens presents Belle as the life that Scrooge could have had if he hadn’t put money above all else. Scrooge’s regret and unhappiness are shown as he struggles with the Ghost to rid himself of these painful memories.	‘Another idol has displaced me’

p.33 REVIEW IT!



- 1 He has slept for a whole day and into the next night.
- 2 The Ghost pulls back the bed curtains by his face.
- 3 The Ghost was a 'strange figure' that looked sometimes like an old man and sometimes like a child.
- 4 It symbolises what can be learned from memories.
- 5 The Ghost replies, 'Your welfare'.
- 6 Scrooge tells the Ghost that it is a pimple. He cannot admit to his emotion.
- 7 Scrooge 'sobbed' when he saw the child in the schoolroom. He is thawing from his cold emotionless state: he feels sadness, excitement and regret.
- 8 Fan explains that Scrooge can return home. She tells Scrooge that her father is much 'kinder' than before.
- 9 Scrooge reacts with 'great excitement'.
- 10 This section demonstrates how an employer should behave towards his workforce. Scrooge realises that the party would have cost little but made people happy.
- 11 Scrooge wishes that he could 'say a word or two' to his clerk.
- 12 Belle tells Scrooge, 'In everything that made my love of any worth or value in your sight...tell me would you seek me out and try to win me now?'
- 13 Dickens includes the memory of the broken engagement to show that once Scrooge loved Belle and she loved him in return until his love of money grew between them.
- 14 Dickens includes the scene with Belle's family to show a contrast between the solitary life that Scrooge lives now and the noisy, loving life that he could have had but lost.
- 15 Scrooge watches the children being able to touch Belle's hair and lips and shows regret that he would not have permission ('licence') to do this. He regrets not being 'man enough' to have recognised the value of this when he had the chance.
- 16 Scrooge wishes that he could have had a daughter. The metaphor Dickens uses is: 'been a spring-time in the haggard winter of his life'.
- 17 Belle's husband was surprised to see Scrooge alone because his 'partner lies upon the point of death'. He was surprised because Scrooge was in his office rather than being at Marley's deathbed.
- 18 The cap is made by people like Scrooge 'whose passions' have made it. These passions are seen as desires for material things or wealth. They do not allow the person to look back on their past and ask how they could have done things differently. If the Ghost of Christmas Past's light symbolises how we can learn from the past, people like Scrooge who do not experience love or hope and wish to suppress their memories 'cap' the light that can help them learn.
- 19 He behaves angrily, begging to be removed from the scene as he cannot face any more memories. He struggles with the Ghost, reacting violently.
- 20 Scrooge's tear, his realisation that he should have helped the carol singer, his wish to have spoken to the clerk, his defence of Fezziwig's generosity to the Ghost, his torment in seeing Belle, his anger towards the Ghost are all signs that Scrooge is changing.

CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION

Stave Three

p.36 Do it!



Unlike the First Spirit, The Ghost of Christmas Present only covers one Christmas day whereas the Ghost of Christmas Past covers many other years. The Ghost is described as 'jolly' which can be seen as youthful. He is able to feel joy because he does not have the regrets and sorrow that older people looking over their past Christmases may have.

p.36 Stretch it!



The word 'profit' comes from the language of business. Before, Scrooge saw 'profit' in monetary terms. Now he sees that he can 'profit' or gain from the Ghost's teaching.

p.37 Do it!



Contrasts: black house fronts and windows contrasted with white snow; smooth snow on roofs with dirty snow on the ground; yellow mud contrasted with icy water; sooty atoms contrasted with lit fires; the 'climate of the town' having nothing cheerful contrasted with a general 'air of cheerfulness'; hardship of shovelling contrasted with people 'full of glee' snowball throwers laughing if 'right' and laughing if 'wrong'; doors 'half open'; radiance of the shops contrasted with the gloom of the street.

Dickens' message is that the spirit of Christmas makes everything seem better and more cheerful.

**p. 37 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the spirit of Christmas in *A Christmas Carol*

- Explore how Scrooge is shown as rejecting Christmas at the start of the novella.
- Explore how Scrooge's life is seen as 'solitary' and cold leading to the view of the dead man in Stave Four.
- Discuss the role of Fred as the spirit of Christmas and the role of family.
- Explore how Christmas 'saves' Scrooge and leads to his redemption.
- Comment on the role of Christmas as bringing people together in warmth and generosity.

p.38 Do it!



The Cratchit family are presented as the 'deserving poor'. They work hard for their money. Dickens humanises them by showing their love for one another and Bob's gratitude towards Scrooge – even though the reader knows that he has nothing to be grateful for. We see the family struggling to feed themselves, despite Bob's work ethic, and we also see that Tiny Tim's fate is due to this poverty.

p.38 Stretch it!



For example: Warmth is shown as the warmth of family love and the comfort that can bring. Brightness is associated with the comfort of friendship and the celebration of times with family. Fires symbolise the comfort of light in dark times. We are told in Stave One that Scrooge is happy with darkness. Music brings people together in celebration.

