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Teacher's Introduction

How to use this guide

A Christmas Carol is an enduring tale of transformation, redemption and the power of goodwill. It has shaped our view of what has become the most important holiday in the Western calendar, and many students will know of it as a Christmas classic. It is intensely of its age, exploring Victorian societal issues, but also transcends its time, dealing with perennial questions about our social responsibility to others.

This study guide provides students with a clear and accessible analysis of the text and includes a range of learning tasks and activities, including extension tasks to challenge and engage stronger learners. Page numbers for quotations from the novella are shown in brackets.

This guide includes the following sections:

- **Plot summary:** an overview of the key events of the story and narrative structure.
- Chapter-by-chapter analyses: detailed analysis of the text with discussion topics and activities throughout.
- Characters and relationships: focused analyses of major characters, their significance, and the techniques used to present them: Scrooge; Scrooge as a young man; Marley's ghost; the three Christmas Spirits; Bob Cratchit; Tiny Tim; the Cratchit family; Fred; Fan; Fezziwig and Belle.
- **Relationships mind map:** a visual representation of the interactions of characters.
- **Settings:** analyses of key settings and their significance: Christmas Eve; Victorian England; London; Scrooge's office and rooms; homes; Joe's shop.
- Themes, ideas and messages: analyses of key themes, ideas and messages in the novel, including: Christmas; kindness and charity; responsibility; social injustice and inequality; isolation; family and the home; transformation; forgiveness and redemption; the innocence of children; communication and community; love of money.
- Language: Dickens' use of language, including light imagery, language of value and worth, and pathetic fallacy.
- **Form:** exploration of form, including genre and narrative form.
- **Structure:** Dickens' use of structure, including text divisions and narrative conventions.
- **Context:** key aspects of social, historical and cultural context, including biography and Victorian attitudes to poverty, as well as contexts of reading.
- **Key term glossary:** covering all key terms used in the guide.

A note on practice questions

As the exam boards vary in question format, all three styles of wording have been used for practice questions. It could be a useful exercise for students to reframe questions so that they are expressed as in their given exam board: this can help them make sure they focus on the content of the question and familiarise them with the exam they will be sitting. As only Edexcel does not mark this piece for AO3, indicative content will be given for context throughout.

Edition of the text

Scholastic Classics ISBN 978-1-407143-64-4 Dickens, Charles, A Christmas Carol (London, Scholastic, 2013 [1843])

Computer access: some of the activities are research-based and require access to the Internet, e.g. on pp. 55 and 66.



Specification Information

The resource meets the specifications for:

- AQA Paper 1 Section B: Shakespeare and the nineteenth-century novel
- Edexcel Paper 2 Section A
- Edugas Component 2 Section B

All exams are closed-book and provide an extract as a provide are closed-book and provide an extract as a provide are closed-book and provide an extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are extract as a provide are closed-book and provide are closed-book and provide are closed-book and provide are closed-book are closed-book and provide are closed-book are cl

AQA: A Christmas Carol appears on Policy alkespeare and the nineteenth-cer of the GCSE, in Section B. This about the minute exam worth 64 marks. 30 marks It is marked for AOs 1 and 2 are the keep determine 19 and 10.

Edexcel: A Christmas Carol appears on Paper 2 '19th century Novel and Poetry sing 15 minute exam, accounting for 50% of the GCSE. It is in Section A; the question is explores the extract and is marked for AO2; B invites students to consider ideas or elsewhere in the novella and is marked for AO1. AO3 is not rewarded. 20 marks accounting for 50% of the paper, 25% of the GCSE.

Eduqas: A Christmas Carol appears on Paper 2 'Post-1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Cent Section B 19th Century prose. This is a 2 hour 30 minute exam, worth 60% of the 40 marks, 20% of the GCSE total. It is marked for AOs 1, 2 and 3. Students are adthis section.

Assessment objectives

There are discussion points and exercises to support various Os.

- AO1: Read, understand and respond critically expositions are should be at forming an opinion and making relevant in and use textual reference, in their interpretation.
- AO2: Analyse form I are a structure to explore how they create mean using tempole; I are relevant.
- AO3: S understanding of texts and contexts, including contexts of recand write ideas.



A web page containing all the links in this resource is conveniently provide Education's website at zzed.uk/8547

You may find this helpful for accessing the websites rather than typing in



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Plot Summary

Marley is long dead, leaving his old business partner to run the firm alone. Scrooge is mean, miserly and obsessed with money. He is hard and cold; so unpleasant, people avoid him in the street.

The story begins on Christmas Eve, a cold and foggy of yercoge is in his office working in front of a tiny fire (his clerk Bob Cas charles and even smaller one). His nephew Fred – a pleasant, cheerful and a pleasant, cheerful and an invites Scrooge round for Christmas. Scrooge tells Fred cas gentlemen collecting for charity. Scrooge tells them will not give an an invite service and scrooge tells them workhouses are poor should be in workhouses. At the end of the day, Scrooge reluctantly gives his clerk Christmas Day off, and his clerk then runs home to play with his children.

Scrooge eats alone before returning to his rooms, which used to be Marley's. They are in a dark part of town surrounded by offices. As he approaches, the door knocker briefly appears to turn into the face of Marley. His rooms are dark, cold and bare as he does not spend his money, hoarding his wealth instead. The Ghost of Marley appears, covered in chains, and warns him t if he does not change his ways Scrooge will, like Marley, be condemned to haunt earth. He tells Scrooge to prepare himself for the visits of three spirits.

Scrooge falls asleep, exhausted, but wakes in the middle of the night. Remember Marley's warning and unsure if the visit was real of the struggles to sleep, so decides to wait instead. A hand pulls be caused fine the Ghost of Christmas Present, a stronge to visit scenes from his past. He sees him schoolboy, and give pity. He sees his sister, who has since died, and remparty his old party his old party his old party his fiancée, Belle, calling off their engagement because he loves the Spirit takes him to a memory which is not his own, and he sees how life could sees her happy home. The emotions become too much for Scrooge and he wrest into bed and a heavy sleep.

Scrooge must get out of his bed to seek out the next Spirit, the Ghost of Christmashis bare rooms with decorations and piled them with food. The jolly giant takes See people preparing for Christmas, and blesses homes (particularly those of the Scrooge's clerk, where Scrooge sees the Cratchits preparing a small meal as though poorly dressed and poorly fed but they love each other very much and the house child, Tiny Tim, is sickly, and when Scrooge asks if he will live, the Spirit tells him used them takes Scrooge of his own words that such people should lie rather than be a then takes Scrooge on a sweeping tour of many places, and so scrooge can witness the before they finally arrive at Fred's party. The same state of laughter, music and go scrooge feel like a child again and the spirit again resulting they could see the spirit again resulting they could see they are Ignorance neglect of many documents. The spirit again resulting they could see they are Ignorance neglect of many documents again or they could see the spirit again of they could see the spirit again or the spirit again or they could see the spirit again or the spirit again or they could see the spirit again or the spirit aga

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Out of the gloom Scrooge sees the final Spirit approach: the Ghost of Christmas Fu frightening: it is shrouded in darkness and silence. It takes Scrooge to see people unnamed businessman. None of them care for him: thieves are selling his clothes because they owe him money. Scrooge becomes distressed and asks to see some so the Spirit takes him to the Cratchit home, where the whole family are mourning ventures to ask who the dead businessman was, only to be taken to his own grave

Scrooge clings to the Spirit in despair, only for it to a his bedpost. He looks filled with joy at the prospect of a second e. Le sets about making things rig Cratchits; making a charitable do and he ending church; going to Fred's party; a we are told, continues to a look of the rest of his life.



'Discuss: What is Dickens' message in his ghost story, A Christmas Carol?

Read back through the summary and make a note of or highlight the moments you this changes in Scrooge's character, and what inspires them. Then discuss your ideas in a you think Dickens' overall message is.





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Section-by-section Analysis

Stave One: Marley's Ghost pp. 1-

We are told that Marley is dead. His business part and only friend, Scrooge, we funeral and immediately returned to work (?) the promote the firm alone under both if people confuse him with the long of a low by. Scrooge is introduced as a mean cares about is money, and here in y coes not care what other people think of him

Analysis

Rather than seng split into chapters, the novella is divided into 'staves'. A stave is notes rest in musical notation, and so the novella has five staves. A stave can also and so a section of a text. This relates to the musical theme of the title: a carol is See also: Form 'A Christmas Carol' on p. 66; Structure 'Music and Poetry' on p. 6

In the opening pages of the novella we are introduced to the main character, Scrocharacter and actions (the first couple of pages explicitly describe him and the residoes) show to the reader his importance in the narrative: both the plot and messa around his changing character.

Interestingly, in terms of structure we are first given a sense of the character of his former business partner: Marley. In the first paragraph the narrator tells us that 'Marley was dead, to begin with' (1). The matter-of-fact tone suggests that this is practical, rather than emotional information of the paragraph is about the administrative details of N art. Queath: who signed what paperwork.

The second paragraph is an awith the narrator considering the **idiom** 'dead as a control in the has been used to describe Marley, suggesting the narrator is not troubled by Marley's actual death (1). All of this contributes to the sense that no one really cared about Marley. The narrator then goes on to assert that 'Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend and sole mourner', showing how isolated and alone Marley was, emphasised by the repetition of the word 'sole'. Furthermore, Scrooge 'was not too dreadfully cut up by the sad event' (2), but spends the day of the funeral completing a business deal.

All of this reflects on Scrooge: if Scrooge has so little care for Marley, despite bein this tell us about Scrooge? Now Marley is dead he may be all alone, having no on the description of Marley shows that Scrooge is even more isolated following his would have no mourner. This is emphasised when we are told that Scrooge contil

Discuss...

Why do you think Scrooge does not mind being called by Mc

name 'Scroos Marley', suggesting Dicke's performin parallel inviting to the management of the manageme

Scrooge is characterised as a 'tight-fisted hand at the grindstone' (2): his main mo He has no interest in the lives of his workers or their problems; only what they can bring money in to his business. This is very much befitting of the social historical placed. Due to industrialisation, the Victorian era was a time of huge advances in

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This added to an already established and unfair social hierarchy; the consequence of this being that huge amounts of money were generated from the work of the majority (the working classes), for a minority to enjoy (the middle and upper classes). Dickens personifies this in the characterisation of Scrooge. Not only is he intent on working Bob Cratchit as hard as he can, but he finds no kindness in his heart to help the poor. Due to the environment he lives in root to happiness, and everything else is a waste of time confort: he sees no virtually in monetary gain. Over the novella we will see that the sees has a language of value and

Scrooge is 'squeezing, wrenching at the scraping, clutching' (2): this list of **adjections** constantly trying to dranged the scroope of worth out of things, making him so the is also declarated to know the paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance...' is exactly how Scrooge likes it (4).

Thinking about genre and structure, the narrator is very keen to assert that Marley is dead. However, the second clause 'to begin with' points not only to the fact that Marley is dead at the start of the story, but hints at the supernatural element of the story. It is strange to describe someone as dead 'to begin with': it suggests things will be different later: that Marley will be, in some sense, alive again later. The phrase sounds odd due to its seemingly nonsensical nature, and unsettles the reader. It also links to the theme of change in the novel: if something as final as being dead can change then there are huge possibilities for change in the novel.

The narrator repeats the point 'emphatically' (1) not ents that the fact of Marley's death must be 'distinctly' (er. 1 d' (2). He explains that in Shakespeare's play Hamlet, in dich main character's father appears as a ghost, there would the point already dead. This emphasis on Marley's death, and the sign of the suggest we might expect a supernatural reappearance.

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Stave One: Marley's Ghost pp. 4-

The story begins on Christmas Eve. Scrooge's office is cold and his clerk's office is evisits to wish him happy Christmas and invites him round but is turned away rudely. collecting for charity and Scrooge is rude to them too, dismissing their concern for the carol singer so hard that he runs away. Scrooge reluctively was his clerk the day is allowed to go the clerk runs all the way home.

Analysis

Partway into the chart, (4). With the **protagonist** having been introduced and some backg established (Marley is dead), the **action** begins. In terms of form, having suggested a **Gothic** atmosphere in the first section of the stave, Dickens now makes an explicit reference to a different **genre** — 'once upon a time' suggests a traditional story, like a fairy tale or **fable**: one that follows certain patterns, perhaps teaches the audience a lesson, and has elements of the **supernatural**.

The **setting** is established as, 'of all the good days of the year- Christmas Eve' (4). A tradition of sitting round the fire, telling ghost stories was established before the Victorian period, in which Dickens lived. We've already heard the narrator's voice, commenting on Scrooge, so a sense of storytelling, linked by the time and the 'once upon a time' opening suggests the novella will draw on this tradition, perhaps having ghostly elements or a moral.

Furthermore, Christmas is established as 'a good-time, and, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time' (6), through the new 'copeech. These qualities contrast with the hard, mean characteristic of Scrooge earlier in the chapter. Yet, Scrooge has also been is a s'cold' and wintry (3); Christmas is the time 'where yar. It is 'cold, bleak biting weather: foggy withal' in where we have a significant to be a sign

Christmas Eve is also the seventh anniversary of Marley's death. As the chapter goes on, 'the fog and darkness thickened' (11), until the cold becomes 'Piercing, searching, biting' (12) so that is **personified**, almost like a character and very much like Scrooge.

Scrooge's office, like the weather, reflects his personality: he refuses to heat it, and although he allows himself a 'very small fire' his clerk's is 'very much smaller' (4). This refusal of warmth shows how mean Scrooge's personality is,

Discuss...

Talk to a partner.

What do you think or bad thing: 19 Chi

Think about discussion: what did you agree or disagree on? Did either of you make points similar to those made by characters in the novel?

but also sym' at s refusal to chang it s refusal to attitude. He has the of winter without the joy of Christmas, and he refuses all Christmas spirit from his visitors.

The characterisation of Scrooge's nephew is in direct contrast to Scrooge hipersonality: 'he was all in a glow' and 'his Scrooge is cold and hard, his nephew is futhe value of Christmas, and the important

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Zig Zag Education Interestingly, the nephew remains unnamed until later in the novel. This could reflect Scrooge's lack of interest in him. In fact, we do not learn the names of any characters apart from Scrooge and his former business partner, Marley, in the first stave. Scrooge shows no interest in anyone, neither a member of his family nor his employee, who are both named later. Not only does this reflect on Scrooge but it also allows Dicker keep a very tight focus on Scrooge in the opening a e: is to be the subject of the novella and our vie numbroken; the audience should have formed a virtual picture of Scrooge and his failings very quick.

Context:

Some Victoria hunger and puthere is no potential that power and they should tries to get hand help per are responsible.

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Active Learning Task

Imagine you are Scrooge's nephew.

Write a diary entry about your visit on Christmas Eve.

Think about:

- The character of the nephew.
- How he might privately feel about his uncle.
- Is there anything he wished he had said?
- His feelings about Christmas tomorrow.

Scrooge is also visited by 'portly gentlemen 'portly' appearance makes them seem more them with the more 'shrivelled' and 'thin' are soft and well-fed; he is hard and mean greater spirit of generosity. Scrooge sugges with by 'prisons' and 'workhouses' (9). Wh 'Many can't go there; and many would rath better do it, and decrease the surplus popul little he cares (10). It is worth reiterating the during the industrial era, a time when social financial gain were rife. Scrooge's ideologic he believes himself responsible only for his and not that of others. As he is in charge of sees what others can do for him as he pays for them. The position, be simply v or (had while paying his clerk a im; however, one of Dickens' mes i terrelated nature of things: Scrooge has a

poor people but his resident of to Cratchit, as an employer, is more direct.

The clerk large es to go unnoticed. Scrooge anticipates he wishes to have Christmas off he after he appears 'expectant' and he says very little (13). Rather than using **direct speech**, most of what the clerk says is in **reported speech** 'the clerk promised he would' (13): this makes him mostly voiceless and reinforces his fear of Scrooge and timidity in front of his boss. However, when released from work he 'ran home as fast as he could' to play games, suggesting a childishness and love of life has been repressed while he has been at work (13–14).





Stave One: Marley's Ghost pp. 14-

Scrooge returns home: on his way in strange things happen: the knocker appears to imagines he sees a hearse in the hall. He checks around his house; all seems well so Then, all the bells in the house start to ring and Marley's ghost appears, warning Sche does not change his ways. He tells Scrooge to expert the visitors who will help

Analysis

Scrooge is established as (14), the repetition of the word melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy emphasisin. It is to ways and will be difficult to change. This is a man who has strong opinions, as he was unafraid to voice earlier in the chapter, and who has firm habits. He 'knew every stone' of the yard by his rooms and finds his way about in the dark, as he does not want to spare the expense of a candle (14). The routine nature of as is his familiarity with his surroundings. These details emphasise how out of the coming evening are.

Similarly, Dickens spends a whole paragraph describing the knocker, before it changes to Marley's face. As with the description of Scrooge's routine, he wants impress upon the reader how strange the transformation is. He tells us Scrooge h'little of what is called fancy in him' and does not give any thought to Marley (14). The door knocker has 'nothing at all particular about it' but is instead very plain, sit would not easily be mistaken for something else (14) in the instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is instead very plain, so the install particular about it' but is install particu

The setting also adds to the Gc' i afr. c pnere, as the rooms are those of 'his dece apartment itself is out comorting about his chambers and no other people are arounded by places of work. The narrator suggests that it had drawing attention to its strangeness, and using the language of money and trade, sland the novel, is dominated by ideas about work and money.

The house is described, in a rather strange **simile**, as though as a 'young house' it had run there when 'playing at hide-and-seek with other houses' and become lost (14). This rather odd image suggests that perhaps there is something lost or childish about Scrooge, and his position is to be pitied.

The Ghost of Marley represents Scrooge's possible future. The similarity between Marley and Scrooge has been clearly and repeatedly established. In terms of setting, Scrooge's rooms were once Marley's, drawing yet another close connection between the two characters. See works in his dead partner's office, is sometimes mistaken feat me in a 'kindred spirit' of his, and lives in his old rooms (9) of each a leap of the imagination to see them sharing (10.3) ate.



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The belt and chain Marley is wearing **symbolise** the mistakes he made in his life a poor decisions now imprison him. This is hinted at first, the objects on it are lister ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses' (19); these are the tools of his trade and the thi means of acquiring and securing it, as well as legal documents. The 'heavy purses celebrated for the wealth they contained are now burdens, weighing him down. The chain itself serves as a **metaphor** for the way his behaviour has trapped and imprisoned him: he is now 'doomed' and 'condemned' (2) he image is then explained explicitly when he tells Scrooge 'I wear 'he half forged in life' (23). unable to reflect on his life or uniters a chis mistakes. The chain Marley carries is the burden of house of house and corruption by greed and gain: like so n Victorian England obsessed by industrial and capitalist many busing is criticising an ideology so dominant that he draws the image and gain. D readers.

The exchange with Marley also sets up the **structure** of the novel. Scrooge is visit questions as it guides him and teaches him. The audience often understands before, and we, need to be more reflective about our actions, and also ensures all reathelessons of the story.

Marley's role is very important in regard to the Christmas ghost story. Telling ghost a hugely popular Victorian pastime, an old tradition which the Victorians revived ghosts from the past seeking retribution that scared the readers, but also taught to Dickens is applying the same method here. There are moments between of fear a himself to be a ghost with a 'frightful cry' and by dislocating his jaw (23); but more establishes the moral lesson that weaves its way through the rest of the story: the progress of industry and commerce as a barrier to social and spiritual developed important to Victorian social and public lift: Charles was more overtly regarded from the progress of moral and spiritual integrative (In the progress) and the spine, would have day of festivities.

Much as the 19 ew lives a short speech on the value of Christmas (6–7), ech on the 'business' of humanity (25). Taking a word that means much to Scrooge: the business of money and work, Marley explains: 'Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence were, all, my business' (25). Dickens appears to use the word 'business' as a **pun** and shows how the relationship between Scrooge and Marley has changed due to their now opposing views. For Scrooge, business is purely a means of making financial profit, and Marley would once have shared this view. In fact, they are connected by business: their firm and work together. But now, in death, Marley realises that interacting with and helping others is the more profitable business. Here Dickens explores how we use language and the significance of words. Ideas to do with value, cost and worth are explored throughout the novel. Here Marley is interested in what our real 'business' on each, s, and concludes that it is caring for others, echoing idea ask it by the nephew and charity collectors earlier in the stave of ver, for Scrooge his business is his work. We have also come a ros he nouse having 'no business' being where it is. Dickens uses of meanings of words related to value, h : E. prore them as themes in his novella. business ar



Stave One Overview

The main character, Scrooge, has been introduced and established as a mean, selfis partner is dead. On Christmas Eve he rejects the invitation of his nephew and refus collectors. When he returns home, the ghost of his form the selfic selfic

Analysis

The opening charter is stablishes the character of Scrooge. He could be seen as sor of caricature of a money-driven Victorian businessman. He is clearly the text, and, therefore, the characteristics which he represents – work, miserliness and solitude – are the main themes of the text.

