

Answers

A Christmas Carol

DO IT! ANSWERS

pp.9–37

p.9 Do it!



- Explore how happiness is presented in the extract through Fred's infectious laughter and his interactions with the 'musical family'. This noise and 'merriment' surrounding Fred in the extract contrasts with the silence of the counting house in Stave One. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore the role of happiness in family life for the Cratchits: despite their desperate situation, their love as a family brings them happiness. (AO1)
- Explore the role of Christmas as a bringer of happiness to the population. (AO3)
- The description in Stave Three of Christmas preparations show people, 'jovial and full of glee'. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore the role of money in happiness: Scrooge's unhappiness despite having money ('melancholy dinner'); Fred and the Cratchits are poor but happy. (AO1)
- Social message: Scrooge states that he 'can't afford to make idle people happy'. Dickens shows that it is society's role to ensure that people can enjoy life and that everyone deserves happiness. (AO3)

p.13 Do it!



- Explore how Dickens presents the power of the employer over the employee in the extract: Scrooge has power over Cratchit. However, he does not have the power to suppress Cratchit's joy in his freedom to enjoy Christmas Eve. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how the novel shows the power of the past and the future to change the present eg through the ghosts. (AO1/AO2)
- Examine how Scrooge believes that money brings power, but Fred and the Cratchits believe that love and family is more powerful than money. Fred has Cratchit's loyalty because of kind words; the Cratchits cope with their hard lives because of their family love. (AO2)
- Presentation of the power of the ghost's message to bring about Scrooge's redemption. They show him the power of compassion. (AO2)
- Dickens' social message shown through the presentation of Fezziwig. His power as an employee was through his kindness and generosity. (AO3)

p.17 Do it!



- Explore how the extract portrays Jacob Marley as conscience. Marley's guilt is represented by the chain forged 'link by link' in his life. Marley shows how guilt means that he cannot rest even in death and offers 'no comfort' that Scrooge will escape this fate. (AO1/AO2)
- Scrooge's actions presented by the ghosts show what he must feel guilt about: his treatment of Cratchit in Stave One and the treatment of the carol singer. This shows how society should protect those who are less fortunate. (AO2/AO3)
- Explore how the theme of guilt is presented: we must feel guilt to understand how to put our actions right. Compare Scrooge at the start and the end of the novel. (AO2)
- Explore how Dickens uses Tiny Tim as a device to enable Scrooge to right his wrongs. (AO2)
- Explore Dickens' message that society should recognise that we all have the opportunity to behave kindly to each other – rather than feel guilt later. (AO3)

p.21 Do it!



- Explore how Dickens presents a sense of surprise in the extract: slowly zooming into the name of the grave, 'Ebenezer Scrooge'. Language used to show Scrooge's shock, 'No, Spirit! Oh no, no!' – exclamatory language, repetition of 'no' to show his denial of the facts. (AO2)
- Presentation of Jacob Marley in Stave One: his eternal torment having to witness the hardships of others surprises the reader with its hard-hitting message. Help while you have the opportunity or you will face eternal consequences. (AO1/AO2)
- Examine how Dickens presents the surprising revelation by the ghosts: Scrooge's lonely childhood; his lonely, loveless life; his terrible future. The reader is surprised and invests in his redemption. (AO1)
- Explore how the characters view Scrooge with surprise in Stave Five following his moral conversion as he puts right his wrong from Stave One: wishes people warm greetings; gives the charity gentleman a donation; sends a turkey to the Cratchits. (AO1/AO2)
- How Scrooge is surprised by Fred's determination to include him in family celebrations. This reflects Dickens' social message: through the support and goodwill of others, we can transform. This comes as a surprise to Scrooge but not to the reader. (AO3)

p.25 Do it!



- Explore the negative language associated with Ignorance and Want in the extract: 'hideous', 'scowling'; the realities of poverty and children's lack of control over their poverty. (AO2)
- Explore the novel as an allegory. Explore Dickens' social message: childhood innocence stripped as a consequence of the actions of the rich. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore the injustices in Victorian England – Malthus and Poor Law. How the novel reacts against this. (AO3)
- Explore the death of Tiny Tim as Dickens' key message of social responsibility and of how tragedy can be avoided. (AO2/AO3)
- Explore how Jacob Marley presents Dickens' view that 'mankind' should be our 'business not profit'. Explore the allegory's message that we should be responsible for all in society. The novel examines how change must come from the rich for all. (AO1/AO3)

p.29 Do it!