**p. 39 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with the opinion that Dickens presents a sentimental view of the lower classes.[]

- Explore the family scenes with the Cratchit family at the start of the novella and Dickens' key social messages.
- Refer to the Cratchit family's reaction to the death of Tiny Tim – compare with the dead man in Stave Four. Key messages of the power of family love.
- Discuss how Dickens presents the Cratchit family as representing the 'deserving poor' – teaching the need for social responsibility by the wealthy.
- Explore how poverty and the poor is described elsewhere in the novella, for example, with the thieves in Stave Four.
- Show how the Cratchit family are able to survive because of Scrooge at the end of the novella and Dickens' key messages to the wealthy members of society.

p.40 Do it!



For example: Fred is seen as warm and generous in every interaction with Scrooge – and here, even when Scrooge is not present, he is still warm towards him. He has 'nothing to say against him'. He understands what Scrooge is losing by not spending Christmas with his and pledges to invite him each year. Other friends and Fred's wife 'have no patience' with Scrooge. They all laugh at Scrooge but it is 'good natured'.

p.41 Do it!



Dickens is indicating that ignorance and want are a problem in Victorian society. Since they exist in his present they must be linked with the Ghost of Christmas Present.

p.41 Stretch it!



With a rise in the use of food banks and reports of 'grey-faced children' in schools, who are undernourished, it could be argued that this split is still prevalent in our society.

p.43 Do it!



Stave	Vision	What Scrooge/the reader learns
1	'Father is so much kinder than he used to be'	Signals to the reader that events will begin to change for Scrooge
	Marley's Ghost	Sets up the arrival of the ghosts. Scrooge learns that Marley wishes he had helped humankind while he had the chance.
2 Ghost of Christmas Past	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past visit the place where Scrooge was born. Scrooge as a boy is seen alone in a schoolroom. It is Christmas.	Scrooge and the reader see Scrooge's lonely childhood.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past visit the schoolroom during another Christmas. Fan enters and says that Scrooge can go home.	Scrooge and the reader understand the love between Scrooge and his sister.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past visit Fezziwig. Scrooge and Dick prepare for the party for Fezziwig's employees and friends in the town.	Scrooge learns how a good employer should treat his workers.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past watch as Belle breaks off the engagement to Scrooge.	Scrooge learns that his love of money has lost him his true love.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Past watch as Belle and her children wait for her husband to return. When he appears he says that he had seen Scrooge alone in his counting house that afternoon while his partner Jacob Marley was on his deathbed.	Scrooge learns how empty and lonely his life is compared to the richness of family life seen through Belle.
3 Ghost of Christmas Present	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present visit a busy street as preparations are made for Christmas festivities	Scrooge learns how the spirit of Christmas helps us all.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present visit the Cratchit family as they prepare and eat lunch.	Scrooge learns that family love makes us all rich – not money and possessions.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present watch a series of visions showing how others spend Christmas: miners, sailors.	Scrooge see how the spirit of Christmas helps us all.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present visit Fred's house. It is just after dinner and a party is about to start.	Scrooge learns the fun and love he could be part of if he accepted Fred's kindness.
	The Ghost begins to age. Ignorance and Want appear from within his robes.	Scrooge learns how ignorance and want will bring doom to humankind and he sees how he could take steps to right these wrongs.

Stave	Vision	What Scrooge/the reader learns
4 Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come listen to the conversations of the merchants who talk about the death of a wealthy, but unpopular man.	Scrooge learns that wealth alone will not bring love or popularity.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come listen to the conversation of a group of businessmen who talk dismissively of a man who has just died.	Scrooge learns that wealth alone will not bring respect.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come watch as three people take stolen goods to the Beetling shop.	Scrooge learns that wealth will not protect you when you die. Family and love are important rather than money and goods. Love is more important and being wealthy but dying alone.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come visit a room where a dead body lies alone.	
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come visit a scene where a couple show emotion about the man's death. That emotion is pleasure.	Scrooge learns that unless we are kind to people who need our help, we will not be remembered with love or tenderness.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come visit a scene showing 'tenderness connected with a death'. That death is the death of Tiny Tim.	Scrooge learns that kindness and love is important – not wealth.
	Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come visit a churchyard. Scrooge sees a neglected grave with a gravestone that reads EBENEZER SCROOGE.	Scrooge learns that he was the man who was spoken of so dismissively. The man whose body was left alone and then robbed.

p.43 REVIEW IT!



- 1 A 'prodigiously loud snore' wakes him up.
- 2 'the walls and ceiling were hung with living green'; bright 'gleaming berries glistened'; holly, mistletoe and ivy reflected light; mirrors were scattered; a fire blazed; food and drink was heaped on the floor to make a throne.
- 3 Scrooge tells the Ghost that he has learned a lesson from the previous evening and now wishes to 'profit' from what this Ghost will teach him. He is willing and ready to learn.
- 4 Poultry, fruit, chestnuts, Spanish onions, apples, pears, filbert nuts, Norfolk Biffins, oranges, lemons and fish.
- 5 At this time, poor people would not have had an oven, so dinners were taken to the bakery to roast. Notice that puddings were boiled, so they could be cooked at home, over the fire.
- 6 The incense makes the food taste better, especially if the person is poor.
- 7 The water restores a person's good humour instantly.
- 8 Mr and Mrs Cratchit, Belinda, Peter, two 'smaller Cratchits' (a boy and a girl), Martha and Tiny Tim.
- 9 Mrs Cratchit worries about the amount of flour in the pudding. They do not worry that it was a small pudding for such a large family.
- 10 The Ghost quotes: 'If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population' and 'Are there no prisons?' 'Are there no workhouses?'
- 11 The miners are assembled around a blazing fire and sing.
- 12 They join hands, toast Christmas and then they sing.
- 13 Fred feels sorry for Scrooge and explains that he 'couldn't feel angry' if he tried.
- 14 Scrooge joins in excitedly with these games and becomes 'light of heart'. Scrooge begs the Ghost to stay for one more game.
- 15 Ignorance. Want.
- 16 The children are young so should have features that show 'graceful youth' but their hands are 'shrivelled and stale' with age; they should be 'angels' but instead 'devils' lurk; through all the 'mysteries of wonderful creation' these 'monsters' were made.
- 17 The children belong to mankind.
- 18 We should beware Ignorance the most (the boy) because he has 'Doom' 'on his brow'. Therefore ignorance will cause the most problems in society.
- 19 Scrooge stands back, appalled by the children.
- 20 The Phantom is described as solemn, draped and hooded, and is moving like 'mist along the ground'.

CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION

Stave Four

p.44 Stretch it!



1 In Western cultures, the Grim Reaper is often portrayed as a hooded skeleton-like figure. His face is usually hidden. He is silent and carries a scythe. His function is to collect the souls of the dead and take them to the afterlife. Sometimes he is depicted carrying a hour-glass showing how time is running out. Dickens is using our cultural knowledge to help build an image of this terrifying phantom. this garment. Dickens uses this adjective to suggest that the Ghost is a sinister and mysterious figure.

p.45 Do it!



- 1 'Stately' suggests that the Ghost is majestic and imposing. Dickens uses this adverb to suggest that it is poised and commands respect from all that see it.
- 2 A 'shroud' is a garment that would wrap a dead body – a burial garment. It also suggests that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to come is 'hidden' or 'cloaked' in this garment. Dickens uses this adjective to suggest that the Ghost is a sinister and mysterious figure.

p.45 Do it!



Your paragraph could contain the following ideas and examples:

- The reader realises the merchants are discussing Scrooge's death as they speculate what he had 'done with his money'.
- The reader realises that the businessmen are referring dismissively to Scrooge's death.
- Scrooge is looking for his future self to receive clues by 'conduct' to understand why the Ghost is showing him these 'trivial' conversations. The reader knows that he will not see his future self.
- Scrooge still does not suspect that he has died when he does not find himself in his 'accustomed corner'.
- Scrooge, horrified, watches the thieves discuss the stolen goods. The reader realises these are his belongings.
- The scenes continue until, finally, Scrooge arrives at the churchyard. The reader guesses that it will be Scrooge's name on the gravestone.

p.46 Do it!



- 1 Dickens presents the thieves as the unscrupulous poor, feared by the wealthy classes. They produce bundles of stolen goods increasing in disreputable and shocking content. The last goods have been taken from the actual corpse. This is designed to shock the reader, showing the thieves' lack of conscience and disrespect. The lack of burial clothing would mean that the body would be buried like a pauper, further emphasising Dickens' message that the wealthy can be easily stripped of their material goods. The thieves' laughter shows that they have no guilt or sense of shame.
- 2 Through the visions showing the dead man, Scrooge finally realises that his own actions and choices have set him up for a similar fate. The body is alone and uncared for. Wealth can be stripped away easily; love and family warmth are more valuable than monetary goods.

p.47 Do it!



- a The merchants only care about whether there will be a good lunch at the funeral and who had inherited Scrooge's money. The businessmen have no interest in the death of 'Old Scratch' other than he was also wealthy, sharing their greed for money. Their conversation soon moves onto the weather. Dickens shows that there is no friendship or love through these kinds of connections as their focus is on money. These relationships are superficial.
- b The depravity and lack of conscience of the thieves shows their greed for money and the depths they will plumb to get it. Their laughter shows their lack of guilt. Dickens illustrates the moral decay and corruption that poverty can cause in society. Through his portrayal of the Cratchit family, he shows that poverty need not cause this behaviour.

p.47 Stretch it!



Dickens is showing the reader that society is morally corrupt.

p.48 Do it!



Rats under the hearth ready to consume the body; people robbing the dead man; people only being interested in attending the funeral for a free lunch; being completely alone in death.

p.49 Do it!



- 1 Reactions to the death have been added in layers. We have seen the corrupt responses from the merchants, businessmen and the thieves. Scrooge wants to hear well of the dead man. He suspects that people will think about him in this way when he dies. This makes the Ghost's revelation at the end of this stave even more powerful.
- 2 Your response could outline the following scenes: Belle and her husband; the gloom of the Cratchit family; reactions of Fred's family. Dickens includes them to drive home the message that Scrooge must change his life or risk never experiencing or losing forever the warmth of human relationships.

p.49 Stretch it!



The inclusion of children in this scene observes the Romantic view of the innocence of children. Dickens is suggesting that no one escapes the merciless power of those willing to exploit the poor – even innocent children. They are portrayed as 'brighter', a symbol of goodness and purity in contrast to the darkness of the creditor's soul.

p.50 Do it!



For example: There is a change here in how Dickens describes the Cratchits. Gone are the noise and the bustle. Dickens is showing the reader that, without Tiny Tim, much of the heart has gone from the family. There is silence and stillness.

p.51 Do it!