We are also given an idea of the **structure** and **plot** of the text as we are told Scrooge will be visited by three ghosts with the aim of 'escaping' the terrible fate of Marley (26). The pattern for this has been set up through Scrooge's meeting with Marley. So, the reader has an idea of the direction of the text and might be change a character such as Scrooge. The text itself is also a warning to the reader

There is a **first-person narrator** who tells the story and has a strong **narrative voic** strong opinions on Scrooge, but we have no idea of how they relate to him. This varieties at five side to be and we are to investige the family.

tradition of fireside tales, and we are to imagine the family gathered, listening on Christmas Eve: the voice becomes the trusted voice of the storyteller who guides us through and the audience accepts the interpretations of the narrator. The narrator is not involved in the story which, interestingly, can make the play or defend: they have no personal interesting that and seem to be an observer. In this also gives the novella aspects of a **third-personal** ration, a voice that allows the reader to get into the head of the character and know everything that is going on, knowing when Scrooge feels 'satisfied' (17) or 'incredulous' (20). This again suggests we should think of the narrator as a storyteller, rather than a

Discuss...

The novelist and crift characters' that are ' He said that Dickens These characters are or trait, such as gree

With a partner, disci 'flat character'.

Forster also suggests summarised in a sing summarise Scrooge

Active Learning Task

character.

- 1. Summarise Stave One in **five** bullet points. Each bullet point should **deal with only**
- 2. For each bullet point, write two to three sentences explaining the significance of the

Extension: Pick an event or action which you thought and to leave ou points. Explain why you chose the events or you aid.

Or ...

Compare your summary to contact and discuss your choices.



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Stave One Summary:

- Scrooge's character dominates the opening of the novel: the text focuses or
 provides us with a detailed description of him followed by a series of episode
 demonstrated. In these episodes he is literally dominant: overruling the peop
 the reader that the novella will tightly focus on this character and his persona
- Scrooge is a miserly and solitary character, who is connected to images of col
- Dickens offers counterpoints to Scrooge through the introductors his cleotors who have a more positive attitude to Constmas and warmer, mo
- Through the character of Marley Direction troduces a supernatural element theme and message: the virial ranges of economy and industry should no responsibilities to the people.
- The te 79 nt he tradition of fireside ghost stories on Christmas Eve, as w fairy tale and ticularly in terms of structure, and incorporating Gothic elements

Exam tip...

This is a closed-book exam, but you still need to quote, and quote well.

When you read the question, underline the keywords so you know what ideas and themes

For each keyword, write down four or five relevant, short quotes from the novella you co sure your response refers to different parts of the text, uses evidence (examples from the analysis.

To help, when revising, create a small bank of one- or two-word quotes on different their cold' which characterises Scrooge and links him to the Gothic setting and to the setting word 'sole' which draws attention to the loneliness of Scrooge and connects him to his de

O Nactice exam question

Read the following extraction one and then answer the question that follows.

In this ext

ροί 🤾 s going home.

nelancholy dinner... on the threshold' (14).

Starting with this extract, discuss how Dickens uses setting. Write about:

- how Dickens uses setting in this extract
- how Dickens uses setting in the novella as a whole

Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of your exam board.

To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board

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Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits

Scrooge finds it difficult to sleep and lies awake wondering when the ghost will arribut it is still foggy out and no one is around. He then waits for the bell. As it chimes Christmas Past, arrives and invites him to 'walk with me' (34). Scrooge is reluctant to

Analysis

Although in Stave One Scrooge is set of the world (pp. 3–4 esr y), is cearly unnerved by Marley's visit. He has a wake wondering 'Was it a dream or not?' (30). Although he claims not to believe Marley's warning, he is anxious;

Discuss...

A four-poster bed is would not normally h

Why do you think So

the ghosts are already having an effect on him. In keeping with his characterisation as a solitary character, and as a Victorian businessman who sees only the value of personal, economic gain, he tries to hide himself from the outside world, symbolically shutting himself away in bed, even drawing the curtains. In a Victorian context, the four-poster bed with curtains would have suggested wealth, so it is significant that the otherwise penny-pinching Scrooge even has one. The shut curtains of the bed also symbolise the way in which he hides away from the truth; the curtains must be 'drawn aside' by the ghost before Scrooge will emerge and begin to learn the lessons Marley has promised hengage with others, or to consider his own behaviour.

The opening of the chapter begins to show a transforr think Scrooge, if only slig charge, having an overview of his office and controlling wen his clerk's fire, to sor lying awake with worry. This is the 'will at aution in his power' because it is almocking his lack of power in the train. When it finally arrives, it seems imposs make excuses to it: all the scrooge tries to discourage it, the time, how well he irrelevant. The scrooge tries to discourage it, the time, how well he irrelevant. So no effect on the Ghost: it is 'not to be resisted' (34). Right from Ghost takes charge, pulling back the curtains on the bed and then taking Scrooge more confidently and directly than the human characters have: in response Scrooge more Ghost he is 'mortal' and 'liable to fall' (34), admitting his fallibility a weaknesses. The balance of power has shifted, and Scrooge is changing, if only slight.

Furthermore, this reminder of Scrooge's mortality, especially after the revelation strong resonance with a religious Victorian for whom concerns about their fate af Scrooge cannot sleep, the narrator tells us 'He resolved to lie awake until the hou that he could no more sleep than go to Heaven, this was perhaps the wisest resolvements us of Scrooge's fate, if he does not change, to be a restless spirit, like Mar Furthermore, when Scrooge tells the Spirit he is 'liable to fall' this **alludes** to the Cidea that with Adam and Eve we have all 'fallen' from the late of God and are sincontemporary reader of the idea that people are keint hall into sin and mistake better people.

The setting adds to the still very for the setting adds to the setting ad

The fog is also symbolic. It makes it difficult to see and reflects how little Scrooge world around him. The ghosts aim to help him see more clearly. Furthermore, it is the feeling of discomfort, as the weather is strange and spooky. The temperature uncomfortable. Scrooge is unsettled and unsure, as reflected in the weather.

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The figure of the Ghost is 'strange': it is 'like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man' (32). It appears to contradict itself: it has long white hair but no wrinkles and the 'tenderest bloom', or youthful glow, about its skin; it is both 'muscular' and 'delicately formed' (32). This appearance reflects the fact that the Ghost connects the child Scrooge of his past to the now old Scrooge: it demonstrates the roles that memory plays and suggests how our pasts form us and are part of who we are in the present. It aspects of its appearance seem contradictory: it holds 'a branchoi re) green holly', a winter plant, and also 'had its dress trim'; the ammer flowers' (32); however, the adjective 'fresh' do a o i , 'ese images together, with a suggestion of new life, and the suggest links across time. The size of the present youth and winter berries represent old age; but bo present and full of notential suggesting the possibility of resh and full of potential, suggesting the possibility of change even www Scrooge is in his winter, as an old man. Holly is also brought into houses in winter, as its evergreen leaves and bright berries show life continuing through the cold season when many things die back, and so represent hope. The 'strangest' thing about it seems at first that a 'bright clear jet of light' comes from its head and can be extinguished by its cap (32): the light suggests the Ghost's ability to illuminate the past; perhaps, like a candle with the cap as a snuffer, it is a past which can be ignored and has been. However, the strangest thing is that it 'fluctuated', suggesting the changing, but ever present, influence of the past in our present (32).

Light is often used as a symbol of goodness and truth. The figure which is 'light one instant at another time was dark' symbolises the attempt to reveal the truth to Scrooge (32). The light solution its head, which Scrooge does not want to look at, S no

fluctuating, but 'bright' and 'clear' (32) et a part be hidden by a cap. However, it continuing to associate it with a quality of light: the Spirit comes to illuminate S through the fogs of many

Context:

The Victoria symbolical signify forg

Discuss...

Scrooge begs the Spirit to put on its cap and hide the light. It tells him that he is 'one of the made this cap' and forces him to wear it, hiding 'the light I give' (33).

What is he talking about? Think about:

- what you think the cap signifies
- what kind of people and actions make it
- what being forced to wear it might mean and why it might happen
- why Scrooge might want the Ghost to wear it

Exam tip...

You will need to be able to write k to kens' style and language in the nove are given and the novelled while.

di. Annk about images, similes and metaphors that are repec wer, this helps you to show that you know the whole novella and language

For example, you could keep track of the images of light, or holly, as you read. extract to write about, you can look for images and link them to wider themes you write about how the images change, develop or link together, you will also



Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits

The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to see his old schoolroom. Scrooge becce 'solitary' he was, left at the school to spend Christmas alone. We learn his childhoo regret he did not give something to the caroller. He then sees himself as an older so Fan, who has come to tell him he can come home. Fan die ong and is the mother emotional at the recollections.

Analysis

When looking tell is significant that the Ghost takes Scrooge to his childhocountryside chool represents Scrooge's formative years: the time in which formed his period ity, and so the episodes we see provide us with an insight into

The rural setting is a huge contrast to the busy city in which Scrooge now lives, an reflects how much his life and situation have changed since childhood. Once again fallacy: the scene is idyllic, far away from the dark, foggy London of the present and beautiful. Put in context, this contrast is even more acute: during the ninetee population expanded rapidly, from 1 million in 1800 to 6.9 million by 1900, making worth remembering A Christmas Carol was published in 1843, right in the middle result, areas became overcrowded and unsanitary, with large slums and great pov contrasts London's two worlds: that of wealth and commerce, and that of poverty an industrial economic boom), but he also contrasts the life of the city with that literature, the countryside was often presented in quite a romantic way, and Dick familiarity with that idea here to show just how hard life is in the city. The country it is a simple world, unsullied by industrial change, and work hot necessarily reali familiar to his readers. In the country, the 'broad rel coure so full of merry mus hear it' (36). Although it is cold the worr on suggests it is fresh and clean; the fields are 'broad', their expanses sp. contrasting the overcrowded slums of London. In this image the whole s s to one of lightness and joy. The whole of the countryside atmospher/ is alive with eeling.

The Ghost takes Scrooge to visit his younger self: showing him a young boy still capable of feeling love and caring for others but whose experiences cause him to described as 'A solitary child, neglected by his friends' who are travelling to their fleft a school (36). The neglect he suffers, his needs and feelings being ignored, is not actively mean to him, they simply have other, more important concerns (in the Christmas – the neglect is not deliberate and perhaps only a lack of sympathy as the excitement). However, this lack of care makes him pitiable and the adult Scrooge Scrooge is left alone and the adult claims he wants to be alone, but 'sobbed' as he adult Scrooge neglects the poor: claiming they are not his responsibility and they seven if we ignore the penny-pinching and mean aspects of Scrooge's personality responsible for the misery of others, Dickens suggests to that doing nothing dismissing something as not our responsibility means and unfeeling as an adult (scrooge is damaged by his experience, by a d'and unfeeling as an adult (scrooge is damaged by his experience, by a d'and unfeeling as an adult (scrooge is damaged by his experience, by a d'and unfeeling as an adult (scrooge is damaged by his experience, by a d'and unfeeling as an adult (scrooge is damaged by his experience).



Discuss...

How does Dickens help the reader to empathise with Scrooge, and begin to understand him?





In terms of the changes in Scrooge's character, it is also worth noting that the bod *The Arabian Nights*, seems to come to life, and Scrooge reimagines reading it as the only companions. This imaginative child, fully engaged with a fantasy world, provadult Scrooge who had no 'fancy' about him (14). Scrooge has lost the wonder an Cratchit, who ran home to play with his children in Stave One. Over the course of value of play: the joy and innocence of childhood and enjoying time with others. when Scrooge looks into Belle's house. This is something the Scrooge has lost.

Family is very important to Dicker and joy at family gatherings are in the et, as all his friends travel home for Christmas Since is the et, as all his friends travel home for Christmas Since is the et, as all his friends travel home for Christmas Since is the et, as all his friends travel home for Christmas Since is the et, as all his friends travel home for Christmas Since is the et, as all his friends travel home; we know him to entirely alone: we know him t

In this memory, Scrooge is no longer taking joy in his imagination and finding reful beginning of the transformation of Scrooge from a happy young man to the miser introduced to. Instead of occupying himself with books, he paces about 'despairing the grown Scrooge look 'mournful' (39), as it includes his dead sister, Fan. We can from an innocent, imaginative child to a brooding, unhappy one, as his miserable also see a glint of emotion carried over into the older Scrooge: the word 'mournful' of sorrow for a death, so the older Scrooge's emotion is connected to his feeling for

Fan is characterised quite briefly, but as a light ar fine ent character. She is 'mu and greets Scrooge with great joy (30') (ne scribed using light and childish la energy, and hugging and kissing erestly protections (40). She serves as a contrast to Scroos She has the and joy he has lost, and perhaps loses completely with her mother of the and green we have already met.

From Fan, we learn that Scrooge has been away from home all this time as his father does not want him. She says that 'Father is much kinder than he used to be' and that means 'home's (40) like Heaven' now. It could be interpreted that the fact that such a heartless father has changed shows us that Scrooge too can change: it is never too late, but the scene is not entirely convincing. The happy and light presentation of Fan makes her seem very naïve; she claps and giggles and is full of 'childish eagerness', which makes her report seem perhaps overenthusiastic (40). Furthermore, the change seems very sudden and unexpected. Although the change in Scrooge is similarly abrupt, we have the full text of the book to make it more convincing.

As the Ghost takes Scrooge through his recipes me softens. On recognising the schoolroom he trembles and mis to be eatthes, later he even cries (35). Reliving the fantasy world be sympathy and wishes he had 'given him something'

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Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits

Scrooge and the Ghost continue to visit past Christmases, including a party thrown become was apprenticed. He also sees his fiancée, Belle, break off their engagem greedy. He then sees an older Belle, with her husband, remarking that Scrooge is a 'Remove me!' (54). Exhausted, he falls into bed.

Analysis

Scrooge is so pleased to the imployer Fezziwig he cries out 'in excitement' (42). This action is compare his feelings towards Fezziwig to our impression of how his clerk and feel about him. A key theme of this section is the relationship between employers and employees: especially what makes a good employer. Dickens sees the employer as having a **paternalistic** relationship with his employees. As we have seen, Scrooge has a poor role model in his father, but he has a much better one in Fezziwig.

Fezziwig is a pleasant character, who perhaps has something in common with the who visit Scrooge in his office as they collect money for charity. He has 'a comfor rich, fat, jovial voice', the number of adjectives highlighting just how rich the voice There is a sense of plenty, and the kind of indulgence Scrooge forbids himself. The make him seem similarly selfish and greedy, only indulgent rather than mean; but described lightly, and happily; rather than being weighed down he is described as down from the high desk with wonderful agility' (43). He clearly has a good relativith his employees, who he speaks to in friendly toner than 'my lads' (43). Christmas Eve, Fezziwig asks Scrooge and Dick his fell apprentice, to stop work clear away the work things to prepare for a stmas party, which they do so entiplease him. Returning to the the chapting and provided by the phrase 'my lads' could sound as employees as sons, reflection to paternalistic model Dickens puts forward. The chappiness is a similar than Scrooge's own father seems to have taken over welcome at the provided provided provided by the policy is a stime of celebration, with dancing, games and food; the joy is a similar provided by the policy is a stime of celebration, with dancing, games and food; the joy is a similar provided by the policy is a similar provided by the provided by the policy is a similar provided by the provi

In terms of setting, the warehouse is symbolically transformed. Dick and Ebeneze clear the things away so that it is no longer a place of work, but 'as snug, and warras you would desire to see upon a winter's night' (43). Snugness and warmth are of to describe a ballroom – we might think of grandeur and elegance – but Dicken Christmas as a homely time: for family and friends, reflected in this image of the

Scrooge and the Ghost discuss whether what Fezziwig has done is a 'small matter' to bring 'happiness... as great as if it cost a fortune' (47). Fezziwig is depicted as a treats himself; the party, while full of food and dancing, cost 'but a few pounds of beginning to learn that value is not just to do with money thermore, the fact put on the party shows how easily, and with remarkable in the chrough small kindnesses the 'happiness' (47).

Looking at specifically had behaved differently to the caroller, seeing himself as an apprentice makes Scrooge wish he were 'able to say a word or two' to his clerk (47), presumably regretting his earlier behaviour. Specific events in his memories link to specific events in the opening stave.

Discuss

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We also learn that Scrooge was once in love, but loses his fiancée because he love he has 'changed' (49); she sees herself replaced by a 'golden' idol and breaks off t describing it as 'an unprofitable dream' which he will dismiss (50). She uses the la with disgust as she sees the effect they have had on the man she loved.

The Spirit takes Scrooge to a scene which is not one of his memories, but someone else's past: Belle's. Like 'm' sh' s transformed. However, unlike him, she is physate. He sees a 'beautiful young girl' he believe to be until he sees Belle is 'now a comely matron, since her daughter' (51). She is transformed are in the sees has changed and aged, but, unlike Scrooge, will spieasant. Dickens shows the virtue of her feelings that 'patient industry' and love are more important than rapid acquisition of wealth by rewarding her with a happy fate (49).

Christmas in Belle's house is joyous, as it is at Fezziwig's. Mother and daughter 'laughed heartily' at the chaos of the party (51). Their laughter is companionable; unlike the lonely Scrooge, they can share emotions and the joy of a moment with someone else.

When the father of the house comes home he is greeted with great excitement and delight' (52). This is the fate which could have been Scrooge's if he had not po (50). Family is shown as being far more valuable than monetary wealth, and the scelebrated.

When Scrooge begs the Ghost 'Show me no more!' he to d transported to ar him down until his voice is 'broken' and he is 'xk us (34).

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(51-53).



Stave Two Overview

The Ghost of Christmas Past arrives: it has a strange, contradictory appearance, see time. It takes Scrooge to visit the unhappy Christmases he spent as a child and your himself lonely at Christmas, but then later seeing his father has changed and is no loplace of work and kind employer, Fezziwig, who takes the into throw a Christma Fezziwig with pleasure and realises even a small error on make people very happoff their engagement, as she feels Scroog money more than her, and sees he someone who values her.

Analysis

The Ghost of the strange appearance, or even **personifies**, memory. It has a strange appearance, seeming to change and flicker, like a candle: it 'fluctuated in its distinctness', sometimes clear and bright, sometimes shadowy and vague (32), suggesting both the shifting nature of memory and the possibility of change. It is also described as speaking with a 'gentle' voice, suggesting it means well, and is characterised as calm and caring. So, when it later takes him to yet another memory when he begs for the ordeal to end, the reader feels it to have Scrooge's best interest at heart.

Discu

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We get a real sense of Scrooge's isolation: he is alone at school and then witnesse husband discuss how 'quite alone in the world' he is (54), as he watches unknown estrangement from his father but does not go into much detail, saying father is 're (40), suggesting perhaps naivety on her part but certainly ange and unhappy of his emotional life as he reacts to the memories alone things build toward character of Scrooge, especially as we see things build toward the second se

The Christmas Dickens nr sezziwig's party and Belle's house in particular revolving are the story of the birth of Christ, but what to Victorian remodern Chipman story of celebration (39). However, this is also under charity as Dickens connects the celebration of Christmas to our duty to others.

Stave Two Summary:

- Scrooge tries to shut himself off from the truth, hiding behind the curtains of beginning to lose some of his tight control of the world around him: he cannot actions have no power over the Ghost of Christmas Past.
- Dickens gives us insight into Scrooge's past, his unhappy childhood and failed
- Dickens offers alternatives to Scrooge: an alternative model of work in Fezziv treats his employees well, and a glimpse of the future Scrooge lost by valuing family life of Belle.
- Dickens also introduces and develops some key ideas and themes: Christmas importance of caring for others; family and the homesylven yfulness and childis surroundings on our moral development.

Active Learning Task

Convert the question in 14 my or your exam board.

To do this

- the question is asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know format of your given exam board

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Zig Zag Education

Practice exam question

Use this extract to answer the question.

From Stave Two: The Ghost takes Scrooge to visit his childhood school at Christme

The jocund travellers came on... and wept to see his poor forgotten self as he ha

- a) Explore how Dickens presents isolation in this extraction in the examples from the
- b) Explain how Dickens presents isolation else (e) he novel. In your answe
 - What isolation is shown
 - How it affects those in an

Exam Education

Edexcel present the question for this exam differently to the other exam boards. They parts: Part A is marked for AO2, analysis of form, language and structure using appromarked for AO1, forming a personal response with reference to the text. So, in answed dealing with the extract in great detail, quoting and analysing words and phrases. In response to the question or theme. The other exam boards expect you to do this too, be should be combined with your personal response: it is a springboard for ideas. Edexce guide you through the question. Read them. If you are on a different board, it can help what the bullet points might be. This can guide your response.





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Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spiri

Scrooge wakes up, expecting the next ghost. When the Ghost does not appear he into the next room. His room is decorated and the Ghost of Christmas Present invite to help him and they magically go out into the street to look about.

Analysis

We see the change beginning to take a lamb is character as Scrooge Discu wakes up at just the right of the shand feels it is for an 'especial purpose', ration has been been as he did in the previous There begin chapter (57 aits for the 'new spectre' to draw back the curtains, but, when it wes not, he seeks it out and 'put every one of them aside with his own hands' (57). This shows him beginning to venture out of his enclosed space, and starting to look for answers himself: rather than hiding away from the truth he is starting to allow it to be revealed - Dickens really emphasises this point in the phrase 'with his own hands'. He also wants to be more prepared to receive this visit. However, he also feels 'uncomfortably cold' and is taken with a 'violent fit of trem and still not fully prepared to change or face the truth (38). It also suggests that from the ghosts he would be wrong to assume he has already learnt enough: his find him, are wrong.