- Explore the central intention of the novel: that we must be responsible for the whole of society and how we should help each other. (AO1/AO3)
- Explore the social message presented by the Ghost of Christmas Present in the extract: that Christmas brings people together in warmth and generosity, showing the importance of community. (AO1/AO3)
- Examine Jacob Marley's role as the messenger for social change regarding the role of business in transforming people's lives: 'Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business'. (AO1/AO2/AO3)
- Explore how the thieves are presented in Stave Five. They represent society's fears regarding the 'undeserving poor' (in contrast to the Cratchits presented as the deserving poor). (AO2/AO3)
- Explore how Ignorance and Want act as a warning for society. (AO1/AO3)
- The ghosts show Scrooge that redemption is possible and this message can be extended to society itself. We must bring about social change to protect all in society. (AO1/AO3)

p.33 Do it!

- Explore how the family is presented in the extract as grateful for their Christmas celebration despite having little. Aimed to evoke sympathy in the reader to aid Dickens' social message. (AO1/AO3)
- Explore how Christmas celebration brings cheer and goodwill to the general population in Stave Three. Compare with Scrooge's lonely and solitary Christmas as a child. (AO1/AO2)
- Examine the role of Fred as the embodiment of the spirit of Christmas, and the role of family, including Scrooge's rejection of this. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how Dickens presents Fezziwig as a good employer through his treatment of his employees at the Christmas celebrations. (AO1/AO3)
- Dickens presents Christmas celebrations to highlight his social message to highlight the importance of love and family in society. (AO3)

p.37 Do it!

- Explore how Scrooge's past family and home life is revealed in this extract. Love is represented by the presentation of Fan: cruelty implied about his father. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore the role of family in celebration, sharing family love and sharing family grief through the presentation of the Cratchit family. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore the role of Fred, his extension of friendship and warmth and Scrooge's rejection of it at the start of the novel. Examine what Scrooge's acceptance of this love by the end of the novel means in terms of Scrooge's redemption. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how Scrooge is taught the value of family and home life: Belle and her husband; the reaction of Fred's family to Scrooge's reported behaviour; the isolation of the dead man as he is robbed by thieves. (AO1/AO3)
- In the shocking revelations in Stave Five, Dickens drives home his message that Scrooge must change his life or risk never experiencing the warmth of human relationships. (AO1/AO3)

ANSWERS TO EXAM STYLE QUESTIONS

pp.38–45

Answers to the AQA exam-style 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.

p.38 Question 1 (redemption) ?

- In the extract we see that Scrooge has transformed from the selfish miser in Stave One who is cruel to Cratchit to this generous and good natured character – joking and most importantly for the novel's message, saving Tiny Tim. (AO1/AO2)
- Scrooge needs redemption but we see that he is willing to take these steps. Explore how the structure of the novel charts how he faces a series of trials that lead him to redemption. (AO2)
- Explore how in Stave Two we see Scrooge's first steps to redemption: he weeps when he sees his boyhood home – his first emotion, 'Your lip is trembling'. He shows regret by not giving the carol singer 'something, that's all' and he learns the richness of family life through Belle and Fan. (AO2)
- Explore how in Stave Three, Scrooge learns that family love and the spirit of Christmas make us rich – not possessions. In Stave Four we are shown that wealth will not protect us when we die. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore Dickens' message that if Scrooge can transform his beliefs to accept those in society that need his help, anyone can. (AO3)

p.39 Question 2 (childhood) ?

- Explore how the extract presents Scrooge's childhood. Examine how the atmosphere moves from happiness as Scrooge 'rejoiced', to his sorrow at this 'solitary child' and this 'poor forgotten self'. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore why and how Dickens shows Scrooge as a sympathetic character in the extract: description of the 'decayed' school and Scrooge's childhood isolation. Dickens wants the reader to sympathise with Scrooge. (AO1/AO2)
- Ignorance and Want: explore Dickens' portrayal of the corruption of childhood. Examine Victorian sentimental view of childhood and compare this view with these two creatures. (AO2/AO3)
- Explore the Cratchits. The family represents family love and security – yet Martha is at work and there is a need for the young family members to earn money to support the family. (AO1/AO3)
- Dickens' social message is delivered through the presentation of Tiny Tim. The reader invests in him – as Scrooge does – and Tiny Tim's death teaches Scrooge – and society – that there must be change to protect us all. (AO3)

p.40 Question 3 (wealth and happiness) ?

- Explore how the extract shows how Scrooge's love for money and desire for wealth has destroyed his chance of happiness with Belle: 'A golden' idol replaces her. Explore Belle's use of the language of money. (AO2)
- Explore Dickens' presentation of Fred as happy and loved despite a lack of money: 'You're poor enough'. Fred points out that even though Scrooge is 'rich enough' he is not happy. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how Dickens presents the Cratchit family. They are poor in wealth however they are rich in happiness and love. (AO1/AO2)
- Through his redemption, Scrooge learns that by sharing his wealth; he can find happiness. In Stave Four, he is shown a possible 'wealthy' future, where he dies alone facing desecration of his body by grave robbers. (AO1/AO2)
- Dickens' social message, through his warnings by the portrayal of Ignorance and Want, is that the wealthy should use their money to bring happiness to the poor. (AO3)

p.41 Question 4 (humour and scorn) ?