Tiny Tim can be viewed as a Christ figure. In Stave Four he is shown to die to teach Scrooge the lesson that he must change his life. Tiny Tim shows that he loves humanity as well as his family – he asks God to bless everybody, not just himself and his family, showing that he is opposite to the cold and 'solitary as an oyster' Scrooge. However, he is unable to change his fate and will die, unless those people who can change it, like Scrooge and the reader, choose to do so.

p.52 Do it!



For example: In this stave, Scrooge learns that money is not as important as human relationships. He also learns that terrible events will occur, like the death of Tiny Tim, unless he uses his money to help others.

p.52 Stretch it!



Most of the novella is secular, meaning that although it centres on Christmas it does not give a religious view of this festival, rather the focus is on generosity and family. There is a change in tone here and Christian themes permeate the stave as Scrooge faces his death and what will happen to him thereafter.

p.53 Do it!



- 1 It could be argued that Scrooge had realised that the man was himself, which is why he reacts with such emotion to the thieves. It could also be argued that he was suffering from the ignorance that Dickens criticises the wealthy for.
- 2 Structure: Scrooge needs to be put through a series of trials in order to face this truth. Dickens needs the reader to accept his message. By repeating the message in a series of episodes, Dickens is emphasising the lessons that his readers need to learn.

**p. 53 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the idea of transformation in A Christmas Carol.

- Explore imagery of the Ghost's transformation to the bedpost following Scrooge's assertion that he now has an 'altered life'.
- Consider how Scrooge is portrayed at the start of the novella as 'cold'.
- Discuss how Scrooge transforms throughout the novella through the visions. Introduce the idea of redemption.
- Examine Scrooge's lessons learned in Stave Four.
- Explore Scrooge's path to redemption: how is he different at the end of the novella?

p.55 Do it!

- The death of Tiny Tim sees the reduction of the 'population' Scrooge called for in Stave One.
- Tim's death warns the reader what will happen if the wealthy do not help to support the poor. In Stave Five, Tim lives because Scrooge intervenes to help him.
- The thieves justify their behaviour: 'Every person has a right to take care of themselves. He always did.' This reinforces Dickens' message regarding the moral corruption that will take place if everyone just thinks about himself or herself without thinking about society.
- The thieves show that the desperation that poverty can cause can make people behave in this dishonest and corrupt way.

p.55 REVIEW IT!

- 1 The Ghost was silent; it gathered 'gloom and mystery', it was 'shrouded' in a black garment; had no visible face; only had one 'out-stretched hand' visible; was surrounded by darkness.
- 2 Scrooge is afraid but knows its 'purpose is to do me good'.
- 3 For example: in literature, death has always been portrayed as silent; Scrooge has to learn the lessons himself and cannot be 'told' at this stage of his journey; the silence makes the Ghost more terrifying as it does not interact with Scrooge or answer his questions; as the future is uncertain, the Ghost cannot comment on it.
- 4 They 'yawn' and discuss who might be left his money.
- 5 They joke that it will be a very 'cheap' funeral.
- 6 They call him 'Old Scratch', a term for the devil.
- 7 Scrooge had always tried to make the businessmen think well of him, 'standing well in their esteem' because they were important for business.
- 8 Dickens presents the businessmen as just saying that 'Old Scratch' had died without any further mention of him or sign of friendship or sadness.
- 9 People in the part of town where the Ghost takes Scrooge are described as 'half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly'. The thieves' behaviour is morally corrupt.
- 10 The three thieves were: a laundress; a charwoman and an undertaker's man.
- 11 The shop was full of rusty keys, refuse iron, corrupted fat, rags, bones.
- 12 Mrs Dibner has removed the shirt that the body was to be buried in and the blankets covering the body and the bed curtains. This is degrading and shows a lack of respect for the dead that shocks the reader.
- 13 The thieves 'laugh' as they display their stolen goods, showing that they do not care about their behaviour.
- 14 The body is described as 'plundered and bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared for'.
- 15 The man and his wife's reactions contrast with the lack of remorse felt by the thieves. The man is struggling to 'repress' his 'serious delight'. The wife is 'thankful' for the death then prays for forgiveness.
- 16 Tiny Tim will be buried in a 'green' place.
- 17 Bob Cratchit describes Fred's 'extraordinary kindness'; he describes him as 'the pleasantest-spoken gentleman'; 'it really seemed as if he had known our Tiny Tim, and felt with us'.
- 18 The office was the same, but the furniture and the person seated there were both different.
- 19 Scrooge means that in the present he will use the lessons of this past to influence his future for the better.
- 20 The one thing certain in our future is that we will die. Fred uses this idea to show why Christmas should be celebrated – in the present – in Stave One.

CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION

Stave Five

p.56 Do it!



‘fluttered’ suggests that he is trembling with his need to put right all of his wrongs. It suggests his excitement and is a forceful emotion. The reader will notice that at the start of the novella, Scrooge was cut off and ‘solitary’.

‘glowing’ – this image of light suggests that Scrooge is now ‘good’ – that his soul is no longer dark.

‘that his broken voice would scarcely answer’ – Dickens uses personification to show that Scrooge’s voice is rebelling against him. His voice would be used to growling and being sarcastic – so this joy is a change. However the voice is ‘broken’, suggesting that he is overcome with emotion.

p.56 Stretch it!