The Ghost of Christmas Present represents an ideal of Christmas goodwill: his eyes are 'clear and kind' and 'sparkling', he appears 'genial', 'open', 'joyful' and 'cheery' (60): the description overf' \(\nu\). h positive adjectives, as the spirit himself overflows with 30 d boor. Everything is lavish and over the top: he is decked at 1.3.2en, suggesting life in the winter; the holly he is wearing in energy green which produces red berries in the winter F berries have been a symbol of life and hope at the time of 79 he most plants are dead since pre-Christian times; blly took on additional Christian symbolism in the image o traditions dating to the Middle Ages: the holly represents the suffering of Jesus, the thorns represent the crown of thorns he wears at his death, the leaves represent his life, and the berries represent his blood. The holly also links him to the Ghost of Christmas Present, who carried a branch of holly (32). Though different, the Ghosts are part of the same journey and perform a similar role: showing Scrooge moments which serve to transform him. The Ghost's roundness might also remind us of the 'portly' gentlemen collecting for charity in Stave One or Fezziwig and his 'rich' voice surrounded by food at the Christmas party (8, 42): these are characteristics which are positive in the novel, suggesting a character who is generous, but also takes pleasure in their own life. Scrooge, by contrast, is 'shrivelled' and closed: he squeezes all the week d wealth he can out of those around him but also deprives ant. of pleasure (3).

Scrooge's dingy room has 'und and an prising transformation' (59) as the setting reflects the interpretation of the setting reflects the interpretation of the Ghost are having, or intend to have upon him. The character of the Ghost of Christmas Present and is 'hung green' (59). The description is rich and vivid, reflecting the character of the Ghost and the spirit of Christmas which it represents fire is a 'mighty blaze' (59). The feast is huge, described in a long list, which makes it enough to share, which implies that there should be company. The Ghost does not taking pleasure, but sharing it. It is a spirit of generosity and empathy too.

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The way in which Scrooge interacts with the Ghost suggests the changes he has al Scrooge approaches the Ghost he avoids its eyes and, when invited, looks 'revereing implies respect of almost a religious nature. Previously, we would not have expectike this – he was characterised as scoffing and disinterested in others – but he spectand asks it to help him learn (61). Part of his transformation is the realisation that more positively with others but that he can also gain from more pleasant and ope to teach him so he can 'profit' from it: the fact he is still to be the language of more has yet to learn or could suggest he is learning a row, make the language of the 'cost' with the Ghost of Christmas Past or the same with Marley). It reminds the the novel, perhaps inviting us to rows a Scrooge might profit.

Exam

How you was pret the word 'profit' depends on how you interpret the character of Scroyou interpret the author's intentions to be at this point. Showing you understand there is word shows good word-level analysis and an awareness that there can be multiple interestable why you prefer one interpretation, linking your ideas to the text and your interpretation, or why Dickens leaves it ambiguous, again linking to the text and your ideas intent, you are being evaluative.

In terms of setting, the description of the streets is long and detailed: Dickens sho polluted city, contrasted with the 'smooth white sheets of snow' on their rooves (encroaches on the city through the Christmas weather. The snow here seems pur unpleasantly cold. (For a religious audience, the image of snow may suggests pur alluding to biblical images of becoming 'whiter than snow' (Psalm 51:7 and Isaiah show the Christmas cheer of the people as more powerful than the 'gloomy sky' a 'rough' music in 'scraping' the snow from their doorst preasant atmosphere, re The people are 'jovial' and 'there was than the been preasant atmosphere, re The people are 'jovial' and 'there was the shops and their wares are dos a great detail.

The narrato e breaks through, showing the irrepressible spirit of the day. Having reported that the people said 'it was a shame to quarrel on Christmas Day he comments enthusiastically 'God love it, so it was!' (65). The narrator's excitement is shown by the exclamation mark and also by his colloquial language: rather than being formal, or writerly, we can almost imagine the narrator speaking to us, in a familiar manner. For more on this idea see: Form: Fireside Tales on Christmas Eve p. 66.



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Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spiri

The Ghost takes Scrooge to the home of his employee, Bob Cratchit, where the fami day and small meal. The Cratchits are brave and kind in the face of their poverty very weak, and Scrooge wants to know if he will live.

Analysis

The Ghost shows the empathy Sc Out ? a more apparent as they visit to shouse. He represents feasting Ferrition, he is round and jolly), but these joys are to e for fellow human beings is key to the kind of be shared, a Christmas he represents. He is described as having a 'kind, generous, hearty nature' and having 'sympathy with all poor men' (67). Dickens makes the comparison between Scrooge's attitude to Cratchit and the Spirit's more explicit when he states that Bob receives 'but fifteen bob a week' in wages, yet receives 'the sprinkling' of the Spirit's torch and his blessing (67). The gift of the Spirit is freely given, whereas Scrooge begrudges his clerk his pay. The language Dickens uses emphasises the difference: as the Spirit 'smiled' to bestow his gift, he also makes it clear that the blessing of the Spirit is more valuable in the phrase 'and yet' (67): it is surprising that he receives such a gift in spite of his poverty. Dickens wants to make it clear that the Cratchits are deserving of help and that their poverty is not a sign that they are bad and lazy pe apparent in his characterisation of them.

Bob Cratchit and his family are presented incredilly s mentally; this is a turning point for Scrooge as he sees by (e) san individual, with a life and family, attaching emotion to his leas bout them and giving a new context in which to see his emply in anristmas Day, Cratchit's wife is dressed 'poorly' but is 'brav 70 bc 1 707): she has decorated her dress in an attempt to look nice ave in ribbons', linking the generations and beginning to show daughter is \ family, in contrast to the common Victorian stereotype of the slovenly poor. In ke the family work together to make a feast of the food they can afford, which they Bob takes care to praise the food as a 'success', though the narrator makes clear bad (72). The family work together as a unit: there is hard work, companionship

Active Learning Task

How are the Cratchit family presented?

Find quotations, and comment on them, to help you explore:

- How does Dickens show their poverty?
- How does he show their happiness?
- How o a lov

Extension: Why does Dickens have the Ghost show this family in particular?

Like Fan, the family are presented as being Although poorer, the atmosphere of their that of Belle's family: the house is full of no emphasises the value of family and commu another, cooking together and communication the children 'came tearing in' and then 'bu games, and even to der family members as Martha wn be spent the morning at than war e is anable to join them. This furt ्रिट, as Martha's absence causes a 'sudden (compare this to Scrooge's refusal to spend and also how much they care for one anoti 'disappointed' even only in a 'joke' (69). A portrayed as 'brave' and positive in the fac them, Dickens is seeking to confront a Victor and feckless, portraying a moral and loving

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This is particularly symbolised by Tiny Tim, whose 'withered' body, his smallness and weakness, demonstrate how vulnerable the family are (73). Dickens uses Tiny Tim to create sympathy in his audience and support for his social message. Tiny Tim is the 'surplus population' Scrooge derided (10). In Victorian society his disability makes him useless: he is unable to work, and therefore, surplus. By confronting Scrooge, and the read the novel, with a specific character, one who is provide is moral and kind-hearted, Dickens seeks translation decorated sympathy for people who could rock it is ally contribute to the economy. Tiny Tim walk A A search yet hopes all the people in church with him that Jesus performed them that Jesus performed worthless s (70): thus, even he, considered worthless by performed \ the utilitarian model of economics favoured by many Victorians, is serving a purpose: a spiritual one. This also confronts middleclass readers with their own professed religious beliefs, and the contradictions between Christian views of charity and dominant models of work and economics. Faced with Tiny Tim, Scrooge expresses 'an interest he had never felt before' in others, asking if Tiny Tim will live (73). This is the interest Dickens is hoping to

Context

Dickens was economics a drove much business. Thi led attitude, to their 'utili be got out a

Context

Child mortal So, for a cor Tiny Tim is a expectation, all the more survival is un

inspire. Furthermore, the word 'interest' is yet another one which has a financial has had in others before has been the interest on a debt, or one's investments, no others.

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he is powerless in their

characters in the novella, many of

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relationship, relying entirely on

Discuss

Six months Christmas made it ille work more a week. W about the



Scrooge for his livelihood. Unlike
Scrooge, he is poor and a family man, who retains warmth. Furthermore, although he is poor, he is generosity of spirit. Bob's generosity extends to his wife reluctantly agrees to, despite her view of [and] unfeeling' (a view with which the reader is husband's sake (75); even if she cannot extend he is a loyal and loving wife to Cratchit.

Exam tip...

AO2: Structure

It can sometimes seem difficult to weight solutions you can't always put it in a quote specific aspects of structure

If you tall to have the composition of the structure of the structure of the structure of the structure. If you him behavior the structure of the structure of

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Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spir

Scrooge is then taken by the Ghost of Christmas Present to see the house of his nep celebrating Christmas. At his house, there is fun, laughter and party games. Scroog does not want to leave. The Spirit also shows Scrooge the figures Ignorance and Wallinging to his robe, before disappearing.

Analysis

Dickens uses Fred's party to readers another family enjoying one another's comp difference the middle classes. This family is not a poor one and the 'merri light-hearted (84). The guests do not need to make such an effort to show they are joyful Christmas, and the characters in it are presented positively (wealth is not in charity collectors; it is Scrooge's meanness and money obsession which are being the two different households does illustrate inequality and the effects of poverty wealth of Fred's family allows them to go about their lives with great ease: they he they are not unkind people (Fred is characterised as kind and generous), they do rethe Cratchits are faced with: their world is a very different one.

Part of what Dickens is trying to do is reveal a little of that world to kindly middle-class people to inspire action in them. He tries to show the unfairness or injustice of the Cratchits' condition: Bob clearly works hard and is a good man, yet his situation is so much more difficult than Fred's. No one has to make any special effort to enjoy themselves at Fred's; if anything, the guests seem excited than the Cratchits: they have fewer worrie do more relaxed.

Discuss

Who do yo Scrooge's k

Who do yo portray as

At Fred's house we have with him; Fred points with his wife pulled by swife, she has 'no patience' with him; Fred points 'rich' he 'dc any good with it', and ultimately he pities his uncle, finding Scree'ill whims' (8 in his description of Scrooge also highlights the divide between Fred concludes that Scrooge 'suffers by his ill whims' without giving a thought to the Cratchits. Although the guests laugh at his depiction of Scrooge, the narrator claim offensive (84). It is easy for Fred to laugh at Scrooge and find him to be 'a comical the Cratchits he is an 'ogre' (75). At Fred's, Scrooge is the subject of a game of 'Yes and No' in which he is described as a 'savage animal' (87), a more negative image but one voiced in good humour rather than fear.

Scrooge is eager to find the answer to the riddle, suggesting he is unable to recognise his own faults or the way others see him. Interestingly, he remains 'light of heart' after this game and does not seem to be offended, possibly so that Fred remains oscilve character, despite mocking his uncle, possibly equive by watching the party Scrooge has become so full the party, despite remaining outside, that has 'like the party, despite remaining outside, that has 'like the spirit to let him stay at a party he had previously recomb to attend. He is childlike, and shows something of the childhood he has long lost. Yet, he remains unable to contact the people there.

Active

Children

Draw up the childr why they

An exam

Charac Scrooge a child

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Zig Zag Education At the end of the stave, Scrooge notices two children clinging to the Ghost: yet they are so 'shrivelled' and 'twisted' they are worse than 'monsters' (90). The Spirit explains that they are 'Man's' creations, Ignorance and Want. When Scrooge asks what can be done for them, the Ghost replies with his own heartless questions, showing Scrooge's responsibility for them. Whereas the Cratchits show a sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with whom it is easier to sympathetic and sentiment version of the poor with version vers

Context

Ragged Sovery poor of go to school children wo Cratchit's o

Dickens wa would lead be criminal and saw the of poverty.



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Stave Three Overview

Scrooge wakes to find the Ghost of Christmas Present has transformed his rooms: de with food. He and the Ghost travel together, visiting a number of celebrations inclu Cratchit, and nephew, Fred.

Analysis

Once again, in contrast to his usy post of control seen in Stave One, Scrooge is looking in or see as rewerlessly, as an observer, although he is partly response fc handle to affect or change what is going on, m despite his earlier preference to 'edge his way along the which frust crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance' (4). Now lives of others, inquiring after Tiny Tim and wishing to stay on at Fred's party. His denied in Stave One when he tells the charity collectors the lives of others are 'no apparent. He employs Cratchit, and is, therefore, responsible for his income: he This toast, though seemingly sincere from Cratchit, is **ironic**, as Dickens shows Scr of the family's impoverishment; and he refused the invitation to Fred's. As Fred consequence of Scrooge's refusal to go to his nephew's party is that 'he loses som Standing outside, Scrooge regrets this and asks to be allowed to stay, even looking the games by himself. He is starting to want to be part of the world again, spendi an interest in them. He asks the Ghost 'if Tiny Tim will live' (73), showing an interecho reminds him, he said should die and 'decrease the surplus population' (74). much as any ghost.

Furthermore, the impact of the present moment on School different to that of the past. Reflecting on memories may vice angles of sympathy, nostalgia, even disappointment and relative the present moment is more immediate. Scrooge may feel to be that his fiancée left him, but the older Scrooge is not immediate. Scrooge is not immediate to the loss he feels. However, it is only hours the spent time with Bob and Fred, begrudging 'a day's wages for number and declaring his nephew an 'idiot' (13, 6): it is not so much regret or ruefulness as guilt that he now feels, as he wishes he had behaved otherwise on Christmas Eve.

Scrooge is not only taken to Cratchit and Fred's parties but across the city to see a wide variety of people celebrating Christmas in all sorts of places.

Although there is not a lot of detail in these scenes, Dickens aims to show the universal nature of Christmas. They see young and old people, miners, a lamplighter, two men in a lighthouse, and some aboard a ship. Many are singing or sharing food, all 'had had a kinder word for one another on that day the The spirit of Christmas is that it improves all people, 'good or bad', and so Scrooge appreciate it (80). Dickens depicts Christmas as a time of softening attitudes and particularly pertinent time for the Ghosts to visit Scrooge inspire a kinder, ger

We think of many of our Christmas tradic of going back a long time, but many to the Victorians. Until the ning to entury, the big festival of the year was Twing to end of the Christmas and define what it means. The fact that the celebration its terms, traditions and atmosphere were still to be defined. The celebration ways in which Victorian celebrations can concern that it came to be one of the major ways in which Victorian celebrations can christmas: through his writings, these 'traditions' came to be traditional. Dickens this opportunity: to create a Christmas which is charitable and celebrates communications of Christmas Present, as well as the snapshots of Christmases around and Dickens wanted to show were important about Christmas: it is 'cheery', 'unconstri

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are decorations and plenty to eat, and there is an 'air of cheerfulness' (62) and 'be importantly, kindness and goodwill between all people.

Stave 3 Summary

- Scrooge begins to take an interest in others: in Stave One he was closed off line he began to show more emotion, mainly inspired by sympathy for his younge for others such as Fan and Belle, as well as reflecting in is behaviour toward singer, through his empathy with his younge sent tave Three he inquires concern about his health, as well as an effect on the scene.
- Scrooge is reminded and the responsibility to others he spirit repopular shall be dealt with by 'prisons' and 'workhouses' (10 and 74, 9 and 10 and 1
- Dickens presents a vision of Christmas and its values: goodwill, community, c
 to revive and establish traditions reflecting his social and political values as th
 Christmas festival. He works to create a picture which the middle classes can
 music are encouraged but which also promotes sympathy for the poor.
- Dickens also aims to challenge contemporary ideas about the poor and pover impoverished Cratchits, who are portrayed as brave and hard-working.

Practice exam question

You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole novella to answer the Write about the presentation of poverty in the novel.

In your answer you should:

- refer to the extract and the novella as a whole
- show your understanding of characters and events in an love
- refer to the contexts of the novel

'Then up rose Mrs Cratchit... ar't ia to com away this morning, Mother!' (67–68)



Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of your exam board.

To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board

Exam tip...

AO3: Context

Edugas helpfully remind you to write about context, thou and all on the AQA mark sol

Although social and historical context is portion of the kinds of context: the themse and context and genre, for example. Characters can be proceed as a context of the con

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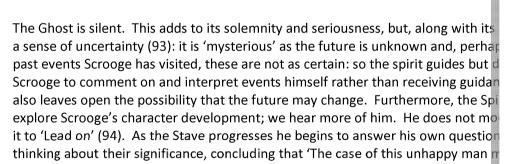


Stave Four: The Last of the Spirits pp

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come arrives, silently. It has a frightening appearant it. He does, however, acknowledge it has come to teach him, and that the lesson it leasts it to help him. It does not speak at all, but points the vipy leading Scrooge

Analysis

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Company of And silent. It is far more sinister and every terious than the spirits it. i 📉 🤊 Fibed with words related to death as it moves 199 v', and is 'shrouded', words which also link to its concealed decorden nature (93). Furthermore, the list of three adverbs as it 'slowly, gravely, silently approached' slows the reader: the ghost takes control of the passage as the pace mimics its movements, forcing both Scrooge and the reader to follow it. This slowing of pace, in contrast to the life and gaiety of the previous stave, establishes a serious atmosphere, almost like a funeral procession (93). Unlike the previous ghosts, this one is not carrying holly or wearing clothes associated with Christmas. Instead it appears like the Grim Reaper, the figure of death from stories. It is a solemn ghost which blends into the night and 'darkness' (93): Scrooge seems to feel it more than see it. It is also the most frightening spirit; Scrooge 'feared' it, he 'trembled' and felt 'horror' (94). Like Marley, its terrifying presence fits neatly into the Victorian tradition ghostly tales on Christmas Eve. The deathly associated his to the shrouded figure are the final element in ting scrooge to transform: he is not only to think and his eternal reward, or wealth and serlife, how he will be judged ini is Lek to Marley's ghost. This ghost has moral and s threat. The overwhelming presence of the Ghost also elimnasises the seriousness of Dickens' message as the novella's tone becomes even more gloomy and sombre.



Discurs ...

Oge is already resolved to be 'another man', why does he need to follow this ghost too?





Active L

Think of the three best words you can to describe the ghost. For each word, fill in the following

Word	In what way is it like that?	Evidence from the text	
e.g. Frightening	It is spooky and appears in a way we might associate with death.	It fills Scrooge with 'uncertain horror' as he looks at its 'dusky shroud' but cannot see its face.	Scr of We bor fat cor ap this thir
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Stave Four: The Last of the Spirits pp.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge on a journey into the future. The death of a colleague, a pawn shop where people are trying to sell the things they and the dinner table of a poor couple relieved that the man they owe money to is

Analysis

In terms of setting, Scrooge and the setting, tan 'obscure' poor part of town which Scrooge has never vicing of 12 (98): its 'ways' are literally its streets but the word all street enabits and behaviour of the people there. They are 'foul', to be wretched', the people 'half naked, drunken, slipshod, s it stink, but it also 'reeked with crime, with filth and with ugly'; not or Educa misery' (98). These great lists of adjectives and nouns show how overrun the place is: how crowded it is and how such conditions are unavoidable for the residents. The place is deeply unpleasant and fits Victorian stereotypes about the slovenly poor, but Dickens wants to suggest that the people who live there are victims, and their criminality is produced by poverty, not that they are poor because they are bad. So, while the setting is very different from that of the Cratchit house, a place of poverty, cleanliness and hard work, his purpose is very much the same. It also means that he is presenting more than one picture of sentimentalised Cratchit family, but its grittier, more problematic aspects. Yet, w Dickens has already laid the groundwork for a sympathetic reading of this more u inhabitants through the figures of Ignorance and Want, who hide in the robes of t

and are 'meagre, ragged' creatures, but also 'wolfish', 'pinched' and 'twisted' (89, 90): they are 'menacing' and monstrous (90), but they are 'Man's', created by neglect and disre(90).

The charact the property of a rich dead man: one defends their actions, saying 'Every person has a right to take care of themselves. He always did!' (100). By using dialogue to present the characters, Dickens gives a voice to people who would not normally have a chance to express themselves, and tries to humanise them. He also draws a comparison between them and the rich man who is dead, and who

A 🗓 ¿Learning Task

Look back at each of the three gradual businessmen, the people in the part

For each group write:

- one sentence summarising where represent
- one sentence summarising the death. Summary sentences of to death, e.g. one group is m representing wealth. They she humanity of the dead man, o

What is different about these gro

Extension: What do we learn fro has died?

was, by all accounts, unpleasant and mean, as they say they be only doing what he immoral, but what he did was no better. Dicker at thy compares the behadocused on individual economic gain, to that they as. By having a minor character be directly critiqued for the idea, and they are argue it was spoken by an undessuggested the link nonethal and they have stolen is 'not extensive' and 'of no greimprove they are little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth. They see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth. They see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth. They see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they see little and they have stolen from hoarded his wealth they

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Zig Zag Education Before entering the slums, we also see 'one little knot of businessmen' reacting to City. The two settings are **juxtaposed**, inviting a comparison between them, but t is only described glancingly as a place of 'merchants' who 'chinked the money in t watches and trifled with their gold seals' (95). These objects are handled lightly b with like toys, yet they are symbols of wealth. Interestingly, a seal such as the one among the objects from the dead man's house which appear in the pawn shop: fo value; though 'not extensive', it is worth selling.