- Examine how Scrooge asks Jacob Marley whether he could 'sit down'. This is done to distract from his fear. He uses wordplay to diminish Jacob Marley, 'more of gravy than of grave'. Dickens tells us that, 'he tried to be smart as a means of distracting his own attention, and keeping down his terror'. (AO2)
- Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge's scornful view of the poor. When questioning the charity collectors about workhouses and the Poor Law, he overturns their expectations that he will denounce these by declaring that he is, 'very glad to hear' that they were still in operation. Dickens uses Scrooge's dark humour to point out the evils of these measures. (AO2/AO3)
- Explore how Dickens uses humour with Scrooge's exaggerated death threat towards Fred by means of a stake of holly. This signals that we should agree with Fred's view of Christmas. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how the tone changes in Stave Four to dark and foreboding, creating a sense of unease rather than scorn: 'though it was dumb, announced itself in awful language'. (AO2)
- Dickens shows Scrooge's transformation through his change of jokes at the end of the novel. He teases Bob Cratchit by pretending to be cross with him for being late; he greets people cheerfully in the street; he secretly sends a turkey to the Cratchits as 'such a joke'. His jokes are to please people and help them, not diminish them. (AO1/AO2)

p.42 Question 5 (family relationships) ?

- Dickens presents the importance of family throughout the novel and shows how it is a source of comfort and strength in society. (AO1/AO3)
- In the extract, we see Fred's family discussing what Scrooge misses in his life because he refuses to join in with the family's celebrations. The scene is bathed in light, warmth and laughter: 'clustered round the fire, by lamplight'. Scrooge does have a family waiting to welcome him. (AO2)
- In Stave One, Dickens presents Scrooge choosing to live alone in cold misery. Dickens uses the Cratchit family as a foil to this isolation. They are poor but rich in family love. (AO1/AO2)
- Scrooge gets a glimpse of what life could have been with Belle, and her husband comments that Scrooge is 'quite alone I believe'. In Stave Three, Dickens shows the courage of ordinary people as they come together as a community even in the loneliest of places. (AO1/AO3)
- Dickens presents Scrooge as understanding the value of family and people who care at the end of the novel: he goes to Fred's house on Christmas day; he becomes a second father to Tiny Tim. (AO1/AO3)

p.43 Question 6 (world of business)



- Examine how the businessmen show no interest in the death of 'Old Scratch' other than he was wealthy. Analyse details that show their disinterest eg 'with a yawn'. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how the businessmen do not show any friendship or solidarity towards Scrooge, one of their own, other than whether they will inherit his money or what they will have for lunch. (AO1)
- Scrooge and the charity collectors present Dickens' view that we should help those less fortunate but society often views the poor as 'idle'. (AO3)
- The corruption of the business world is not only seen through the wealthy. The charwoman, the laundress and the undertaker who rob Scrooge on his deathbed show how the pursuit of wealth and business brings corruption. (AO2/AO3)
- Explore how Dickens' social message shows that the world of business is morally corrupt. The character of Jacob Marley portrays the fate of the business world if they do not make mankind 'my business'. (AO3)

p.44 Question 7 (greed)



- Explore the presentation of the charwoman, the laundress and the undertaker. Examine how these descriptions of theft from a dead man is chilling both to Victorian and modern readers. Explore how Dickens shows the dark side of greed through the language of disgust and horror: 'scanty light'; 'grouped around their spoil'; 'obscene demons'. (AO1/AO2/AO3)
- Explore how Scrooge's greed and love of money destroys his ability to love. Belle tells Scrooge that her love has no 'value' to him – she uses the language of money to break off their engagement. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how Scrooge's greed has created a man who is 'an old sinner', 'solitary as an oyster'. Explore Dickens' presentation of Scrooge in Stave One. (AO2)
- Dickens presents Scrooge's redemption as learning that it is generosity, love and helping others that brings true happiness. (AO1/AO3)

p.45 Question 8 (Bob Cratchit)



- Explore how Bob Cratchit is shown as a family man in the extract, surrounded by love, noise and family jokes. (AO1/AO2)
- Explore how Bob Cratchit is presented as an employee: bullied by Scrooge but hardworking. Examine how he is presented in Stave One: his use of respectful language towards Scrooge, his lowly status and lack of power. (AO2)
- Examine how Bob Cratchit 'involuntarily' applauds Fred's passionate speech about Christmas, linking him to Fred and what Fred represents. (AO2)
- Explore how Dickens shows that kindness and consideration means more to less fortunate people as Bob Cratchit reports Fred's condolences in Stave Four on the death of Tiny Tim. (AO2/AO3)
- Explore how Bob Cratchit, as a father, represents the influence that family can have on adult development. Compare with Scrooge's father: 'Father is so much kinder than he used to be'. (AO1/AO3)
- Explore how Bob Cratchit represents the 'deserving poor'. (AO3)