Bells are used at various points in the Christian church. One use, which Dickens uses here, is to call the congregation into church. Dickens could be suggesting that Scrooge no longer needs the influence of the Spirits so they can be banished by the church bells.

p.57 Do it!



Stave One

Your responses may include:

‘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.’

‘No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty.’

‘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!’

Stave Five	Stave One
‘A Happy New Year to all the world! Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!’	No wind that blew can be bitterer than he,....
‘I don’t know anything. I’m quite a baby. Never mind. I don’t care!’.	‘ But what did Scrooge care...
‘merry bells. Oh, glorious. Glorious!’	What else can I be,’ returned the uncle...

p.59 Do it!



Character	Stave One	Stave Five
Bob Cratchit's working conditions	'Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was... very much smaller'	Scrooge tells Bob to 'make up the fires and buy another coal-scuttle'.
Bob Cratchit's pay	Scrooge resents Bob Cratchit having a paid day's holiday for Christmas Day: '...you don't think me ill-used when I pay a day's wages for no work'.	Scrooge raises Bob's salary and declares that he will: 'endeavour to assist your struggling family'.
Fred	Scrooge refuses Fred's invitation to spend Christmas with him and his family: 'Keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine.'	Scrooge joins the party at Fred's house where he has a 'Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful unanimity and won-der-ful happiness!'
The charity collectors	Scrooge refuses to give money for the poor. He tells the charity collectors that his donation will be 'Nothing'.	Scrooge gives a generous donation and says that there are 'A great many back payments in it.'
Tiny Tim	How Scrooge feels about the poor and the sick: 'If they would rather die... they had better do it and decrease the surplus population.'	To Tiny Tim, Scrooge became 'a second father'.

p.61 Do it!



Your answer will include your personal response. For example: Scrooge's transformation begins slowly in Stave Two as he starts to respond to the Ghost's visions; Dickens uses the party as a symbol of family love and warmth; the turkey is a symbol of how the wealthy can help and bring happiness to the poor.

p.62 Do it!



For example: Greed: Stave Five shows that generosity is the opposite of greed and how generosity (treating the errand boy generously, giving food to the needy, donating to charity) can breed goodwill and harmony in society.

Poverty: Dickens' message is demonstrated here by Scrooge helping those in need through charity donations and by being a generous employer. His poverty in terms of family love is eradicated as he opens his heart to the spirit of Christmas, symbolising the warmth of human relationships.

p.63 REVIEW IT!



- 1 The fact that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come turned into the bedpost at the end of Stave Four, suggests that the 'solitary' death he foresaw may not occur.
- 2 Marley appeared to Scrooge to warn Scrooge and enable him to begin his journey to redemption.
- 3 Dickens is signalling Scrooge's rebirth with this metaphor.
- 4 The bells in this stave are described as 'Glorious' as they mark that Christmas is here. In Stave One, the 'cacophony' of bells marked the arrival of Jacob Marley.
- 5 Dickens uses pathetic fallacy when he describes how the fog has lifted. The 'golden' sunlight symbolises Scrooge's brand new start in life.
- 6 Turkey was expensive, luxury meat at this time.
- 7 The turkey is described as 'twice the size of Tiny Tim'.
- 8 The door-knocker's transformation signalled the first ghostly visitation by Jacob Marley.
- 9 Laughter has been missing from Scrooge's life. It is used now to show the old, 'cold' Scrooge has thawed.
- 10 Scrooge was dancing.
- 11 Three or four people react by greeting Scrooge and wishing him, 'A Merry Christmas to you!'
- 12 Scrooge asks if the charity collector will come to visit him. It is important because it shows that Scrooge is opening his heart to human interaction and relationships.
- 13 Fred's reaction is to welcome him warmly by almost shaking 'his arm off'.
- 14 He says, 'I was making rather merry yesterday'.
- 15 Scrooge reacts by telling Bob Cratchit that he is 'not going to stand for this kind of thing any longer' and that he is going to 'raise your salary!'
- 16 Scrooge tells Bob Cratchit to 'Make up the fires and buy another coal-scuttle'. This is a contrast with the cold of the counting house in the opening stave.
- 17 Tiny Tim 'did *not* die'.
- 18 The narrator takes up the storyline at the end. This means that Dickens can comment on Scrooge's actions, reinforcing his message of social responsibility.
- 19 'Scrooge was better than his word.'
- 20 Tiny Tim. 'God bless us, every one!' Tiny Tim is seen as everything that is good. He has the last words to reinforce the message that we too, can transform other people's lives and we can learn from him.

CHARACTERS

p.65 Do it!



- 1 This is one possible solution: rude, miserable, comical, lonely, shrewd, self-pitying, unwise, brave, evil.
- 2 For example: Scrooge is 'rude' to Fred when Fred invites him to spend Christmas with him. He is 'miserable' when he confronts the images of his lonely childhood and his broken engagement to Belle. Scrooge isn't intentionally comical for we are told that he isn't in 'the habit of cracking jokes', but Dickens presents him as a comical figure who puts the vision of a ghost down to 'an undigested bit of beef'.

p.67 Do it!