Although they are discussing him, the human end interest in 'don't know much about it' only that had not they are discussing is dead (95), sug about him or how he did not expresses that they 'thought he'd never die', rath though they have the comment is met 'with a general laugh' (96): the can't even part with his money in death, which reflects their feelings about his pen his death may seem particularly hard to a Victorian audience as they had great rith death. We are told in Stave Two that Belle is wearing 'a mourning dress' though representation be using the dress symbolically, with the end of their engagement signalling the descrooge Belle fell in love with).

Dickens also presents a couple who were in debt to the dead man. Their debt has depressed' (107); they are aged and pained by their debt. They are struggling to prist stave, like many other Victorians, would suggest if they cannot pay they shou (as Dickens' father was); however, Dickens aims to show them as a kind and pleas misfortune, much like the virtuous Cratchit family. The woman is 'mild and patier feeling relief at the death of the man to whom they owe money (107). It is suppopoverty has hardened them. Dickens wants to suggest the poor should be helped good: they must be educated and supported to prevent the pay it off honestly befor cold logic, for which she feels guilt, is a way from Scrooge's suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted to the dead man. Their debt has depresented by their debt potentially allows this fancily improve away from Scrooge's suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted to the dead man. Their debt has depresented by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted by their debt has depresented by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of their debt painted by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the standard painted by their debt has a suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the suggestion with in workhouses, and allow all of the suggestion with in workhouses.

These are to people Scrooge normally chooses to ignore, and places rewould have to ignore. The poverty the people live in is unsettling, and it is criminals and the area as dangerous, or the couple as irresponsible. However, Dicconsider their responsibility towards their fellow humans and their situations. Dicconsider their situations and hoped to encourage his readers to do the same.



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Stave Four: The Last of the Spirits pp.

Scrooge sees the Cratchits distraught at the death of Tiny Tim. Fred has expressed help them if he can. Bob encourages the family to take comfort in memories of Tiny asks who the dead man was before having his own gravestone revealed.

Analysis

We return to the Cratchits' house to be with death of Tiny Tim has changed the sett as a mustling, lively home, to a place of gre ne previously 'noisy little Cratchits' are s in one corner' and they are 'very quiet' (108). now 'still as The life seems to have been drained from them: they make no noise or sound. Although their house is small they huddle together in one corner for comfort, taking up as little space as they can. Their sense of fun and energy is gone. This is a very strong contrast with the 'tearing' about of the children who 'danced' last time we saw them (68), filling the house with their joyful presence. Mrs Cratchit, who had previously decorated an old dress with ribbons in honour of the Christmas festivities, now complains that the 'colour' of her sewing hurts her eyes, when really she is trying not to cry. She no longer takes pleasure in brightness and decorations, but stoically hides her pain, as Bob does when he 'left the room' to sit and think with the body of his son (110), as there are signs of another member of the family. doing recently. However, the children complain that Palais 'a little slower than he used to' (109): it is as if the life and by is draining out of the family. They are all the slower and quieter and more withdrawn in jurepresented their fragility, with his death fragility, with his death fragility, with his death fragility broken. Yet, in keeping with his characte To In the Cratchits as a positive, hard-working family, Dickens sh d to what had happened' and reminds his family to remember becomes 're virtues in their lives (110).

However, the death of the rich man had very little impact on those he knew: they expense, exchange his possessions, express relief they may have time to pay their order to 'see some tenderness connected with death' Scrooge must see someone supposed insignificance – his small stature, his inability to work, his feeble cry — Ti connection to those around him, and his death leaves a far greater hole in their little rich man is Scrooge long before he does, and his death is strongly contrasted Cratchits mourn for Tiny Tim, no one mourns for Scrooge.

This contrast is emphasised through setting: Bob plans to visit
Tiny Tim's grave every week and it is in a 'green' place '1.

Scrooge's grave is 'neglected' in a 'choked' and or erg or r. cemetery
(114). Tiny Tim's grave will be tended 'c and recuror, as he was
loved in life, and the greenness of at soll counds it suggests a
continuation of life. Ye has been stored from the store lately' and he kisses 'the little face' (110): whereas Scrooge's bring the stored from the stor

there lately' and he kisses 'the little face' (110); whereas Scrooge's body is in a 've unwept, uncared for' (104). The three adjectives here are all defined by absence, something is missing, and it is the love shown in the Cratchit house. Furthermore 'hung with Christmas', suggesting that the spirit of Christmas kindness and cheer and reiterating the connection of Tiny Tim to the spirit of Christmas.

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Discuss

The narr

'Spirit of

was from

What do

role in th

The kindness Fred shows to Bob is recounted to the family as a very significant events being polite, offering his sympathies to the family, but this is a great contrast to the them. They are not used even to little pleasantries from those who are better off Dickens wants to show the importance of warmth and generosity towards all peopot in the form of money; his goodwill makes the Cratchits feel cared for, and Bob 'delightful' (111). This is similar to the power Fezziwig has to make people happy in Stave Two.

Dickens continues to characterise Bob as on coming into the house 'was ''s or call' and 'spoke pleasantly' to his family (empty chair 'broke down is presented as both resolved and strong for and feeling is always the good of his children and he urges them the 'mild' Tiny (112). He shows that there is a place for emotion and sentimes

The Spirit is characterised as 'immoveable' and 'inexorable' (impossible to stop), suggesting the future which it represents is fixed and unchangeable (114, 113); however, Scrooge insists that if 'the courses be departed from, the ends will change' (114). It is only when he declares 'I am not the man I was' (114) that the Spirit begins to waver: as its hand 'appeared to shake' (115). This suggests that with Scrooge's rejection of his former self his transformation is complete and change is possible. The Spirit then 'dwindled down into a bedpost' to which Scrooge is clinging (115).

Active Learning Task

Imagine you are Scrooge. Y

Write your 'to-do list' for the

Think about:

- what you might need
- who you might need to
- how you might change





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Stave Four Overview

The sinister Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to a number of scenes. In a poor couple, who discuss the death of a rich man they do not care for. They also which has been transformed by grief over the death of Tiny Time.

Analysis

It is clear to the reader that the down of Scrooge long before Scrooge realises who the dead man is, the way to shim to a clue or place, but he cannot work businessme is is sed that the Spirit should attach importance to rently so trivial'. He even notices his absence from the conversatio¹ City and sees another man stood in his accustomed corner', but he has already resolved to wait and see his 'future self' to make sense of it (96, 97, 98, 99). What is clear to us is that the Spirit does not show him 'trivial' conversations, but entirely relevant ones: he is reluctant to follow the logic of events, either by ignorance or fear or a combination of the two. The Spirit even takes him to see the shrouded body and points to its head, which he is unable to uncover. Then the figure he sees in his office is 'not his' but he still cannot draw himself to the conclusion which both Dickens and the Spirit are making very clear (113). He must instead enter the graveyard, where approaching the grave 'he saw new meaning in its solemn shape' as the truth begins to dawn on him (114). This means that while the reader is already comparing Scrooge's death to Tiny Tim's, Scrooge is seemingly comparing that of a stranger's to Tiny Tim's, and he reacts sympathetically rather than out of self-interest. While it is arguable that his transform is largely selfish, and indeed the thing which finally comple es stransformation is the revelation the dead man is him, his transform on could be interpreted as motivated not only by self-interest fan Lear but also by a genuine change of heart



Some critics have suggested the portrayal of Cratchit's family, particularly Tiny Tim, is too sentimental. Others think the portrayal of the family is essential to the novella.

What do you think? And why?

Scrooge's failure to recognise the deadifficult it can be to see our own fault examine their own lives. From the st presented with Scrooge as a mean ar his realisation that he must change, he events of the stave: he similarly parlour game at Fred's house in Stave see our failings in the novel. He critic to work, to economics, to charity and

The narrator continues to comment on events, guiding the reader through the sto in his comforter the narrator notes 'he had need of it poor fellow' (108) – althoug clothing, it is also symbolic of the emotional comfort Bob needs, and the narrator legitimate feelings. The poor need shelter from cold and it less too. Likewise, spirit of Tiny Tim and declares him to be 'from Gc (10).



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Stave Four Summary

- The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come is very different from its predecessors, neterrifying ghosts of fireside stories; it is 'shrouded' and mysterious (93). The makes it a more frightening presence and changes the tone of the novella to but also allows the possibility of change (93): the future events are not set in and so the figure is less clear.
- The deaths of Scrooge and Tiny Tim are juxtaposed to ge is 'unmourned' missed (104). While Scrooge's financial wort ast and by Victorian economic value, his passing shows how little to the truly had, leaving only objects divinously, only his company it the truly had, leaving only objects divinously, only his company it the truly had, leaving only objects divinously, only his company it the truly had, leaving only objects divinously and he leaves to the property of the property and the leaves to the property of the proper
- Dickens another view of the slums. In contrast to the Cratchit family, occupants of the poorer parts of town. However, he continues to suggest the victims of their circumstances, as well as comparing their more heartless beh businessmen who are protected by their wealth and middle-class respectabil personal gain at the expense of others.
- Dickens allows his audience to realise, before Scrooge, that the dead man is like this he allows the reader to feel superior to Scrooge, while also drawing about the consequences of Scrooge's behaviour which fit with his message tharmful.
- Scrooge's experiences have transformed him and he resolves to 'honour Chri

Practice exam question

Read the following extract from Stave Four and then answer the substion that follows.

In this extract Scrooge is looking in on the Cratchit ion E of the death of Tiny Tim. 'I am sure none of us will forget poor Tiny Time ence was from God' (112)

Starting with this extract. Coxens presents the character of Tiny Tim. Write about:

- how I 19 pre ents the character of Tiny Tim in this extract
- how D Education resents the character of Tiny Tim in the novella as a whole

Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of your exam board. To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board



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Stave Five: pp. 117-123

Scrooge is relieved to find himself at home, and declares he is a changed man. He chance to put things right. He orders a prize turkey for the Cratchits, greets people charitable donation and attends church.

Analysis

The tone of this stave is very different the rest of the novella, and particularly the stave important particularly the stave is positive and a state of it being expressed enthusiastically. The stave is full of such which makes it feel full of energy and excitement. There are also many **superlative** happiest' time, in which Scrooge can make 'amends' (117). There is huge potential and he enters into it wholeheartedly, and so the style of writing changes too.

The change in language and imagery illustrates the change in Scrooge. Rather tha One, he is 'glowing with his good intentions' (117). Whereas he has previously be – living in an unlit house, lying dead in a dark room – he is now described using so him is so pronounced he appears different and his light shines around him. The g is something he can share with others, rather than being enclosed and constraine tears' as though the old, icy Scrooge is melting away (117). His speech is changed

hard, abrupt and unfanciful, his talk is littered with similes and he has a lot to say: 'I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school boy. I am as giddy as drunken man' (118). The list of similers on how overflowing with emotion is a suit the positive and light though the more out, giddily. Furthermone we would previously have associated with Scrooge. The drunken man has enjoyed himself in a way Scrooge would have considered wasteful, consuming more than he should.

F = Carning Task

∠ore-play

Imagine you have just seen and transformed Scrooge walking to

With a partner talk about what makes you think,

Or...

Write a dialogue between two precognised, Scrooge as he make

'Giddy' is never a word anyone would have associated with him before, but it ver passage: rushing about, full of life and joy, slightly skittish with excitement. He als finds he has a 'splendid laugh' with the promise of more to come. When he speak the word 'chuckle' is repeated six times in one paragraph as he is 'breathless' with though all these feelings have been trapped inside and are finally being set free. I down the street in such a manner that people avoided him, now he has a 'delighted irresistibly pleasant' that he is greeted by 'good-humoure ow' (121).

In one image Scrooge describes himself a paby' (118). This shows that he afresh, with a new enthusiasm a life be knows he has a lot to learn and will require

Discuss

It is mentioned ew times that Scrooge's hand 'continued to shake very much'. Why do you think this is? though the slate has been wiped clear Dickens placed on education, this is as Scrooge has the chance to relear description of his appearance and be his distracted and excited speech to is distracted by having a 'dance' whil

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rediscovery of youth is also apparent in the image of the 'schoolboy' (118). His overjoyed behaviour on Christmas morning reflects the childish spirit which Dickens hopes to promote. Furthermore, the image of the baby relates directly to the Christmas story, which celebrates the birth of a baby, and which is primarily a story of hope. The baby Jesus who is born at Christmas comes to transform everyone's lives and make them better people. While the story is not explicitly religious, this me of new life closely connects it with the Christian celebration.

When Scrooge arrives back in his act & Ladoesn't 'even know what day of the month it is' (118) at the month it is' (118) at the month it is' (118). Ghosts would be cutive nights, only one night has passed and it is Christmas Tools croose comments on this that the Spirits 'can do crooge comments on this that the Spirits 'can do is Christmas anything the which seems to satisfy him (119). Some critics suggest that this is an additional miracle, giving Scrooge all the more time to improve his life, and allowing him to transform the very special day, Christmas, around which the novella has revolved. The chronology of the novella is very precise: the bells and the time are referred to constantly and exactly so it does appear to be deliberate, and it is a story of time travel after all.

Thinking more about setting, when Scrooge looks out of the morning the day is tra change of mood. Whereas on Christmas Eve it was foggy and dull, it is now a bear clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold piping for the blood to dance to; golden sur air; merry bells' (119). Again, there is an abundance of adjectives; all positive, as contained. This day demonstrates the Christmas spirit Dickens points his readers inspires a need to dance, not to hide away. The day is to all and metaphorical 'golden'. 'golden'.



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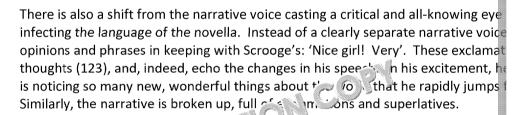


Stave Five: pp. 123-end

After attending church, Scrooge visits Fred's house and spends the afternoon happil he arrives at the office early to catch Bob arriving late: after pretending to be ang also asks Bob to 'make up the fires' and buy more coal before beginning work. The Scrooge kept his word to be a changed man and that The half did not die'.

Analysis

The change in Scrooge is decreed through his interactions with others. Previously he may and dismissing those around him, but now he is effusive all of endearments. When Scrooge speaks to Fred's servant he calls her 'my dear' and 'my love' (123). The 'girl' is of a class Scrooge would previously have barely acknowledged, viewing them only according to their role at work; now, the affectionate way in which he speaks to her shows how changed he is: he is loving to all people now. Similarly, he called the boy who carries the turkey to the Cratchits' 'my fine fellow' (119). The repeated possessive pronoun 'my' in these endearments also suggests a recognition of the relationship Scrooge has with all of his fellow human beings.



Through the character of the character o

middle-class Victorians, who were very mubehaviour and politeness.

Active Learning Task

Fred's party is 'wonderful' but not described in great detail.

Write a description of a party for a big celebration, such as Christmas, which brings out the key traditions and value event.

Christmas at Fred's is 'wonderful'; once agrepetition to emphasise his point: 'Wonde wonderful unanimity' won-der-ful happine Scrooge is 'yo' Christmas, and that in other to be enjoy being with him. He also a' han, games and companionship are no important: they create a 'unanimity' wher share happiness. By breaking up the last r Dickens really stresses the positivity of the reminds us of the sense of a storyteller, re

Scrooge's determination to play a joke on Bob shows his new, playful, spirit. The his heart upon' pulling off the joke makes him seem childish in his enthusiasm, esp marks (124). When Scrooge tries to use his 'accustomed voice' he has to 'feign it'

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unable to sound so completely heartless (125). In fact, when Bob is uncertain of it is the 'earnestness' with which he wishes Bob 'a Merry Christmas' that makes Complete of more money for Bob, support for his family, and a decent fire in the of Scrooge's transformation.

Dickens concludes the novella in two final paragraphs separated from the main narrative body of the text. In these he revisits so of his key messages. The transformation of Scrooge is round a more than his word' because peor change (128). In keeping with Dickens' ideas about 50 completes, and his criticism of the dominant Victoria and more more power more power more than his word' because peor change (128). In keeping with Dickens' ideas about 50 completes, and his criticism of the dominant Victoria and more more power more power more power more power more than the 'ogre' he once was (128, 75). He is 'as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old City know, and importantly (know how to keep Christmas well' (128). Society

Discus

At many describe compar Bob, wh rise, is

Why de

knew', and, importantly, 'knew how to keep Christmas well' (128). Scrooge is full of Christmas symbolises this transformation as it embodies the spirit of kindness, previously lacked. Not only that, but the City is no longer depicted as an unpleasa but affectionately as the 'good old City', one which we have seen in the stave is full contents.

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Stave Five Overview

Scrooge looks out on the new morning and is filled with joy at the prospect of a sec window to ask a boy what time it is, only to find it is Christmas Day. He cheerful sto a turkey for the Cratchits; making a charitable donation; smiling in the street; attendarty; and giving Bob a pay rise. We are told he continued to be a good man for others laugh at him.

Analysis

Scrooge's transforms is a vicem extreme, and the language over the top, but the notation be realistic: you could think of the **form** as having meant to be realistic: you could think of the **form** as having meant to the audience. So the extreme change makes the message very clear. From Scrooge's behaviour and language, to the narrative voice, to the weather, everything has changed for the better. The writing is exuberant and breathless: this conveys enthusiasm for the change and its positivity.

Dickens is aware that some might consider his story, and its message, naïve. Although Scrooge's transformation is presented to the reader as altogether positive, 'some people laughed to see the alteration in him', Scrooge knows they are 'blind' to the truth, and he would rather they were laughing at him than having a 'less attractive', more malicious, reaction to his goodness (126). Dickens suggests that whenever good is done some people do laugh, and encourages the reader to persevere in doing the right thing in spite of this. Scrooge is now 'wise' and has a happy lart (126).

Dickens structures the novella so that the 'a. 'a. 'arances out the first, and the story has a sense of resol' in the last once makes amends for each fault of the first stave, he can being solitary to being open and personable, the personable to being overjoyed. This gives the novella ord a sense of completeness. Scrooge goes from being one who refuses make myself merry at Christmas' (10) to being one of whom it was said 'he knew how to keep Christmas well' (126). His rejection of Christmas symbolises his rejection of generosity and goodwill generally, and so his embrace of it shows how he is finally able to care for others.

Stave Five Summary

- Scrooge's transformation is complete: he wakes on Christmas morning to find surprise and delight at the possibilities awaiting him (118). This joy and hope the language of the novella shifts: it contains far more superlatives, adjective Scrooge's voice and the narrator's merge at times as his irrepressible joy take
- We are informed that Scrooge goes on to be 'better the his word', suggest recan be real and sustained (126).
- Scrooge goes about settling the individual will as of Stave One, giving a bala to the novel. This wholeness is a large to the reader and fits in with our unthe novella is not region away its conclusions in a similar manner to a fits example of the Christman in the Christman i
- Dicken loss that Christmas is a time of generosity and joy. Scrooge do loss but lo
- Scrooge has the power not only to transform his own life, but the lives of oth father' to the Cratchits, reflecting Dickens' model of the 'good... master' who those who are beneath him (128).

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What Carol



Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of your exam board. To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you; what key ideas or themes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board

Practice exam question

Read the following and the follows.

In this ex

rooge is waiting for Cratchit on Boxing Day.

Starting with this extract, discuss how Dickens presents playfulness. 'But he was early at the office ... and therefore I am about to raise your salary' (124-

- how Dickens presents playfulness in this extract
- how Dickens presents playfulness in the novella as a whole







Whole-text Analysis

Characterisation

Characterisation is how the characters are created and presented. You will need about the characters and how you know that about the characters and how you know that about the table that about them. Things in the text that will have been write about characters at (what they say), actions (what they do not be a described, and what happened to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the table that about the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented. You will need to the characters are created and presented and presented and presented and the characters are created and characte

Scrooge

Scrooge is the protagonist. The whole story revolves around his transformat the manner manner

Through the character of Scrooge, Dickens criticises the attitude that money and profit are more important than people, and suggests our responsibility to others. When first asked to contribute to a charitable collection, he points out that his taxes 'help support' prisons and workhouses, and 'I can't afford to make idle people merry' (10). Yet, his clerk is also very poor, not because he is idle but because Scrooge pays him very little. Scrooge is the 'Founder of the Feast' at the Cratchit house (74): the wages' pays have provided their meal, but it is meagre. As Mrs Cratchit are responsible to be wasteful and Contribute to a charitable collection, he points over your not because he is idle but because Scrooge pays him very little. Scrooge is the 'Founder of the Feast' at the Cratchit house (74): the wages' pays have provided their meal, but it is meagre. As Mrs Cratchit are responsible to paying bills with no money' when the paying bills with no money when the paying bills

Dickens aim without a better way to live, as Scrooge is transformed into someone who takes an interest in others. He gives Bob a pay rise and becomes a good 'master' (123); Dickens is appealing for a kinder and more understanding society which is not purely driven by material profit. Some people 'laugh' at the change in Scrooge, but he 'laughed' in his heart, knowing his life to be richer for the change (123).

At the start of the novella he is described in great detail, before the story even be important his character is to the story. He is 'solitary' and 'cold' (2, 3). This cold is it is a definitive feature of his appearance and personality: he 'iced his office in the on the hottest days of the year he made all about him cold (3). He only has a 'veris 'so very much smaller', showing how little his own comfort and the comfort of Likewise, his home is mostly bare: it too is isolated 'c' and largely unlit because.

He is rude and unkind to everyone "Ses his nephew, telling him that 'eve "Merry Christmas" on his light a poiled with his own pudding, and buried heart' (6). He talls c'in y decrors that he'd rather the poor die 'and decrease thave to hel (1). He also frightens off a carol singer, who finds the frost module. He is footband unloved by all; in fact, he is considered 'the ogre of the fam

It is also made clear that Scrooge is free of 'fancy': he is not imaginative or wishful appearance of Marley's ghost and the subsequent visitors seem more real: Scroog we do have flashes of a more imaginative Scrooge: as a child he pictures the book

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characters seem to come to life about him and the adult Scrooge delights at recalling it (38); furthermore, although the language he uses after undergoing his transformation seems brighter and more imaginative, there are flashes of that creativity in the witticisms he exchanges with Marley when he thinks he is imagining things and attributes them to an upset stomach, saying to Marley 'there about you' (21). Even the insult with which he dismisses his nephew is **florid** and

Scrooge is first visited by the ghost of his dead par at 1), rley: these two charact as 'kindred spirits' who are equally mean as a g (9). The characterisation o insight into Scrooge's possible fut are the dalone, with Scrooge as his 'sole mo and returned to work in the day after the funeral (1).

He is then so hristmases from his past and realises that he has made bad choices. Teels sympathy with his old self, seeing the pain of his childhood and reliving it is an easier way in to feeling empathy than reflecting on the suffering of others. He is 'trembling' as soon as he recognises his old school and his memories are released (35). He also remembers the affection he had for his sister, Fan, whom he clearly loved.

How transf

Despite having declared Christmas a 'humbug' he goes on to enjoy watching Fred' games through the window, as he regains something of his childish spirit that was show interest in others, as, having seen the Cratchit family's Christmas, he expreschild, asking the spirit to 'tell me if Tiny Tim will live' (73).

He is devastated when he finds that he dies alone, like Marley, and he endeavours been uninterested in the opinions of others, and it being 'all the same to him' if per (2), when he sees his own death and the reactions of city it, he wishes to avoid the control of the control

Given the chance to begin again, Screen energy of sponge away the writing begins to set things to rights by making amends to the Cratchits and to charity. Significantly, however, the whole Cratchit family, like a 'second father' vulnerable 19 sty (20).

Young Scrooge

We have glimpses of different stages of Scrooge's youth, giving us some insight in a 'solitary' and 'neglected' child, left alone at school for Christmas, and learn that home (36, 40). He is unloved and isolated, but takes refuge in the world of his impossion in the world of

As an apprentice he knows how to have fun and joins the 'cheerful' party with a 'to the 'frosty' appearance of the older Scrooge (3). We also learn that Scrooge was Belle comments on how he has 'changed' (49): that he was one 'content' to be aspirations' (49).

Practice (x) n question

You should use the extract below and your ' ge of the whole novella to answer the

Write about how Scrooge chan in the revel.

In your answer

- refer t_{qq}^{9} xti set and the novella as a whole
- show show derstanding of characters and events in the novel
- refer to the contexts of the novel

In this extract Scrooge has found himself back home following his journey with the Ghost o 'Running to the window ... 'Go and buy it" (119–120)

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Active Learning Task

Convert the question on the previous page into the style of your exam board.

To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you: what key ideas or the hes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board

The Ghosts: Marley

Marley appears quite having to be is characterised in some detail. The first stave, a novella in part, he littered with Marley's name. In fact, it is the very first wo to make a classic allel between Scrooge and his former business partner so that enjoy the same fate.

Marley was alone and unloved: no one much cared about his death or attended h funeral. In life he was concerned only with moneymaking and he is now being punished. In death he is 'condemned' to 'walk abroad among his fellow men' (22) because he did not do so in life, and must 'witness' the 'happiness' he 'might have shared' had he behaved differently (22). He wears a chain, made 'of my own free will' (23), which is 'long' and covered in the symbols of his business life (19). Christmas is the time at which 'I suffer most' (25), knowing how he could have helped others, but did not. He is full of regret and comes to 'warn' Scrooge (26).

The Ghosts: The Ghost of Christmas Past

This ghost guides Scrooge through his past in Stave Two. It is les Scrooge through events from his past: at school alone; at school another then his sister arrive to take him home; as an apprentice at Ferricials, and, when Belle breaks off her engagement to him. The main decrease it is appearance can be found on pp. 32–33.

The Ghost contract Past appears at once young, 'like a child', and old, 'like an old new sit links together Scrooge with his memories (32). Its age, brightness and 'outline' all fluctuate as, like memories, it shimmers in and out of view, sometimes 'dissolving' sometimes 'bright and clear' (33). Like the past it is both definite, fixed and unchanging, and vague, subject to our ability to remember.

The Ghost has a 'bright clear jet of light' coming from its head, which can be covered with a cap. The cap represents the repression of memory, and all the ways Scrooge has blocked out joy and happiness. Its 'purest white' tunic represents the innocence of the young Scrooge, and of childhood more generally, and the summer flowers represent its association with youth (32).

Although the Ghost appears at times to have 'no outline it touches Scrooge it is solid and 'strong' (34). It holds him 'er', out it is also 'not to be resisted' (34): it is kind and compassing enterongement and gentle voice' it is also common properties to 'Rise! And walk with me!' It responds to the properties of th

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The Ghosts: The Ghost of Christmas Present

The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge through Christmas in the current year showing Scrooge what life is like for different kinds of people. It takes him to see: Il London streets as people prepare for the holiday; the Cratchit family Christmas; a variety of Christmases around the country; Fred's Christmas. At the end of the stavereveals two children: Ignorance and Want, hiding in its robes. A description of its appearance can be found on pp. 59–60.

The Ghost of Christmas Present is the mount of the key ideas about poverty and charity found in the novella. It personifies generosity; in a maring food and wealth but also in terms of sharing kind to be a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity; in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity in a maring food and 'torch not unlike Plenty's how the all the personifies generosity

In contrast with the vague figure of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present is large: it takes up a huge amount of space, transforming Scrooge's whole room; it is a 'jolly Giant' whose presence dominates the stave as Dickens attempts to show the Christmas spirit entering into all things (58). He is open and generous: much of what he says is 'exclaimed' and

his speech is littered with exclamation marks, which suggests enthusiasm and good after his transformation, Scrooge's speech is full of such exclamations, showing the and Scrooge's ability to 'keep Christmas well' (126). He blesses the houses, and good because a poor house 'needs it most' (66), the language of the poor and their situation by preads his goodwill about

However, the spirit is not entited with cat judgement. When Scrooge asks about using Scrooge's own with a ne had better die and 'decrease the surplus populashamed at the spirit leaves with Scrooge of the 'Doom' that is coming (90): when strength of the spirit leaves with Scrooge's unsympathetic sentiments: 'turning on him for the rejecting Scrooge (90–91).

The Ghosts: The Ghost of Christmas Future

The Ghost of Christmas Future has a frightening appearance, reminding readers of Grim Reaper (the personification of death). It does not speak but takes Scrooge to his business colleagues, a group of thieves and a young couple, all of whom care volittle about his death. It also takes him to see the Cratchit family mourning the de Tiny Tim before revealing that the dead man no one cared about was Scrooge. A description can be found on pp. 93–94.

This is the most mysterious ghost. It has a creepy appear of 'shrouded' and hid like a corpse, blending in to the night and darkner (\$1) represents the end of Scrooge's life and leads him to contempt of only his future life but how he will treated and considered in death (15 %) and afterlife, reminding us of Marley). spirit is insistent, appeared to mowhere and constantly leading on. It is a remind that death (15 %) he to have and human time is limited. Scrooge should not put change because the spirit, death can come at any time.

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country would

nation became

grow to levels for everyone,

high living star



Active Learning Task

The Ghosts all share the same purpose but have differences in characterisation.

What features do they share and how do they differ?

You could use a table like the one in the example below to the you

Is associated with light

Extension 7

d a sust ticking or crossing the feature: pick some quotations to help yo

'Feature'	Past	Present
Is associated with light	Carries light, but fluctuates. 'what was light one instant at another time was dark' (32)	Does not have supernatur light like Past but has a 'glowing torch' (59) and 'sparkling' eyes (60)

Extension 2: Pick one example. Explain the significance of the similarities and difference.

.....

The Cratchit family: The Cratchit family are poor and hard-working. Despite their poverty they are proud and dignified. Mrs Cratchit and her daughter wear old clothes for Christmas but demonstrate their resolve by being 'brave in ribbons' (67). They are not the lazy, feckless poor Scrooge imagines, but loving and kind. They are the kind of people to whom Scrooge could be generous, but chooses not to be 'r ae ne employs the father Bob and pays him very little: he is rat! a ir air described as the 'Founder of the Feast' as they eat the recedings that had no heartiness in it' (75).

While poor, atchits are not so desperately poor as other characters, such as They are a respectable, literate family. Bob has a middle-class job, which makes therefore, more fit for sympathy. The criminal world and dirty slums are too remarked to the reader. The struggling Cratchits are for more identifiable. For the have been a major expense, but they managed it; likewise, Mrs Cratchit may be be them, unlike the 'half naked' slum dwellers (98). Their relative closeness to the matheir suffering more immediate.

The Cratchits: Bob

Bob is Scrooge's clerk, a family man, devoted to his children, particularly Tiny Tim. Christmas Eve he runs home as fast as he can 'to play at blind-man's-bluff' (14). Redeath he attempts to be strong for his children, being 'very cheerful with them' (11) that Martha, even when playing a joke on him, 'didn't see him disappointed' (69).

Whereas at home he is full of and aughter, playing with his children and hurning pride for Tiny Tim, at work he is quiet and complete the formula of the law of the day of the day (7). In his dialogue with Scrooge his speech is largely reported, making him seem even more passive and

Context

Cratchit is one appear across Dickens. They characters, dre

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silent; what speech is reported is short and deferential as he agrees with Scrooge avoid trouble.

Bob has no outdoor coat, only his 'comforter' (13), showing his poverty. However the toast to Scrooge on Christmas Day because he believes it is the right thing to c Scrooge has done the right thing to him. When his wife reprimands him he simply 'mild' voice, as though the quality of the day itself means generosity of spirit good health to Scrooge, though he is the 'ogre of 'me' ar 1 /' (75).

The Cratchits: Tiny Tim

Tiny Tim only appears by the asymbolically important character. He is virtually father dependent on the people in church notice him 'because he was pleasant for the people in church notice him 'because he was pleasan

See also: Context 'Tiny Tim and illness' on p. 70

Practice exam question

Use this extract to answer the question.

From Stave Three: The Cratchits are preparing Christmas Dinner 'Such a bustle ensued ... bring it in' (70–71)

- a) Explore how Dickens presents the Cratchit family in this extract. Give examples from
- b) Explain how Dickens presents families in the novel.

Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of To do this you will need to:

- identify what the ideas or themes it is about
- know your given exam board

Fred

Fred is Scrooge's nephew, the son of his sister Fan (see below). He exemplifies neighbor Christmas spirit. The reader learns that Fred's mother, Fan, Scrooge's sister, is decay a relationship with Scrooge despite Scrooge's unwillingness suggests that, unlike his that family is important perhaps, because of the no-doubt painful loss of his mother particularly, to explore ideas about the importance of family and of keeping Christman the virtues of Christmas to Scrooge, finding it to be 'a kind, forgiving, charitable, these values as greater than money and profit (6), and he persists in maintaining his (80).

When we first encounter Fred, he is unnamed, and or sec as the opposite of Scrooge's office, he bursts in with 'Merry Chris m s', upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge's repeated dismissal' (500 ternoon' (5, 8). In contrast to Scroowith sparkling eyes and breath it '5 toked' into the room (5): he brings warmth of the smoke from the property of the scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room. He is love' (7), upon leaving, insists on despite Scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to scrooge refuses, his breath fills the room is loved to

Fred is a useful character for middle-class readers: Dickens wants to encourage the sympathetic and charitable, but does not want to isolate them with too much critical control of the co

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ideal; he is handsome and pleasant and declares that Christmas 'has done me goc certainty (5, 6). Fred still has a comfortable life: his Christmas party is jolly and ful servants. Dickens is not advocating his middle-class readers throwing off all their others: in fact, he encourages having a party – he is simply asking them to share g charitable.

Fred is good-humoured and completely accepts the new transformation, Fred simply invites his uncle in ar and sk is him welcome, underlined transformation and change.

Fan

Scrooge's signature, Fred, treat Scrooge with kindness and compassion. him 'often im', full of childish love and joy; she shows something of what

Fezziwig

Like Fred, Fezziwig is a happy, generous, middle-class character. He shows the audience that it is possible to enjoy yourself, and have fun, while also helping others. He is a good master, who Scrooge remembers with affection, exclaiming 'Bless his heart' (42). Like Scrooge he is a capitalist and businessman, but he has different business ethics: he offers an alternative model of business in which one can still enjoy one's money but also make others happy. Scrooge notes that he can 'make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil' (47).

Belle

Belle is a 'fair young girl' to whom Scrooge was once engaged (48). The Spirit shows broke off their engagement. She is wearing 'mourning' is presumably because symbolising the death of the old Scrooge she I ve I (4 ") She shows us a glimpse of the had chosen a different path as with a second her happy future with her family, profit too much; she wants love and companionship and so releases him from his it no longer means are a companionship.

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Practice exam question

You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole novella to answer the

Write about the role of Fred in the novel.

In your answer you should:

- refer to the extract and the novella as a whole
- show your understanding of characters and events in the novel
- refer to the contexts of the novel

'Scrooge said that he would see him \dots returned them cordially' (7–8)

Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of your exam by all.

To do this you will need to:

- identify what the cather is about
- know mc
 or given exam board

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tionships Mind Map Fan Fred th and son Uncle of **Brother of** The G ' hted by Scrooge Was apprenticed to **Business partner** of Fezziwig/ has engaged to Marley Belle **Employs**

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A Christmas Carol Study Guide for GCSE

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Relationships Analysis

Scrooge and...

Scrooge and... Fred

Dickens presents this relationship as being somewhat conflicted. When responding greeting 'merry Christmas' Scrooge replies, 'Bah-hum' up meaning rubbish (5). To of happiness and joy, a time of bringing fam'' is the relationship is a dismissive one. In essence the ching Christmas nonsense, something isolate him further from his poope speaks 'sternly' and 'indignantly' (6). This conflindicated the page when his nephew says as he leaves, 'We have never had a party. But we made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas made the trial in homage to Christmas and I'll keep my Christmas and I'll keep

Fred greets Scrooge with the familial term 'Uncle' and repeats it eight times in their first conversation, emphasising its importance to him. At one point, he simply implores Scrooge using only the name, 'Uncle!', in protest at Scrooge's hard-heartedness, underscoring the value of family in the novella (6). He insists that 'we have never had any quarrel to which I have been a party' (8): despite his reaction with Scrooge and their disagreement about Christ and F & I wants to have a good relationship with his uncle a him. By contrast, in the whole conversation of reconversation of reconversations and reconversation of reconversations are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally are conversationally are conversationally are conversationally and reconversationally are conversationally and calls him nephew care seemly' (6), instead avoiding calling th \ sonal 'sir' (7). Dickens uses this to both him anythir demonstrat peal: the patient Fred, and show how little Scrooge cares for others, as he dismisses and insults even family members. Although Scrooge has been unpleasant to Fred, at his party Fred refuses to be insulting, saying 'I feel sorry for him' and 'I couldn't be angry with him if I tried' (82).

As he watches Fred's family Christmas (the invitation to which he had rejected), Scrooge becomes 'gay and light of heart' (88). Fred's joy and goodwill is it As he transforms so too does his relationship with Fred: ultimately he accepts the in Day. He is nervous, passing the door 'a dozen times' then dashing up to it to ring (1 reject him but again shows his open nature and is so enthusiastic in greeting his unchis arm off' (124). Fred helps guide Scrooge into the perfect family relationship; his Scrooge to be 'at home in five minutes' (124).

Discuss..

Fan only c 79 br. y, and Scrooge sa discuss little about her, yet most critics agree that she was beloved by the young Scrooge. What clues are there that the siblings are close? າດ ~ and... Fan

affectionate and loving towards her be to the family home after repeatedly a back. Her love for her brother makes happy to see her and looks back on the (39). The Ghost takes this opportunith had 'children', forcing Scrooge to ackrecorrect the Ghost: 'one child', that Faldied makes Fred more precious as a

Activ€

Look be dialogu

Write

Either: With a thinking deliver Or Annota instruction

Extension conversion for instruction delivers of impossion possion pos

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Zig Zag Education

Scrooge and... Fezziwig

Scrooge once admired Fezziwig, recalling him with affection. Yet as an adult he habusiness model. The apprentice Scrooge seems keen to please him, coming in 'br enthusiastically preparing for the party (43). The Ghost encourages Scrooge to rerelationship and Scrooge recalls the power of a good employer to 'render us happ

Scrooge and... Belle

We see the end of Scrooge and Belle's relationshing end to that they were once poor and happy to 'improve our worldly patient industry', saying they have become too different (49) and this 'changed nature' suggests he wand she is only letting graph. Where once they were 'content', the new someone like a ward bring no extra wealth to the relationship (49).

Scrooge and... bob

In the first stave, Scrooge is bullying towards Bob, threatening to fire him and refusing him a decent fire. By the end of the novella this relationship has transformed, so that Scrooge becomes 'as good a master... as the good old City knew' (126). This comes about as Scrooge witnesses Bob outside of work, as a family man, and sees his son Tiny Tim. Scrooge is responsible for Bob's poverty, as it is he who pays Bob poorly for his work; he resolves to be a better master and to 'assist' his 'struggling family' (125).

Discus

Look age Scrooge rise (125 What do relations

In Stave One, Scrooge chastises Bob for wanting to have Christmas Day off with packets of the says 'A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-field exchange supports the idea that Scrooge sees his employees as commodities. But relationship. Cratchit does not work for Scrooge becare the dutiful. It's because needed to support his large family. Bob puts to a fifth bullying behaviour becare way in which he puts up with it also sees the signation: he is used to such attituthis is established, long-standing like this, else his clerk would elsewhere. The profit from the poorly paid work of some for a minority, but only profit from it.

Ultimately, Scrooge shifts from a relationship with Bob in which he ekes as much employee for as little pay as he can, to one in which he cares for him. His relation paternalistic and we are to assume more in keeping with the model of business ex (See Scrooge's relationship with the Cratchits below for more on this paternalistic

Scrooge and... Tiny Tim

Without meeting Tiny Tim, Scrooge feels great pity for him. These are some of the others, as he shows concern for the child's well-being.

Scrooge and... the Cratchits

Scrooge dominates the family's life. As Bob's dor me rig boss, who works him he something of a bogeyman to the family. The something of a bogeyman to the family on he party' (75). Yet, by the end of the novel 'assist' them (125).

Some critics as the cultural historian Penne Restad, argue that *A Christmas* and individualistic view of charity: rather than reforms, such as laws which might blickens emphasises the actions of individuals. Scrooge continues to be a controlle but rather than a negative one he is a positive one. Like Fezziwig he enjoys the pohappiness. He goes from being the 'ogre of the family' to being 'a second father'

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Bob and Tiny Tim

Bob adores his son, and takes great pride in him, telling the whole family that he (69). To Bob, his family are worth more than money, and so this phrase, which co of great material worth, is very significant. Tiny Tim is the most precious thing in great grief at his son's death.

Scrooge and the Ghosts

The Ghosts lead Scrooge on a journey and he lear of or hem. They are almost However, as Scrooge transforms he related the confidence of the scrool of the sc

Scrooge and... The Ghod and the

The living Marley.

ge's business partner, and Scrooge declares that he w (26). Scroot his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sol friend and his sole mourner' (1–2). He lives in the home he has inherited from Marley.

Scrooge responds to the ghost of Marley with disbelief and at first tries to mock him and undermine him with humour, suggesting the vision has been caused by indigestion. He refuses to believe what he has seen and looks 'doubtfully' upon the ghost (20). He speaks to Marley rudely, much as he did to Fred and the charity collectors, before being frightened into submission by its 'frightful cry' (22).