- Ghost of Christmas Present – gentle, shifting
The Ghost's shape changes between old and young and constantly shifts in shape. Its voice is described as 'gentle', but at the end of stave it is described as 'relentless' and forces Scrooge to watch the scene with Belle.
- Ghost of Christmas Past – joyful, jolly
The Ghost embodies the joy of the Christmas spirit. At the end of the stave, 'Ignorance and Want' appear from his robes.
- Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come – commanding, imposing
The Ghost's silence intimidates as does the 'gloom and mystery' that it scatters in its wake. It points its finger commandingly to show Scrooge the direction of travel, yet this changes to a 'kindly hand' by the end of the stave.

p.67 Stretch it!



Your answer could include: insistent – Marley has come with a warning for Scrooge. He is insistent that Scrooge listens and begins his journey to redemption; remorseful – Marley is full of remorse for always having his 'eyes turned down' to the plight of his 'fellow-beings.'

p.67 Do it!



The strengths of the answer is that the answer critically explores the novella, choosing precise details in relation to the question (AO1). An area for development would be to analyse the methods Dickens uses to influence the reader using subject terminology (AO2).

p.69 Do it!



Your response could include:

- 1 'Oh what a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit regarded it as her greatest success' There is love and respect between Bob and Mrs Cratchit.
- 2 'I'll give you Mr Scrooge, the founder of the feast.' Bob Cratchit generously gives a toast to Scrooge, despite his treatment by Scrooge and the disapproval of his wife, showing his loyalty and gratitude to Scrooge.
- 3 Peter Cratchit says, 'I think he's walked a little slower than he used'. This shows how Bob Cratchit is mourning the death of his son Tiny Tim, a contrast to Scrooge's vision of his own death.
- 4 The family represents the hard-working poor. They also symbolise the warmth of family love.
- 5 The Cratchit family are designed to offer a picture of the 'deserving poor' – a challenge to wealthy public opinion at that time.

p.69 REVIEW IT!



- 1 Tiny Tim
- 2 Miserliness means excessive meanness and a craving to save and hoard money.
- 3 Scrooge
- 4 Scrooge threatens to sack Bob Cratchit for wanting more coal: ‘...as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part’.
- 5 This threat shows that Scrooge enjoys his power and does not think of the comfort of his employees.
- 6 He says, ‘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.’
- 7 Scrooge says it is indigestion: ‘You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese...’
- 8 This tells the reader that he is sceptical about everything in life. He is not willing to trust his senses.
- 9 It shows that he is forgiving and generous, despite Scrooge’s unreasonable and cold behaviour.
- 10 The Cratchit family have a ‘dark shadow’ cast on the party after this toast. Mrs Cratchit is angry – even Tiny Tim doesn’t want to join in. This is important because Scrooge is able to see the consequences of his behaviour on this jolly and loving family.
- 11 This quotation shows the reader that Fred will always look on the positive side of Christmas and that he refuses to let his uncle spoil that for him.
- 12 You could have: strange, shifting, commanding, gentle, old/young, etc.
- 13 You could have: huge, jolly, vibrant, warning, friendly, etc.
- 14 You could have: forbidding, terrifying, silent, mysterious, challenging, etc.
- 15 Tiny Tim’s
- 16 Belle says that she has been replaced by a ‘golden idol’ – gold/money.
- 17 Scrooge is shown his own untended gravestone by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.
- 18 Fred
- 19 Tiny Tim. ‘God bless us, every one!’
- 20 This is your own opinion. You could have Tiny Tim, Fred, or Bob Cratchit. You need to explain the function of the character. See page 60 for details of character functions.

THEMES AND CONTEXTS

p.70 Stretch it!



Dickens was horrified by the views of an economist named Thomas Robert Malthus. Malthus published his theory that population growth would always overtake available food, resulting in poverty and starvation. Malthus supported the Poor Laws and the workhouses, arguing that anyone unable to sustain himself had no right to live. Scrooge voices Malthus' views when he replies to the charity collectors.

p.71 Do it!



Other steps towards redemption could include:

- Scrooge's defence of Fezziwig and wishing he 'should be able to say a word or two to my clerk' (Stave Two).
- Wishing he had a loving family as he watches Belle and her daughter: someone 'as full of promise, might have called him father' (Stave Two).
- Scrooge reconnecting with human relationships and asking 'with an interest he had never felt before, "tell me if Tiny Tim will live"' (Stave Three).
- Scrooge enjoying Fred's party through the vision: 'Uncle Scrooge had imperceptibly become so gay and light of heart' (Stave Three).
- Understanding that the dead man's conduct might parallel his own: 'My life tends that way now' (Stave Four).
- Pledging to 'honour Christmas in his heart' (Stave Four).

p.72 Do it!



Your response could include:

'Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!' (Stave One)
The effect of this list of non-finite verbs is to show how Scrooge's greed for money is unending and infinite.

'but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family' (Stave Three)

The effect of this quotation is to show the love and acceptance of the Cratchit family. They are happy with their small pleasures and are not greedy.

p.72 Do it!



- The desperation of the poor can be seen through the actions of the thieves who rob the dead body (Stave Four).
- The miners who 'labour in the bowels of the earth' are shown as working in harsh conditions but they are a 'cheerful company' (Stave Three).
- Scrooge's childhood is shown to have a poverty of love and human warmth as he is shown as a 'solitary child' (Stave Two).

p.73 Do it!