Acti∨∈

Imagine get to Write friend

In penance for his terrible life, Marley comes to 'warn' Scrooge that he might escape Throughout the novella, Scrooge occasionally thinks back on his old friend: before e'Marley's intervention' (57), and upon arriving safely home he calls out to Marley the

Scrooge and... The Ghost of Christmas Past

Scrooge first reacts to the Ghost by constitution it: ne 'asked'; he 'demanded'; he the spirit and seeks to confirm the following was a way reluctance to be around or learn from it. He despirit and 'respirit and

As the Ghost of Christmas Past guides Scrooge, it continues to control the situation 'show me no more', yet the ghost is 'relentless' and takes him where it sees fit (50 Scrooge must ask the ghost three times to 'remove me' before forcing the ghost's it bursts into an 'unbroken flood' of light (54).

Throughout their time together, the Ghost speaks to him, to guide him through hi events. Although it does not speak a great deal, the Ghost comments on events, 'always a delicate creature' with a 'large heart' before voicing what Scrooge will n Ghost's comments point to the poignancy in Scrooge's memories, and he asks que to explore his memories: 'You recollect the way?' (35); 'What's the matter?' (39);

Their relationship teaches him to be more respectful of the subsequent ghosts.



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Scrooge and... The Ghost of Christmas Present

Scrooge reacts more 'submissively' to the Ghost of Christmas Present (61), entering his own room 'timidly' with a hanging head (60). The Ghost addresses Scrooge first, inviting him to look at it, and Scrooge does not speak until he needs to 'answer' it (60). When he does ask it questions he does so more politely than he did the first ghost.

Like the Ghost of Christmas Past, it forces Scrooge of Continued on Co uncomfortable truths. However, he also he nost's approval: when it is 'greatly pleased' by Scr og '. . piness at Fred's party, Scrooge takes the opport of a fifthe may stay longer, and the it then allows him to nge we see Scrooge 'like a boy' and the Ghost's (86). In this desire to give nim happiness (86).

Although this Ghost is more forthcoming and jolly, it is also more forceful and critical than the first. It challenges Scrooge, repeating his own cruel words to him more than once and admonishing him: 'Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die?' (74). Ultimately it turns on him, reproaching him with his own words, which seem all the harsher coming from the 'jolly Giant' (59). Although he has at times become at ease with this ghost it still holds the power, and the moral high ground. Its role is to correct him. The moment where it turns on Scrooge also informs his relationship with the following ghost: it reminds him of the reverence he ought to feel for the ghosts.

Active

With

Perfor stand s show the think a commu

Discuss

How doe with the change

Scrooge and... The Ghost of Christmas Future

At the arrival of the Ghost of Christmas Future Scool bent down upon one kne it great reverence (93). This is partly to the previous ghost's parting shot but its overwhelming and disturbines resume. Scrooge fears this ghost and it only communicates with him as are. It is remote and yet also surrounds him, as it freque, such that it is part of the atmosphere (93). Scrooge cor the 'darkne 19 it will show him when he is right: this also allows Dickens to sh repeatedly promising he has learnt his lesson.

Scrooge follows the Spirit obediently, and in his despair he holds on to it: 'clutching then holding its 'spectral hand' and clinging on until the Ghost throws him off (114,

Practice exam question

Use this extract to answer the question.

From Stave Two: The Ghost takes Scrooge to visit his childhood school at Christma

"Yo, ho my boys" ... winter's night' (36-37)

- Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge's election with Fezziwig in this extended extract to support your ideas.
- Explain how Dickens press on the immonships between workers and their emp



Convert the question into the style of your exam board. To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board

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Settings

Time

Christmas: Various characters sets out Dickens' vision of Christmas by their words a time when people 'open up their shut hearts' and 'think of people below them time when it is 'more than usually desirable that we shall nake some slight pro for the poor and destitute' (9), and Bob pleads with he ine that 'Christmas Day!' is reason enough to the singly on his 'unfeeling' employer (75). It is me r wnich people share companionship and kin is the 'solitary is) I reef' two men share a fire and wish lighthouse' each other I Education 🎱 hristmas (79).

and disadvanta Victorian England: Dickens sets his novella in his own time. The time travel in the novella moves it back and forth across the life of one man, so everything is in the living memory of his contemporaries. and criticism of attitudes to poverty, charity and business practices of Dickens' fell See also: Context on pp. 69-71

Places

The city: London

The **urban** environment of London is crowded with people and bustling with life. However, many areas are deprived and unwelcoming, full of crime and squalor. On Christmas morning, the Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge a 'dingy' and our ny' place (62). Yet the time, Christmas Day, fills it vit rate of cheerfulness'. The power of Christmes (m), sform even this setting. When Scrooge changes of the London: in Stave One it is foggy and cold, populate of channels and 'ragged men' (11); in Stave ່າ 'ຂ່າງວາກ and the air 'sweet' (119). Five the sur 19

A number of other significant locations can be found in London: Scrooge's office; Scrooge's house; Fred's house; Cratchit's house.

Scrooge's office

Poorly heated and 'dismal' (4), Scrooge's counting house reflects his personality. of 'Scrooge and Marley', which links them together by setting. Business and the n important things in his life, and this is where he works. He has complete control keep an eye on his clerk' (4). He is stingy with his own fire and even stingier with they were both cold than spend more money on coal. However, just as he has vis has visitors to the office in the day: Fred, the charity collectors and the carol single three visits. At the end of the novel, he waits in his office for Bob, where he calls on him to 'make up the fires', his willingness to heat biffice reflecting his thawing personality and willingness to change and se and his surroundings: he is both willing to spend , , , noney on coal and, symbolically, becoming warmer and it is pleasant (126).

Scrooge's h hared with Marley, Scrooge's rooms were formerly Marley's (in 'gloomy' and areary' (14): unwelcoming and unhomely. Like Scrooge, they are is business rather than by other homes: even at home he is surrounded by 'offices' office, he barely lights his home because 'darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it'

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Activ€

Context

Dickens was by

his fellow citizen

great number of

support those wh

London Lorda places Carol: 1.

The house is described in an interesting simile: it is as though it had been playing and been forgotten. Now it is 'old enough' (14). This hints at Scrooge's unhappy the next stave.

Scrooge's bedroom

This is where he closes the curtains of his four-poster bed, and is at the heart of the house. Here he cowers until the first gho. Ills back the curtains, when the second comes he ver and so and the third arrives before he has a chance to go in, mough its curtains have been stripped off trace and old Joe's shop, although finally it 'dwindled down in a propost' and he finds himself home again (115). It transformed to go in the house is how it was, it is Scrooge himself whom

Scrooge's grave

Scrooge's grave is 'neglected' (114). It is located in a churchyard which has become one visits his grave or tends to it, showing just how unloved he is and how little anyone.

Happy homes

Over the course of the novel, Scrooge visits three happy homes: Belle's; Cratchit's; Fred's. In them, the characters and their actions are more important than the physical attributes of the house. At both Fred and Bob's, for example, blind man's buff is played; each house is full of noise and happy disorder: in Belle's house the noise is 'perfectly tumultuous' and at Bob's the children are 'screaming' in excitement (51, 68). The description 'perfectly' shows us that the chaos is wonderful, and joyful. Each home is described with a proposition of activity. Dickens wants to show the best way to live: in a happy dispersion.

Acti√∈

Scroog (after / homes.

Mind-n threes

Fred's house: Fred's house is "intory, gleaming' (80). Scrooge described him a clearly comfortable from a rooge is brought to Fred's house, following his trits comfort to soy comparison. Having dismissed Fred, his house is now with Bob's house is brought of Fred's house are enviable. His house and full, like him, of good nature.

The Cratchit house

The Cratchit house is much poorer, but equally full of goodwill. Scrooge does not see the Cratchits at play, but eating. The Cratchits have much less than Fred and his family, so they are less at ease to play and more focused on their 'feast', which is really quite meagre. The family strive to create a positive environment and the narrative is littered with exclamations which proclaim a great 'success' of the meal (72).

Joe's shop

Joe's shop is in an 'obscure' part of towr ... ch scrooge has not previously ventured. The side is an 'foul' and 'wretched', populated in the ked' and 'drunken' people (98). It stin' to be literal dirt but the whole previously eked with crime' (98). In this area is Joe's shop: it is full of items 'rusty keys, nails, chains, hinges, files, scales, weights, and refuse iron of all kinds' reminiscent of Marley's chain (99). These items are pawned: sold by the

desperate, or by thieves. Like Marley's chain, they suggest unpleasant 'secrets' at the thieves meet to sell Scrooge's possessions, as his few material goods join the

Active Learnin

Look again at the rooms to the shop

Make a list of the selling.

Explain the signifi

You may choose to below. The first se

ltem

'A seal or two, a pencil-case, a pair of sleevebuttons, and a brooch of no great value'

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Themes, Ideas and Messages

Themes are repeated ideas and concepts which link the story together. They usual their ideas and messages; for example, kindness and charity. Ideas and messages which underpin the themes. For example, devotion to money and wealth leads to

Themes

Christmas

This theme is apparent immediately is an the title of the novella. The story is a number of the novella. The story is a number of the novella. The story is a number of the novella has been credited with influencing notions of Christmas as a time of family gatherings and generosity: the sense of a festive spirit.

Context:

The novella wo Christmas on 1 first edition had Dickens had pr Christmas storie

Scrooge's miserliness and unpleasantness are shown to the audience through his declares it a 'humbug' and is directly contrasted with the jollity of his nephew, the collectors, and, ultimately, the very spirit of Christmas itself (5). At the end of the Scrooge 'knew how to keep Christmas well' (126). His changed attitude to Christmas formation.

Dickens presents Christmas as a 'kind, forgiving, charitable pleasant time' of 'merifood (6, 36). Even Marley's Ghost explains that it is at this time of year that he sur a number of Christmas parties: Fezziwig's; Belle's; the Cratc' is'; Fred's, and at ealaughter. The narrator comments that 'there is not' ig the world so irresistibly good humour' and this is the spirit of Christian is a Crooge watches his nephew's after his transformation he is full of the laughed' (81, 121, 1

The Ghost of construction of the festival construction of the festival construction of the festival construction of the festival construction of food and holds a glowing torch, it has been voice and 'joyful air' (60). It is a time of plenty and enjoyment, but also of generosity: the spirit shares its 'flavour' with poor homes most of all as 'it needs it most' taking his 'blessing' to 'alms-house, hospital, gaol' (65–66, 88). The Spirits, and Dickens, are keen to stress that such generosity need not come at great personal cost. They are not suggesting that people hand over all their material wealth to the poor, in fact the Ghost of Christmas Past comments on how little it cost Fezziwig to host his party (47).

Active Learning

Imagine you are Sknows how to celel

The next Christmas

Think about:

- who you will
- how you will
- what they wi
- what activities
- anything else

Kindness and charity

'charitable' time, but Scrooge is also visited on Christians Eve by two gentlemen we season of the year' it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (10), the 'common necessari it is 'desirable the year' or pay for others to do so (

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We are given the impression that Scrooge did not experience very much kindness in his own childhood: he is rejected by his father and left alone even at Christmas. His sister, Fan, is the one character who seems to show him love and affection.

Fred represents kindness in the novel, of a sort Dickens would like his readers to aspire to. He is unquestioningly forgiving of his uncle, generous in spirit, saying he is 'sorry for him' (82). He also express es a mpathy with the Cratchits after Tiny Tim's death. Although the proposition of sympathy is simply polite and thoughtful, Bok copium as 'kind' and 'delightful' in an extremely admiring many and the copium as 'kind' and the such treatment from those who

Discuss...

Fred talks about Christmas as a time when 'men and women... think of people below them as passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures' (7).

Some critics argue that the vision of charity and personal responsibility Dickens sets out is qui

Responsibility

Alongside the theme of charity and kindness is that of responsibility. Marley's Gh is 'required of every man' and remind him of his 'business' (22, 24). Instead of wo Scrooge should take more interest in 'the common welfare: charity, mercy, forbed Scrooge has previously refuses his responsibility for others, saying to the charity and that the prisons and workhouses they support 'cost enough' (10). Yet Dickensinstitutions to help the poor, and, therefore, little faithing in icians, or the church encouraged the kind of individual charity and the transformation of Scrooge is good a friend, as good a mass whole city had ever known' (12 in Scrooge is responsible for his change in fortunes brough transformation (74, 126). Scrooge is responsible for his clerk's working conditions home brought about by his poor wages. Dickens is emphasising our individual responsible for his clerk's working conditions.

Practice exam question

You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole novella to answer the

How does Dickens present social responsibility in the novel?

In this extract from Stave One, Scrooge is talking to two charity collectors. 'The treadmill and the poor law ... It's not my business' (10–11)

Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the styl yo than board. To do this you will need to

- identifying this asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know 700 nar of your given exam board

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Social Injustice and inequality

Dickens saw many of his fellow Victorians as hard-hearted and felt the rich ignored the poverty on which much of their wealth depended: feasting at Christmas while poor children worked long hours in dangerous occupations. The characters of Ignorance and Want, inspired by a visit to Field Lane Ragged School, are 'yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate too'. Poverty and dship have warped and destroyed their 'graceful youth' and to be at them into 'monsters', but much as they are 'hr, 'th, are also pitiable, they 'cling' to the Ghost desperatory's. The Ghost tells Scrooge that, despite his economia a chi, at the 'sight of Heaven' he might be The liver poor man's child' (74). The Ghost, like 'worthless' eminds Scrooge that people are responsible for one another.

Discu

Scroo profe seve (48),to be criticis rich. criticis do yo

Active Learning Task

Scrooge tells Belle 'There is nothing on which it [the world] is so hard as poverty' (48).

- Make a list of some of the hardships caused by poverty in the novel.
- Do you think poverty is the greatest hardship depicted in the novel? If not, what is, support your response.)

Scrooge also says 'there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the acqui although it is hard to be poor, people hypocritically criticise people like him who become do criticise Scrooge. How hypocritical do you think they are?

Isolation

Marley and

Scrooge and his business partner, Marley, are quires a listed as solitary chara oyster' and a 'solitary child' (2, 36). 'Noh 's reacops to talk to him; Belle's hus 'quite alone in the world' (54): be and expresses a wish to be left so by Scrooge was forced to be a large an adult he claims to choose it: yet when

At the end of the novella, Scrooge seeks out company. He is pleased to talk to the 'a fine fellow' and 'remarkable', he attends church and strides through the street encourages people to greet him (119, 121). When people do call out to him, in So blithe sounds he ever heard, those were the blithest in his ears' (121–122): the pe bring lightness and joyfulness into his life. When Scrooge ends his isolation and g transformed into a 'wonderful' one (124). He is immediately welcome at Fred's with the people there (124).

Transformation

The main trajectory of the novella follows Scrooge, as he changes from a miserly, man, a good master and friend. The young boy Scrooge transformed from a 'lone fantasy world of his books to a grumpy and unpleasant old in (37). He then trail 'quite a baby' (118), with an opportunity to form the fe. See also Character

However, these are not the only to a tions in the novella. Over the course of supernatural transform of supernatural tr ists transform themselves and the scenes about them Ghost of Ch. 799 Present changes Scrooge's own room in a 'surprising transform novel, the Gibbon Christmas Past changes back into a bedpost.



Family and the home

Despite his solitary nature at the start of the novel, Scrooge is not a completely isolated character – he has one living family member: a nephew, Fred. However, he prefers to be alone, and is dismissive of his nephew's efforts at companionship. Fred embodies the value of family, and persists in his efforts to 'be friends' (8) with Scrooge, having determined to 'give him the same chance every year' to celebrate Christmas together 'companionship in Stave One, Scronephew and refuse the invitation: his isolation is 'companionship ced. This refusal also fa novella of transformation, in Stave Five companions about righting the wrongs offering him the opportunity to report, see does, attending Fred's party at the acknowledge family is a factor of the start of the novel, Scronephew and refuse the invitation; his isolation is 'companionship ced. This refusal also fa a novella of transformation, in Stave Five companionship.

Families are earlier in the novel. The miserable clerk, Bob, is transformed in his father. He is wed by his wife and children, and the love the family have for one a Scrooge cannot imagine. Likewise, the family homes of Belle and Bob are contras home. Family homes are places of life, joy, noise and games: Bob runs home 'as holind-man's buff' (14). Houses reflect the characters who live in them: Scrooge's lunwelcoming (14), whereas Fred's is full of music and laughter. Scrooge's rehabilithe enters Fred's home: he is embraced into the domestic, family space. A notion to as the story closes is that money does not provide real security, but family does

When Tiny Tim dies, the Cratchit home is transformed from a place of joy and noise to a 'very quiet' space (108). The atmosphere of the home reflects the change in the family. They are devastated by 'this first parting' in their family (112). Yet even in their grief, their home is a more pleasant place than Scrooge's. The family huddle together, seeking continuous another, and watch over the body of Tiry moreom 'which was lighted cheerfully, and the Christmas' (110), whereas Scroom's 'ary dark' room (104).

Active Learn

Imagine you are family.

- 1. Write the of from the no
- 2. Write the language

Furthermore that time transforms even the poorest houses into places of metours a wide range of places with the Ghost of Christmas Present, the narrator not mud and stone' where a family 'assembled round a glowing fire' (78): even this se Scrooge's cold home with its 'very low fire' (17). The houses of the town are full of scrape away the snow, and it is 'as if all the chimneys in Great Britain had, by one blazing away to their dear hearts' content': Christmas Day unites the people, as shwarmth (62): Scrooge is, seemingly, the only person excluded from this. The prescompany, shown by the shared space of the home, is very much part of the Christ

In contrast to the loving families and happy homes depicted in the novel, Scrooge at school. He is the 'solitary child' who remains (38). Instead of going 'home for to boys he has no happy family home (39). This lack of familial embrace evokes symplickens also uses it to suggest the damage caused to the fund good by his father's Fan comes, excitedly, to invite Scrooge 'home, he have the little is not quit to be (40). Dickens provides alternative for igures: Bob, Belle's husband, and and loving father figure he provides.

The model results a susiness Dickens promotes is a paternalistic one; ultimate father' to Ti (126). This is, at first, modelled by Fezziwig, whose Christmas work, the warehouse, into a 'snug, and warm' ballroom (43). He calls his apprentithem affectionately (43): they long to please him, just as Cratchit's children aim to death. See also: Settings 'Happy Homes' on p. 56



Ideas and Messages

The possibility of forgiveness and redemption

Dickens shows the transformation of Scrooge, and, therefore, the possibility of his redemption. Marley has warned him in the hope that Scrooge can avoid Marley's fate, being 'condemned' and 'doomed' to walk the earth witnessing 'what it cannot share' (22). This is Scrooge's opportunity to change

Fred calls Christmas a 'forgiving' time and forgiveness is an important idea in Christian concept of redemption, telling the story of a terrible sing sees the error of his ways, seeks forgiveness and is changed. To be deemed is to be brought back: Jesus' death metaphorically buys back Christians from sin and death. In the novella, Scrooge is freed from his sins and from his fear of death, and his fate after death. Some critics even see Tiny Tim as a Christ-like figure, who has to die to inspire the change in Scrooge. So, Dickens is giving Victorian Christians a reminder of the message that their lives should be transformed and they should aim to live more Christ-like lives: the charity collectors say they wish to bring 'Christian cheer' (10).

The world around Scrooge responds positively to his transformation; although sor alteration in him', on the whole he is accepted and loved (126). Fred invites him tand the charity collectors in the street are overwhelmed by his new-found genero in the streets and he 'regarded everyone with a delighted smile' (121).

The innocence of children

Ignorance and Want point to the deliberate ignor rice of Lickens' readers, refusing poverty of some Victorian families, and their lives into unnatural and frighten no eatures. When Scrooge asks if they has Spirit mocks him with his sources: surely the 'prisons' and 'workhouses' can take charity collected are lickens wants his readers to realise how horrible and under Dickens was ionate believer in education for children. He also wants to shift these children and considering them to be irredeemably, or inevitably, unpleasant innocent child, but other children in the novella are pleasant and full of joy, celebrate.

Fan's innocence is summed up in her 'childish eagerness' and at Fred's party they 'played at forfeits; for it is good to be children sometimes'. Scrooge becomes 'like a boy' as he watches (40, 84, 86). This childishness and return to childhood is celebrated. The narrator tells us 'I should have liked, I do confess, to have had the lightest licence of a child, and yet to have been man enough to know its value', drawing us into considering the importance of such childish emotions and experiences (52).

Following his transformation are sees himself as a completely learn (118).

Discuss.

Marley descripant of his place we see a never sees an not see Marl

Why do you

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Active Learning Task

Dickens' novels are full of child

Some have children as their prodevelopment of a child into an

Find out about one of these now

the plot

γιε characterisation of the

You could try: Oliver Twist; Day Expectations

What message or messages als through Dickens' work?

The value of communication and community

Scrooge begins the novella 'solitary': when he walks the streets people go out of t was the very thing he liked' (2, 4). He tells the charity collectors to leave him 'alor (10). He deliberately avoids 'all human sympathy' (4). However, as Fred says he 'than he finds in his own thoughts'; his life is miserable and he is unloved (83). When the walks the street file was the street file with people again he feels overjoyed: even the greetings of people in the street file.

The novella is full of scenes of people from all wal' at lib giving one another Christmas greetings, mingling in an shops, and sharing the same holiday spirit. The library coinces in the air is produced by their mixed at a show Scrooge speaking in a polite and friendly was boy in the street, and to Fred's maid, not just to his family and economic equals.