For example: redemption: improvement, restoration, recovery, development, progress

p.74 Do it!



Your response could contain the following ideas:

The striking image of the cold that surrounds Scrooge is one of our first impressions of him. This cold is 'within him' and 'no warmth could warm' him. He is impervious to the warmth of human relationships, shut off from this like 'an oyster'. Heat comes into the counting house with the 'glowing' Fred, whose generosity and forgiveness towards Scrooge continue throughout the novella. This motif recurs with miners 'assembled round a glowing fire' and the lighthouse men's fire that throws out a 'ray of brightness on the awful sea'. All of these images use warmth as a symbol of comfort, celebration and family love.

p.75 Do it!



There are many symbols associated with the Ghosts: for example, the symbol of what we can learn from memory as a 'bright, clear jet of light' from the Ghost of Christmas Past's head; the symbol of the Ghost of Christmas Present's torch which spreads goodwill and Christmas cheer that shows Scrooge how Christmas can transform our lives; the shroud worn by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come symbolises the death that will come to us all.

p.77 Do it!



For example:

- widely-held belief in Dickens' time that the poor were lazy therefore their plight was of their own making; this is a belief that appears even within our own society today.
- Dickens wanted to show Victorian society a portrait of the hardworking poor. Bob Cratchit works hard, as do Martha and Peter, to support the family.
- Bob Cratchit is always generous towards his employer, referring to him as 'founder of the feast' in the face of Scrooge's ill-treatment. This shows the reader that, despite his poverty, morally Bob Cratchit is a better man.

p.77 REVIEW IT!



- 1 Something the novella is about.
- 2 Duty, obligation requirement
- 3 Neediness, destitution, hardship
- 4 Avarice, covetousness, materialism
- 5 Festivity, party, event
- 6 Ignorance and Want
- 7 The poor belong in the workhouse or prisons if they cannot pay their bills.
- 8 The Lord Mayor gives his fifty cooks and butlers orders to prepare a Christmas fit for a Lord Mayor.
- 9 The Lord Mayor orders a lavish Christmas. Dickens contrasts this with the tailor's Christmas 'whom he had fined five shillings' and his 'lean wife'. This shows the differences between the wealthy and the poor. However, they are both celebrating in the same way.
- 10 Christmas, family
- 11 Social responsibility; poverty
- 12 Fezziwig's party for his employees, Fred's condolences to Bob Cratchit when he hears of the death of Tiny Tim.
- 13 The Ghost is quoting Scrooge's early words about how people celebrate Christmas. He is suggesting that it doesn't cost much to make people happy. This contrasts with Scrooge as an employer.
- 14 Scrooge tells the Ghost that an employer can make employees happy or unhappy; can make their work enjoyable or the opposite. An employer can bring happiness to employees. Dickens tells the reader that this was his 'former not his latter self' speaking.
- 15 a 'I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future.' Scrooge pledges to learn from the lessons of the Three Ghosts.
 - b You could choose: 'The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour, then?' said Scrooge.' This quotation reveals the opinions of the wealthy classes who did not see their responsibility towards the poor.
 - c You could choose: '...back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire'. Dickens shows the role of family love within Christmas celebrations. Here we see the family looking after each other with the symbol of the fire showing the warmth of family love.
 - d You could choose: 'why wasn't he natural in his lifetime? If he had been, he'd have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.' The thief tells Joe that if Scrooge had shared his life and his money kindly, then people would have mourned him after death.
 - e You could choose: 'The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!' Marley explains that he should have thought more about humanity and less about making money.
 - f You could choose: 'The school is not quite deserted,' said the Ghost. 'A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.' Even as a child, at Christmas, Scrooge was left alone at the school. Dickens shows the reader why Scrooge is so bitter.

LANGUAGE, STRUCTURE AND FORM

p.79 Do it!



For example: I like the description of the apples because I find the humour of the personification enjoyable. Dickens presents the apples ‘urgently entreating’ to be taken home. The use of the adverb ‘urgently’ intensifies an already dramatic verb ‘entreating’, suggesting that they are begging and imploring to be eaten immediately.

p.80 Do it!



Your response will outline your own personal opinion, however when you analyse why your chosen lines are effective, ensure that you comment on the effect of the way Dickens uses language.

p.81 Do it!



For example:

- parallels of the use of Three Spirits, their entry into Scrooge’s life, how they deliver their messages and leave
- parallels shown through contrasts between the ‘pleasure’ at Scrooge’s death and the ‘tenderness’ of Tiny Tim’s death in Stave Four
- parallels shown through contrasts between the lavish Lord Mayor’s Christmas preparations and the hardship of the miners and the lighthouse men.

p.82 Do it!



The Cratchit family would represent the deserving poor. Through his depiction of this grateful, loving family, Dickens was showing that poverty did not mean criminality.

p.83 REVIEW IT!