Is wealth

Devotion to money and wealth leads to a poverty of spirit

Scrooge's single-minded devotion to his personal wealth leaves him isolated – his attends his funeral – and unhappy. His habits are 'melancholy' and he is unloved seems to live comfortably, 'poor enough', and cannot see the value of a life unlike

However, over the course of the novel, he experiences other ideas about value an happiness, which lead him to question his own life. Characters such as Fred and F perfect capitalists: Fezziwig is still a businessman and moneymaker, Fred has a ple also take the time to be kind to others.

Practice example uestion

Use this extract to answer the question.

From Stave Three: Scrooge steps out in the Ghost of Christmas Present

'The house fronts looked' (e. gn ... radiant in their glory' (61–62)

- a) Explosion D esents community in this extract. Give examples from the extra
- b) Explc pickens presents community elsewhere in the novel.

Active Learning Task

Convert the question into the style of your exam board. To do this you will need to:

- identify what the question is asking you: what key ideas or themes it is about
- know the format of your given exam board

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The Writer's Use of Language

Light

Scrooge's journey through the novella is, symbolically, a journey from darkness to 'dark shadow' on the Cratchits' party as the memory of his unpleasant character by (75). At three o'clock in the afternoon, at the start of provel, 'it was quite to reminded throughout Stave One of the 'fog and down's partial starts of that Scrooge has to 'grope' his way home scrooge likes the 'darkness' becauses a sociated with his state at the start of provel, as he lives in a closed, isolated darkness that the ghost had been accompanied by the light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as Marley's arrival starts of life. Light the start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a start of light in Scrooge's life, as marley is a star

Light and dark imagery is also notable when comparing the scenes of Tiny Tim and Scrooge's deaths. Scrooge's body lies in a room which is 'very dark, too dark to be observed with any accuracy' (104): it is obscured and gloomy, whereas Tiny Tim's room is 'lighted cheerfully' (110). This shows the care that has been taken of each in death, with Tiny Tim loved and visited, but also reflects their lives. Despite his great wealth, Scrooge cast darkness about him, and was unknown and unloved, whereas Tiny Tim was a light in the lives of others, even hoping to be seen in church on Christmas Day as it 'might be pleasant' to remind others 'who made lame beggars walk and h' see' see' (70).

Interestingly, Old Joe's shop is the pour type of Stave Four has a dark of the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness as the journey from darkness to light, there is a final darkness to light, there is a final darkness to light, there is a final darkness to light, the journey from darkness to light, the journey fro

Fire and warmth

While Scrooge is cold and frozen, Fred is 'so heated' that 'he was all in a glow' (5): warm and bright, where Scrooge is dark and cold. The small fires in Scrooge's office and home represent his meanness, and he is described as freezing the world about him. When the Ghost of Christmas Presert transforms Scrooge's rooms, one of the most rot ple changes is the 'mighty blaze' and 'rud' (10) for the fire, the warmth and light of which fill the spane (59, 61). Like light, warmth and heat has not in the novel.

Scrooge go rysing Bob a decent fire to instructing him to 'make up the fi scuttle' as h successful becomes symbolically warmer (126).

Throughout the novel, people gather round fires, and the fire is at the heart of the office, some labourers have built themselves a fire outside and are standing 'befowarmth and light fill them (11); Belle and her daughter sit by a 'winter fire' in thei with the 'master of the house... at his own fireside' (53), Fezziwig's party is 'warm'

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The novella is ful cold and warm.

Active Learn

List the contrasts

Ext:ension What

generously on the fire (43); at Fred's the guests 'clustered round the fire' (82). Ch fires' and 'blazing' chimneys (76, 62). Even in seemingly unwelcome places such a fires are built, people 'assembled round a glowing fire' (78), making spaces more (particularly than Scrooge's rooms and office).

The Cratchits' fire is too small to cook their goose, which is sent to the baker, but it is at the heart of the home: frequently ment: I in the text. It is a reflection of their steadfastness in portion to make the most of what they have and share it. Mr his wites Martha to sit by the fire; they roast chestnute and the fire; Peter blows to encourage it as it cooks to amily are first 'seated round the fire' (108), and then they take company in one another (111).

Interestingly, the fire the young Scrooge sits by is 'feeble', suggesting both the mis and that the warmth and joy was seeping out of him then (37).

Commerce

The novella is full of examples of language associated with business and money: on novella is value and worth. At times the characters openly debate this: as when S their 'business' is (25); at other times, it permeates their language: Bob calls Tiny speaks of her engagement to Scrooge as a 'contract' (69, 49). These remind us the novella is to invite the reader to consider what they feel is valuable, and to think as greater than monetary worth. Tiny Tim is compared to something very precious economic poverty and utilitarian worthlessness, he is spiritually valuable. By the sunlight which is 'golden' as the most precious thing is the new day, and the new language associated with business and money: on the sunlight which is 'golden' as the most precious thing is the new day, and the new language associated with business and money: on the sunlight which is 'golden' as the most precious thing is the new day, and the new language.

Similes and metaphors

The novella is full of similes and metal is cuescribe characters and situations, metaphors of the Ghosts the record characters such as Ignorance and Want to produce the royclinian numbers, or communicate its message (or both

It is worth colleged in the similes the narrator uses to describe Scrooge at the star uses to describe him at the end.

The narrator describes him as 'hard and sharp as flint', showing him as tough and 'secret, solitary, and self-contained as an oyster' showing his loneliness and isolation suggests he is tightly shut up and will be difficult to prise open, but looking back a novel, it may also suggest the possibility of something beautiful and precious inset the novel, Scrooge uses a metaphor to describe himself as 'a baby' (118): the use makes the comparison more complete and suggests the incredible newness of Scraflurry of similes to describe himself. It is significant here that the language is his shows him becoming more reflective and effusive. He is 'as light as a feather' and merry as a school boy' and 'as giddy as a drunken man' (118). These images seem enthusiasm and show the realm of possibility open to go as he rediscovers have hard and sharp and cold he is now light and I apr.

Pathetic fallacy

The weather, and time the following hour A Christmas Carol reflect the mood of the message. It is as Scrooge heads home, in the darkness, showing his ignor day draws to go and a bright, fresh morning when he awakes, showing how to put things right. Like the day, he is new-born.

In the initial description of Scrooge we are told he carries his own climate, and 'ice there, even on the hottest days of summer (3). He has a 'frosty rime' and 'carried cold within him froze his features' and the weather about him has little influence.

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importance of pathetic fallacy in the novella, as it makes it clear that Scrooge has more influence on the climate about him than the weather does on him.

The start of the novella is full of 'fog and frost', 'fog and darkness' (5 and 14, 11). In fact, the narrator tells us the weather was so fitting to the mood 'it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather' in Scrooge's house, personifying the color which makes the house so 'mou and provide the end of the novel of the no

Active Learning Task

- Create an hour-by-housing symbols to show from three o'clock or morning on Boxing Danovella.
- 2. Make a second forect ghosts had not visited

Ext: With reference to the between your two for

listlessly, is 'stirring' and 'piping for the blood to dance to' (119): it inspires happy Scrooge begins again. The new morning is not dark and hopeless but full of 'gold' $\frac{1}{2}$

There are other moments in which the weather is significant: when they return to cold' day with 'snow upon the ground', showing how different the time of his child formed cutting him off from others (35). When the Ghost of Christmas Present ta is yet more snow, unifying the people as it falls on everyone's homes regardless of they are.

Music

Music is associated with the joys of Christmas: the Cratchits share a song, and Fred family' and a harp is played at their party (84). The music 'soft aned' Scrooge and s more thoughtful person (84). Music is something which one on think of as stirring emotional experience. Furthermore it is something which have just as the boys at Scrooge and something which have a stirring emotional experience. Furthermore it is something which have just as the boys at Scrooge and something which have a something which have a something which have a song and Fred family' and a harp is played at their party (84). The music 'soft aned' Scrooge and something which have a song and Fred family' and a harp is played at their party (84). The music 'soft aned' Scrooge and something which have a song and Fred family' and a harp is played at their party (84). The music 'soft aned' Scrooge and something which have a song and something which have a song and song







Form

A Christmas Carol

The **novella**'s title *A Christmas Carol* reminds us of Christmas carols more generally. A carol is a song for a festival. It is usually, but not always, religious. Today we think of carols as mostly Christmas songs, but the are carols for other festivals, such as Easter. Although they had existent or a long time before, Christmas carols became particular pular in the 1800s: put in historical context, through the depth of the property of the section. This allows him to make his story seem new this pular and the property of the section of the section. In keeping with this, rather than calling the sections of his novella 'chapters' as you might expect, he calls them 'staves' like the notation paper.

Fairy stories

Dickens uses aspects of traditional fairy tales in this novella: the use of threes (see and the 'Once upon a time' used to relaunch the story at the start of Stave One, refurthermore, the supernatural element may seem like something from a fairy tale tale of transformation and change, making the influence of the form on *A Christm*

Fireside tales on Christmas Eve

In the Victorian era, as Christmas traditions were renewed, the custom of ghost stories on Christmas are became a key ingredient of the festive season. A Consist seafol is one of many such stories. There is some analysis about when this tradition began, but it so that are celebrations of the Winter Solstice (a mid-December ival celebrating the shortest day of the year).

An information ghost story zzed.uk/8

Context:

The genre of the ghost story was becoming less popular at the start of the Victoria resurgence in popularity over the next 50 years or so. This is partly down to the p went from being part of the oral tradition to cheap and easy-to-produce page turn an astute businessman; he saw their popularity and used the form for *A Christmas*

As with the fairy tale, the ghost story has characters and structures which the audience expect. In keeping with this form, the novella takes on a Gothic atmosphere: it has a cast of ghosts and caricatures. The audience know the conventions and this helps them to follow the logic of the text.

The descriptions of foggy, Victorian London fit in rwing with the atmospheric conventions of the Over the course of the first stave were grows worse and worse until the owner opposite

Scrooge's of ec visible', with its bells still trembling into the gloom (1 house, infuserything with a mysterious atmosphere (14). Of the ghosts, Ma Yet to Come fit in with this tradition: Marley is in chains and proves himself v noise' (22); he is a spirit in turmoil, unable to rest as a consequence of his wicked to Come is a mysterious apparition: hidden, secretive and silent, yet also morbid, the personification of death.

Active Learning Tas

Research task: using the as the library, research

r all of the reasons pe were so common in the

You can **add your own** i

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Narrative voice

Dickens uses a first-person narrator to guide us through the story. They have a street very clear, very strong opinions on Scrooge, the other characters, themes and the the audience have no idea of how the narrator is related to events in the story. Goral tradition, of fireside tales, and the 'once upon a time' opening (4), we should more as storyteller, outside the tale, than a character within it. In that case, we anarrator's relationship to us than the people in the often to imagine the factor of the on Christmas Eve to the trusted voice of the openions of the narrator. The narrator the story which, interesting in the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the that allows due to get into the head of the character and know everything to Scrooge feel where the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything to scrooge feel where the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything to scrooge feel where the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything to scrooge feel where the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything the story which is also gives the novella aspects of a the character and know everything the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is also gives the novel as the story which is





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Structure

Music and poetry

The novella's 'staves' are named like musical paper or stanzas of a poem, and the novella's full title is *A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost-Story of Christmas*. There are five lines in a musical value of the five staves of the novella. This links the text to continue Carols, which celebrate new birth. **See also:** I an analysis of p. 50

Active
There is a

Time travel

It may not the science fiction, but this is a time travel novel! Scrooge mowards and backwards in time by supernatural, rather than scientific, power. The fact that he progresses through past, present and future, in **chronological** order, combined with most people's familiarity with the story, makes this seem less remarkable. However, there is very little time travel in Western writing before the nineteenth century. The earliest science fiction was Washington Irving's *Rip van Winkle* in 1819, and *A Christmas Carol* is consider to show time travel in both directions.

Threes

There are many things which happen in threes in the novel: three visitors on Christhree thieves in Old Joe's shop. The number three is familiar to readers from fairy where it is often significant: often there are three key characters who represent doften presented with three choices, or three wishes, or three chances. In the novel give the novella a very clearly defined structure, with three characters and by the first and last staves, giving a beginning, a mild explanation.

The beginning, middle and

In this sense, the novellation of the novellation of the novel, the middle, scrooge: he is transformed into a new, more pleasant, man.

The three ghosts: the Past, the Present and the Future

Each of the three ghosts guides Scrooge on a journey which takes up a stave. The different things about compassion and Christmas. There is a sense of completene present and future which appeals to us as readers, and gives the narrative a conclusion believable, in that it is not realistic, this use of threes appeals to our narrative understanding of stories.

Rebirth

Christopher Booker sets out seven basic structures which he considers writers to combination. He analyses *A Christmas Carol* as a novella of rebirth, in which a stofalls into a state of 'living death' in which they are trapped in an often frozen, windown moral, physical, or spiritual, even sleep or sickness. The large then moves through

- 1. **Living Death:** In *A Christmas Carol*, Lower is any frozen, Scrooge is metap. Through the three visitors to the see how stubbornly he is set in his isolation.
- 2. It seems to be uark power has consumed the protagonist: we are to there it is appeared for him.
- 3. Miracul redemption: Following the visits of the ghosts, Scrooge is transfo

Booker argues that the power of such stories comes from the contrast between the end of the story. He also notes certain imagery as associated with living death isolation being among them, and redemption: warmth, light, happiness.

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Context

Biography

Charles Dickens' father John, like Bob Cratchit, was a clerk. He worked for the Roy enough to support his large family. He and his wife Elizabeth had eight children, had a few years of education, and loved to read, but 19 2 he family were in do to debtors' prison, at Marshalsea, along with 19 10 his board, and four youngest sibling sent to live with a family friend. To 19 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his poor bore too much of the hard work and poor in reform to 19 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his poor bore too much of the hard work and poor in reform to 19 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and work 10 his board, and help his family pay leave school and help his family pay l

Victorian views of poverty: the Poor Laws and workhouses

In the nineteenth century, the government had a much smaller role than it does neducation system and very little means of support for people who could not work the middle and upper classes that the poor were victims of their own behaviour: I management of money; some people believed that poverty was simply part of the people as superior to others. In the novella Fred speaks of caring for people 'belo hierarchy. Most people believed it was the individual's responsibility to work the However, Dickens felt that lack of educational opportunity and poor pay trapped made worse by poor conditions and long hours.

Throughout his career Dickens was highly critical of Parliament, in particularly attacking the 1834 Poor Law in his novel Oliver To ist (published in serial form between 1837 and 1839) And attacking workhouses also appeared in the journal All to the According workhouses also a



Hie

Active Learning Task

Using a computer at home or in school, look at the pictures from this report of child labour https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/report-on-child-labour-1842

The report was put together by a friend of Dickens and its put on was one of the thin Carol.

Make notes on the working conditions: would be adjectives or short phrases where like.

Extension: Find a copy of the Children', a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Brownin of her poem by the Children' of the Child Labour Report.

Write about differently, or similarly, to A Christmas Carol.

Write your own piece of 'protest literature' responding to the report.

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The 1834 amendment meant that those who wished to receive help from the stat area of England had its own workhouse, paid for by locals, where money was used 'deserving': who may be unable to work due to injury or illness. People had to pe may then receive 'relief': outdoor relief meant receiving help at home, indoor reli the workhouse. Those who were considered undeserving were either sent away. to earn their keep. Debtors, such as Dickens' father, could be sent to prison until These prisons were similar to workhouses and prisoners with ed, both to pay for t pay off their debt.

As Scrooge says, he helps 'to sury out to has and workhouses (10). Those in wor clothing in exchange for a particular number of hours each day. Howeve he 1 , carscouraging people from using them in favour of poor e work was hard, boring and repetitive, the diet poor and the were separa charity collectors say to Scrooge, 'Many can't go there; and many would rather dis and upper-class Victorians saw them as an incentive to work, critics compared the and unchristian. It also seemed to punish those who were poor through no fault weak, the ill and the old.

Through A Christmas Carol, Dickens aimed to promote goodwill to others and a more sympathetic understanding of poverty, particularly to help his readers understand the lives of the working poor. Scrooge's reference to the 'surplus population' refers to a common attitude of heartlessness towards the needy (10). In Oliver Twist Dickens had already explored the life and fortunes of a poor boy, born into a workhouse, and sufferance as a result of circumstance, an orphan and not responsible for his own situation. In A Christmas Carol he shows Cratchit family. Both the Cratchits and Twist are portrained as deserving our symplectic contracts and Twist are portrained as deserving our symplectic contracts. 'surplus population' and, hopefully, inspiring a ching. Theart in the reader.

Charities

nt 17, Gerefore, saw a growth of charitable groups and reform The nineter in to help of Ragged schools were established to educate children without the income that could be gained if children worked, so attendance could be patch class women, and some were even established with the aim of appeasing the poo revolting against the upper classes. However, many were genuinely shocked by of the poor, and Dickens aims to show his readers these realities. Many charities to be good, or 'deserving'.

Tiny Tim and illness

At the end of the novella we are told that Tiny Tim 'did not die', suggesting to a modern reader some kind of Christmas miracle, in keeping Di with the supernatural element and fairy-tale structure of the work (126). Но However, the end of the novella focuses on Scrooge's actual ceeds: the ab ghosts have gone. Dickens is not clear about what exectly some with rec Tiny Tim, but critics have suggested he may have suffered from renal Tim failure or rickets, both of which were said to be at the time, but only for those who could afford a de could be fatal if untreated. The Ghost of C that 'if these state on the future' Tiny Tim would die (73); to is that Tiny Tim's illness is curable, but that his family are unable very much !

Discu

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Christmas and Christianity

In the seventeenth century. Christmas festivities were banned by the Puritans, and the nineteenth century, leaving the Victorians to revive old traditions and establis had such an impact that, it is argued, it changed the significance of Christmas for was one of the influences which contributed towards the rejuvenation of old Chris gathering, dancing, games and generosity) in England that are prevalent today. Christmas is a Christian festival, which celebrates the one of Christ, who preache sympathy for the poor. Fred argues that it is a ki. diorgiving, charitable' time an at the 'festive season' it is 'more than it is 'y desirable' to help others (6, 9), as D charity to the Christmas colonial message.

On Christm 1999 Scrooge is reborn and like a 'baby': both like the new-born bab reborn in Ch iny Tim is also linked to the figure of Jesus: the innocent child w free others from their wrongdoing. The narrator describes Tiny Tim as 'from God' patience and mildness his father praises him for (112). As Scrooge enters the Crail he hears, seemingly from nowhere, the phrase 'And he took a child, and set him he wonders if he has overheard or dreamed, giving it a mystical authority. This is a sermon of Jesus' in which he declares that 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes not only Me, but the One who sent Me' (Mark 9:37). Dickens explicitly links the suffering of children to the suffering of Christ and reinforces his audience's Christian responsibility to them: by refusing to help children such as Tiny Tim they are refusing Christ and their Christian duty. See: Themes, Ideas and Messages: Christmas on p. 43

Readers

A Christmas Carol was a great success. Dick was an astute businessman with a what would sell. The first edition to the by Christmas Eve as Dickens, an est revival of the Christmas half a popularity of ghost stories and debates about he () Dickens had a strong work ethic and vowed never to an interest I reform, and in using his writing to inform and persuade his re-Many of his weekence would already be sympathetic to causes he advocated but balance: to influence his readers without insulting or isolating them. So, Scrooge forces for good in the novella (aside from the Ghosts) are middle-class characters are friendly and polite to those who are beneath them. The model Dickens sets reader much in terms of time or money, and he certainly suggests that the benefit cost: Scrooge is much happier, lighter and freer at the end of the novel; Fezziwig to transform lives through their beneficence as employers. Dickens is trying to su can derive 'good' from something without having 'profited' by it (6): that as he say to kindness and charity more generally: 'though it has never put a scrap of silver that is has done me good and it will do me good' (7).

Exam tip... AO3: Context

Ak to your argument or interpretation. What you are Writing about context should be how you are ila , mpathy in his audience, particularly as many Vict**orian politicians** for their o mstances, much as Scrooge did at the beginning of the **novel. It should**

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Key Term Glossary

Action the movement of the story: things that happen to the chara Adverb a word which describes how, when or where something is

Adjective a word which describes a person, place or thing

Allegory a piece of art with a hidden m g: isually moral or politically

symbolic characters, settings revents.

Allusion a reference a followork of art

Beneficence the good

Caricature exaggerated portrayal of a character how a character is created and presented

Chronologica in the order things happen in time

Colloquial everyday language used in conversation

Comic causing laughter, whether intentional or not

Dialogue a conversation between characters

Direct speech the exact words the character says, e.g. 'If quite convenien

Domestic to do with houses and the home and family

Fable a story which has a moral: it teaches the audience a lesson

First-person narrator a character telling the story

Florid fancy and elaborate

Form this is the type of text the author uses; for example, a nove

Genre the kind of text (e.g. science fiction, romance)

Gothic a dark or mysterious style; Gothic ature often has a glo

moments, it is also often ren a locional

Hierarchy the structure of people in society according to the

imps = ice

Idiom among a group of people; for example 'over the moon' to

Idyllic Very happy, beautiful and peaceful

Imperative a command or instruction; in grammar the imperative is the

expresses a command, e.g. 'Come here', 'Sit down'

Irony a situation which is in stark contrast to your expectation

place contrasting things side by side, inviting the reader or

without doing so explicitly

Metaphor a technique used to compare two things, where one stands

Narrative voice the storyteller's expression

Noun a word for a person, place or things

Novella a short novel

Juxtapose

Plot

Oral tradition cultural traditions and stories passed 1 wn by word of mout

Paternalistic father-like: a paternalistic of turns one which assumes per and take charge of the number of the num

Pathetic fallacy when the t weather reflects emotions or events in

Personification

the main events that make up the story and which advances

express the key ideas of the writer

Protagonist the main character

Repetition when a word or phrase is used again and again.