- 1 ‘Humbug’ means a fraud or a deception.
- 2 ‘Bah’ suggests Scrooge’s disgust.
- 3 Fred means other people travelling through life. He is suggesting that everyone is on the same journey.
- 4 Bedlam is a colloquial name for St Mary of Bethlehem Hospital. It was known as a ‘lunatic asylum’.
- 5 We are talking about Dickens’ language choices and the impact of these on the reader.
- 6 You can get by without understanding every word or phrase. The effort to understand is worth it.
- 7 Comparing two things using ‘like’ or ‘as’, for example, ‘as hard as flint’.
- 8 Comparing two things as though they are literally the same thing, for example, ‘his breath smoked again’ – Fred’s breath was like smoke from a fire.
- 9 Pathetic fallacy is where weather is used to reflect the mood of a character or a setting.
- 10 This metaphor links the decay of Jacob Marley’s face to the glow that is produced by rotting shellfish.
- 11 A ‘shade’ is another term for a ghost.
- 12 Jacob Marley was ‘chained’ to his love of money without trying to help others.
- 13 Parallel scenes
- 14 Scrooge uses ‘business’ to mean commerce and making money.
- 15 Jacob Marley uses ‘business’ to mean his focus should have been on mankind and charity – not money.
- 16 Dickens is using personification in his description of the clock by using the adjective ‘preposterous’ which would normally be used to describe the behaviour of a person rather than an object.
- 17 ‘Melancholy’ is an emotional state of sadness and depression.
- 18 Smoking Bishop is a form of mulled (heated) wine.
- 19 The narrator tells us what we should think of Scrooge at the start of the novella. The narrator enables Dickens to comment on the action and steer the reader’s thinking.
- 20 You could mention a number of factors including: the pattern of the Three Ghosts gives the play momentum; traditional expectations of an allegory; how the reader identifies with Scrooge’s redemption; the reader’s enjoyment of a Christmas story and a ghost story; parallel structure of past, present and future.

DOING WELL IN YOUR AQA EXAM

p.88 Do it!



In answer A evidence is integrated and explained. B is really a waste of time: rather than explaining what the quotation the student merely repeats the idea. The quotation is too long – therefore using up valuable time.

p.91 REVIEW IT!



- 1 Read the question.
- 2 To ensure that you read the extract with the question in mind.
- 3 10–15 minutes
- 4 Your key, *relevant* ideas; the content of each of four or five main paragraphs; the order of the paragraphs.
- 5 Timings make sure you do not get stuck on one point and fail to cover the question focus in enough breadth.
- 6 Four or five plus a brief introduction and conclusion.
- 7 Knowing the mark scheme will help you plan to cover its requirements.
- 8 Brief, relevant introductions and conclusions can be used.
- 9 That is up to you, but writing about the extract first can help you to keep the focus of the question in mind.
- 10 Each paragraph should answer the question! You will have planned the subtopics.
- 11 Yes
- 12 You can use direct evidence – quotations or you can cite an event in the novella to back up your ideas.
- 13 Planning and writing answers to exam questions.
- 14 The question.
- 15 R Relevant I Insightful P Precise E Exploratory
- 16 The conclusion does not add anything to the response.
- 17 The conclusion neatly sums up Dickens' key message in the novella.
- 18 'supernatural' –this question focuses on how Dickens shows the reader the supernatural and his attitude towards it.
'presents' – What does Dickens say about the supernatural? What are his methods? What is his viewpoint? How do we know this?
- 19 Plan to cover four or five topics (one paragraph each) relevant to the exam focus. Make sure you plan to explore the extract in detail and use it as a starting point for making relevant connections with other parts of the novella.
- 20 paragraph might include the following points:
 - Jacob Marley: his role as a 'friend' to Scrooge as he issues the warning. His social message that he is 'fettered' because he 'forged' the links in the chains that bind him. He did not help others. Dickens' message to society.
 - Examine symbolic representation of the chains: the 'cashboxes', 'ledgers', etc. The significance culturally of the endless 'torment'.
 - Outline how Dickens uses the visitation of the Three Ghosts in succession to shape the structure of the plot.

AQA EXAM-STYLE QUESTIONS

**p. 92 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the world of work in *A Christmas Carol*.

- Contrast different attitudes towards the world of work, both within Scrooge and within Bob Cratchit: Scrooge's power over Bob Cratchit – shown through language; Scrooge's use of rhetorical questions to bully; contrast between the 'expectant' clerk and Scrooge's bad tempered responses.
- Discuss how Scrooge's attitudes towards the world of work are shown from Stave One, paying attention to language subtleties: his treatment of Fred; his understanding of the poverty of the Cratchit family but their joy in Stave Two.
- Explore how Dickens presents the positive side of the world of work: the happiness Fezziwig brings to his workers; Fred's generosity; how Scrooge changes at the end to take on Fezziwig's lessons.
- Show how Dickens uses Scrooge's attitudes to the world of work to convey his social message about the employer's social responsibility and the impact that this can have on those who are poor and in need.

**p. 93 AQA exam-style question**

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the character of Fred, Scrooge's nephew, in *A Christmas Carol*.

- Explore different attitudes towards Christmas both within Scrooge and within Fred – looking particularly at the symbolism of warmth and cold explored/language of heat.
- Explore Dickens' presentation of Fred's as the antithesis to Scrooge. Examine Fred's attitudes to Christmas, to love and marriage and in contrast to Scrooge's attitudes, paying attention to language subtleties.
- Consider how Dickens presents Fred's generosity towards Bob Cratchit and relate it to Dickens' social message of goodwill. Look also at Scrooge and Fred in Stave Five.
- Show how Dickens uses Fred to convey his social message: the warmth and social responsibility found through the goodwill of Christmas.