Reported speech does not repeat word for word what a character says, e.g.

once a year' (13)

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Romantic appealing to imaginative, exaggerated, heroic and ideals Sentimental coming from or creating feeling of sadness, or tenderness

Setting the time and place where the story takes place

Simile an image in which one thing is compared to another, usu Stave 1. a set of five lines on which notes rest in musical notation

the highest amount of a quality **Superlative**

a force outside of normal, soir ic explanation Supernatural

when something etc. id in or represents something e **Symbolic**











Further Reading

Below is a list of suggested books and websites that will enhance study of the text

Suggested books

More Dickens:

Christmas Books

The Five Christmas Novellas of Charles Five. - an be found in single book e Chimes, The Cricket on the House Jounted Man and The Battle of Life. A Christmas Carol and I have no moral messages.

The Ha 4 N 🖫 as Carol, is concerned with the spirit of the season, in which the Like A 'an awf deness of himself'.

The Signal-Man

A horror story, which first appeared in the 1866 Christmas edition of the period founded by Dickens.

Oliver Twist

One of Dickens' most famous novels; the story's alternative title is 'The Paris' fortunes of a child born into the workhouse. Like A Christmas Carol it is not workhouses, its depictions of poverty, and its unromantic portrayal of crimin

Hard Times

The shortest of Dickens' novels, it satirises social and economic conditions in satirising utilitarian attitudes.

Biography:

M COP Charles Dickens: A Life by Claire Tomalin

Fiction inspired by A Christmas Carol:

Mrs Scrooge

Carol Ann Duffy Topics ે કું દાને widowed Mrs Scrooge protesting against consu h t spirits to explore the true meaning of giving.

e Spirits

Chris Priestley tells the story of two homeless children who become Ignorance

Other Victorian authors who explore similar themes:

- The poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning which explores social and political issu
- Mary Barton

Elizabeth Gaskell explores employers, employees and the pursuit of wealth

Suggested websites

Useful context:

- Christmas ghost stories: http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/ ghost-stories-a-history-of-seasonal-spine-chillers-a6782136.html
- The origins of A Christmas Carol: https://www.bl christmas-carol
- Poverty: https://www.bl.uk/victarefaller.html.html.uk/victarefaller.html.u
- The Poor Laws: http://www.bo.o.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/shp/briti
- Ragged schols * 55 | www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/ragged
- sti las: https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/vic
- Dickens Educ ne Poor Laws: http://www.kingscollections.org/exhibitions/spec

On the novel:

- Ghosts: https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/ghosts-in-a-chr
- https://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2010/dec/07/season-s-read



Suggested Answers

Plot summary: Discussion

Students may raise a range of points, particularly:

• that people can change and become better

Di i

- that it is not right to be selfish and miserly but better to be kind and generous
- the rich have a responsibility to the poor

This is a good opportunity to discuss assessment of iec iver. Dickens' main messages are itself: what will a more detailed analysis of es its book to do? If the story advances the language for and how might in all eit. What is the main structure of the text?

Stave One pr Students ma

range of points, including but not limited to:

- Scrooge Education care what other people think of him: including whether they get him.
- His identity is tied up in his business such that he becomes synonymous with it
- Dickens wants to make the link between Scrooge and Marley explicit

This can raise good discussions about Scrooge / Dickens / the narrator having different monogerous could make this text a good way into this discussion. Students may suggest that it shows Scrooge's closeness to Marley: however, the text make associate and not a true friendship.

Stave One pp. 1-4: Active Learning Task

Students may pick out a range of details. For example:

Detail	Explanation
'The cold within him frozen his old features'	Suggests that not only is he uncaring but it would be
'Hard and sharp as flint'	 Scrooge is rigid: he is not so changed or broken It is difficult to move in pression on him He is stock pain on others is intelligent (potential meaning of sharp)
'from which to the ever struck t	 Powerful things ('steel', 'struck') have little impact of He is obstinate 'ever' He has never been generous: extreme in his land
'the cold within him shrivelled his cheek'	 In some ways the 'cold within him' has reduced him as impenetrable as other aspects of the description

Stave One pp. 4-14: Active Learning Task

Students may pick out a range of details. For example:

Scrooge	T
'What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough.'	'What reason have you to
(5)	Although the nephew does
Scrooge thinks that happiness is about making money:	happiness he counters Scro
there is nothing for the nephew to celebrate.	that riches have not made
Scrooge thinks Christmas is bad because people spend	ephew says that it 'ho
money they don't have: an argument that may sound	्रि रनade him richer: it is a
familiar (commercialisation).	
Scrooge argues that legal structures and the exist to	The charitable gentlemen
support the poor and he shape of the give charity: 'I	drink and means of warmt
help to support e (i in lents I have mentioned-they	
cost enoug	

Extension: when we reframe and rephrase some of Scrooge's arguments, while by no measure familiar, and more acceptable: how much tax we should spend, the role of charity, the corpeople living beyond their means... by characterising, even caricaturing, Scrooge as unpleasing insults, Dickens makes these views seem extreme and unattractive. We are clearly meant 'pleasant' gentlemen and nephew (9).

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Stave One pp. 4-14: Discussion

Students may raise a range of points. This is a good opportunity to link the novella to a mechanity, commercialisation, etc.

Stave One pp. 4-14: Active Learning Task

Students will produce a range of responses based on their personal interpretation of the good understanding of events and an understanding or interpretation of the nephew's chorevisit AO4, which is assessed elsewhere over the course

Stave One pp. 14-28: Discussion

Students may consider a range of roads.

- Dicken ng limfluence the reader: but it seems unrealistic to suppose them to unlikely course wayed by a narrative.
- The Victorian general public: businessmen and reformers.
- Perhaps also the wives and children of such people.
- A middle-class audience, with the aim of softening views, creating sympathy for the

To what extent could the novella be considered a story for children?

- Context: genre, fables as moral lessons for children
- Context: Victorian, ideas about suitable content for children may vary from ours
- Context: genre: fireside tales as family entertainment
- Modern film versions: marketed for children

Stave One pp. 14-28: Active Learning Task

- Scrooge shuts the window: as though he wants to keep out all the phantoms he has
- He checks the door: as if to try to work out what has happened: has someone played
- He can't even say 'humbug': his defiant attitude and self-assuradness have gone
- He falls straight to sleep: he is exhausted

Stave One Overview: Discussion

Students may make a range of point rine a hop but not limited to:

- Scrooge is something a la sture: he seems exaggerated and unrealistic
- He reprace go a sughtlessness, a lack of care or empathy, self-interest
- He is a land acter as he can be summarised fairly straightforwardly and acts pred
- He show gns of more dimensions as students and their partners disagree on a sing agree
- Many students will know the whole story and may consider the possibility of change

The single-sentence task will produce an individual response and student will choose a rar describe Scrooge. For example:

- He is obsessed with money.
- He only thinks of himself.
- He is selfish.
- He is heartless.

Stave One Overview: Active Learning Task

Students may choose a range of incidents. For example:

- Scrooge's business partner is dead and he does not minimistaken for him: she
 Marley are, so we more closely believe Marley's tee in be his
- Scrooge is rude to his nephew: he do s to a about anyone else's opinion of him, trying to be kind, emphasising a sistle to an and lack of emotional care
- Scrooge Scroops dinner alone: he has no friends and is completely solitary because has a scroop scroop
- The ghose Scrooge's business partner arrives to warn him of his possible fate: Scroclearly linked, so seeing his fate makes the threat to Scrooge seem more likely

Extension: – this requires a personal response based on the event chosen

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Stave One Overview: Practice Question

Students' answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretat Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of the use of setting across the novel
- An understanding and interpretation of setting in the extract
- Understanding of setting as symbolic (for example, pathetics, lacy, the schoolroom)
- An understanding of setting and atmosphere
- Scrooge's chambers reinforce his connection in Name of the second of the
- The setting of Scrooge's rooms rois of the 'groomy', isolated, Gothic atmosphere
- Like Scrooge, the rooms in which Scrooge is the himself in the world, valuing commerce over people

AO2

- Commercial Dickens' use of language in the extract and novella as a whole to prese
- Repetition: 'melancholy' surrounding Scrooge, and commonplace 'usual'
- Image of the house lost and forgotten: slightly surreal, possibly related to audience (lost and wayward child waiting to be found
- Adjectives 'dreary', 'gloomy', 'mournful': describe both Scrooge and the house; adject throughout to describe both Scrooge and the setting
- Pathetic fallacy: 'fog and frost': it is cold and wintry but not festive (like Scrooge)
- Elsewhere, in Stave One: the office reflects Scrooge's cold personality: the lack of fire
- The Christmas Eve weather is dull: the fog representing Scrooge's clouded vision and fog
- Scrooge's house as an outward show of Scrooge's personality: his inner, personal spatthe end of the novel.

AO3

- Ideas about social isolation and how it is caused
- Victorian London: city dwelling, there are lots of peop with y are surrounded by
- Gothic literature: spooky setting

Stave One Overview: Practice Or on c ve Learning Task

Generic formats, with specific da the for this question.

These can the list I will ance for conversion throughout.

AQA

Read the following extract and then answer the question that follows.

Sentence introducing the extract

Extract

Starting with this extract, *question* (e.g. how does Dickens use setting in the novel?). Write about:

- Keywords (e.g. how Dickens uses setting) in this extract
- Keywords (e.g. how Dickens uses setting) in the novella as a whole

Eduqas

You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole novella to answer the Write about *keywords* (e.g. how Dickens uses setting in the novel)

In your answer you should:

- refer to the extract and the novella as a whole
- show your understanding of keywa (5.0) stang) in the novel
- refer to the contexts of the

Edexcel

Use this extra reducation is wer the question.

Introductory sentence

Extract

Question splits into two parts, usually related:

a. Keyword/s (e.g. setting) in the extract

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Stave Two pp. 29-35: Discussion: Bed

- In order to facilitate the image of Scrooge as closed away
- The bed as the most private part of his home is shut off from the rest of the world
- He allows himself this private indulgence: it is his innermost heart of greed

Stave Two pp. 29-35: Active Learning Task

Detail	Significance
A tunic of 'purest white'	asised by adjective and colour; innocence ast / childhood before things are spoilt or sullied
'a lustrous	Things are rich/beautiful/hopeful
'sparkled ar reducation red'	A glimmering hope: the brightness of youth, not fixed

Stave Two pp. 29-35: Discussion: Cap

Students may discuss a range of points, including:

- What you think the cap signifies: the cap as symbolic of repressing the past so as not from one's mistakes; being in denial about one's behaviour
- What kind of people and actions make it: people who do not want to face up to their responsibilities; people who repress the past
- What being forced to wear it might mean and why it might happen: being unable to inability to change; stifling good as well as bad memories; stopping other people enjouren't
- Why Scrooge might want the Ghost to wear it: because he already knows facing his r

Stave Two pp. 35-42: Active Learning Task

Students' answers will vary, but should show good understanding a Scrooge's character a may include that his father is a forbidding figure and how the lake him feel, affection resentment, feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a forbidding figure and how the lake him feel, affection resentment, feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a forbidding figure and how the lake him feel, affection resentment, feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a forbidding figure and how the lake him feel, affection resentment, feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a forbidding figure and how the lake him feel, affection resentment, feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a forbidding figure and how the lake him feel, affection resentment, feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a feeling figure and how the lake him feel feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a feeling figure and how the lake him feel feelings about his fellow pupils, feelings a feeling figure and how the lake him feel feelings a feeling figure and how the lake him feel feelings a feeling figure and how the lake him feel feeling figure and how the lake him feel feeling figure and how the lake him feel feeling figure and him feel feeling figure and him feeling figure and hi

Stave Two pp. 35-42: Active Lea ig Tak

Father is unkind: 'so much in the used to be' suggests an improvement but implied not kind

- He is frighted g: he spoke to her 'so gently... one dear night': the preciousness of the not afraid ask him' suggests that usually she is afraid
- He has been reluctant to have his son home: Fan asks him 'once more' showing she

Stave Two pp. 35-42: Discussion

Students may discuss a range of points, including:

- Insight into Scrooge's past helps see how his character formed
- We pity him as these episodes are miserable
- We see him as a child, a more innocent character we are more likely to empathise w
- We have a narrative explaining his bitterness
- We see Scrooge, confronted by the memories he has shut out, break down

Stave Two pp. 42-55: Discussion

- It suggests possibilities for Scrooge's future, if he had not be ne obsessed with more
- The homeliness is contrasted with his loneliness
- Life has gone on without him
- It is a busy scene full of laughter and the values Dickens is linking to Christi
- It is a revelation rather to the angle of the suppressed memory: Scrooge is being reconstituted to the suppressed memory: Scrooge is being reconstituted to the suppressed memory:
- It revea ot ers think of him, which previously he has not cared about, which

Stave Two pp. 42-55: Active Learning Task

Students will choose a range of quotations to use. For example:

- 'beyond belief'
- 'flushed and boisterous'
- 'irrepressible affection'

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'The joy, and gratitude, and ecstasy!'

Extension:

Points may include:

A time for fun and games	'perfectly tumultuous' ('perfectly' ensuring that 'tumultuo
A time for full and games	are playing noisy games
A joyous occasion	'laughed heartily and enjoyed it was much' 'shouts of won
A time for generosity	'laden with presents'
Sharing time as a family	'irrepressible affert n'

Stave Two Overview: Discussion

- The Gh 19 no esponded to his pleading an no seponded to his pleading and he has become desperate
- y overwhelmed
- This is a crisis point and adds tension to the narrative
- Scrooge has been struggling with long-repressed memories and is attempting to con-

Stave Two Overview: Practice Question

Students' answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretat Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of the presentation of isolation across the novel
- An understanding and interpretation of isolation in the extract
- The different kinds of isolation in the novel: for example, physical, social, emotional
- How people are isolated: by others, by themselves
- Scrooge's isolation as a child: out of his control: sent to boarding school by his father
- The impact of isolation: Scrooge's bitterness, his self-enforced isolation as an adult: control over (like resolving to wait out the hour: perhaps in a les not)
- The contrast between Scrooge's isolation and Fez and 's), ity, or the companionship
- Dickens using Scrooge's isolatic in the ympathy and as a warning: in Stave One i character yet in Stave Tix 1 in Thim more sympathetic

AO2

- Dickens' use of language in the extract and novella as a whole to prese Comme
- Rhetorical questions: interrogating, dismissive... Scrooge is questioning his old behave this reflection on his past self is precisely what the ghost encourages him to do
- 'deserted' 'solitary' 'neglected' 'lonely' 'forgotten': building a sense of isolation; at the Scrooge is forgotten both by his friends and his adult self
- The Gothic setting / pathetic fallacy 'dreary' 'melancholy' 'decayed' neglected like \$
- Stave One similes: 'solitary as an oyster' closed off from the world
- Stave One, setting: Scrooge's isolated house: not homely but surrounded by offices: and 'forgotten' as young house, like Scrooge in this extract

AO3

- Ideas about social isolation and how it is caused
- Dickens' ideas about childhood, as well as those of his contemporaries. Seemingly innocence alongside huge number of working children.
- Genre: isolation as a Gothic trope, particularly inf and he weather and imagery
- າ ນ e one is unlikeable, but in Stave Readership: creating an isolated Scrooge : **

Stave Three pp. 57-66: Discus

Students will disc e joints. For example:

Learnt from st of Christmas Past:

- That makes people happy can be quite easy and inexpensive
- To feel emotion: as he does on seeing his remembered self
- To empathise: as he does with his remembered self
- How fun Christmas can be: watching Belle's family



Expect to learn:

- About how people celebrate now
- Perhaps about some of the characters we encountered in Stave One: Bob; the charit
 collecting for; Fred

Stave Three pp. 57-66: Active Learning Task

Students' responses will vary depending on the task chosen, but in both cases the first roc unwelcoming: 'a small fire in the grate', the second, decorate with living green', fu

Ext:

- Previously 'a small fire in the grace' becoose will allow even himself, showing his as well as his stinging; the room it is also a rft. It was, and the heat can fill the room, transforming the space
- 'the litt pan of gruel' a single dull meal, Scrooge is alone and takes little pleas food, en arrivor a crowd, and food which is to be enjoyed: it is 'juicy' 'luscious' 'de it

Stave Three pp. 67-80: Discussion

Students will make a range of points and express a range of views (which may even make writing), including but not limited to:

- These are stereotypes which make it easier for the press/politicians/authors to make
- They are oversimplified and life is a lot more complicated
- The idea of the deserving poor is useful in helping people to realise that poverty is not sympathy
- The idea of the deserving poor is unhelpful because it suggests that people should be Tim!) to get help
- The idea of the deserving poor reinforces the idea of the undeserving poor: some perit suggests they need sorting and judging
- The portrayal of Tiny Tim can be linked to modern portrayals of people with disability
- Help should not be based on moral worth

Stave Three pp. 67-80: Active Learning Task

Examples include:

- Dickens contrasts their 's with their poverty, much as he did Scrooge's wealt comment or service of their poverty.
- Poverty turned gown' 'threadbare clothes' calling the drink 'some hot mixture
 as a greatest portrayed as resilient and supportive in the face of their poverty
- Happiness: 'universal admiration' for food, 'delight' in speech
- Love for one another: effort to be kind and see the positive; Cratchit holding his son'

Extension: Scrooge is directly responsible for this family as he employs the father and determined the father and determ

Stave Three pp. 67-80: Discussion

Students should realise that if this is a reform it suggests that children had pretty hard live they come from poor families. It does also suggest there was political pressure to improvis considered an improvement most people's attitude to children was also quite hard.

Stave Three pp. 80-91: Discussion

- Scrooge is the most miserable character and suffers the most motionally and spirit to this point we have seen how isolated and ill-temper is he has lost his fianced life; he is disliked by others; he has missed out or Free country
- The Cratchits live in great poverty but a end, in one another: they suffer financial behaviour; they suffer ill health poor clothing; they suffer as a res later due to his death.
- Other charges are to his behaviour for example, Belle and Fred but are elsewh
- Scrooge sto suffer most emotionally and spiritually, whereas the Cratchits are victims; however, this also does them emotional harm

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Stave Three pp. 80-91: Active Learning Task

Scrooge as a child	Scrooge is sad, lonely, but also innocent. The cruel treatment becomes.
The carol singer	Scrooge does not want to hear the carol or his message and so messengers of Christmas, away, unceremoniously. The child rethis child is the first character he express as regret in his treatment.
Fan	Is innocent and full of joy. Sharing as amaged as her broth However, she is now 15 d, in the tragedy of Scrooge's yout a little too in the harve a character.
Belle's children	En: and have a loving relationship with their parents.
The Cratch 79	Cratchit children are full of joy and life, but also aware of and are torn between childishness and adulthood.
Tiny Tim	A character to be pitied. He is held up as good and kind, but is represents the fragility of childhood and the vulnerability of the
Ignorance and Want	Symbolic characters, showing the trap of poverty.

Stave Three Overview: Active Learning Task

Traditions mentioned in the novella may include: decorations such as holly, ivy and mistle turkey/goose; mince pies; plum pudding; exchanging gifts; parties; church going

Not mentioned: Father Christmas; crackers; trees; nativity story; religious elements

The general picture of Christmas Dickens is trying to create is one of shared joy; hope in the spirit; familial affection and goodwill to all

Stave Three Overview: Practice Question

Students' answers will vary and examiners are encouraged any valid interpretated Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of the pression of poverty across the novel
- An understadir.
- An und replaced in the extract and metaphorical riches and poverty in the extract and no values of succession, work, love, family
- In the extract the family all work together and show a picture of the 'deserving poor'
- Dickens hopes to create sympathy for the poor and overturn stereotypes of laziness
- Elsewhere in the novella we see a less romantic image of poverty, but this scene sets sympathetically

AO2

- Comments on Dickens' use of language in the extract and novella as a whole to present
- Extreme poverty is shown in the novella by contrasting the lives/food/houses of the
- Use of words to do with value and cost throughout the novel: how they are used to exp
- Mrs Cratchit is dressed 'poorly' but 'brave', and her daughter is 'also brave in ribbons
 element of nobility on their poverty and their attempt to look nice for the holiday; it
 mocked as tasteless, though the tone is a little condescending
- Likewise, the eldest son is wearing his father's shirt 'in hor of the day', suggesting Christmas as best they can
- Words such as 'brave' and 'honour' suggest is the less and hard work, in contrast to negligent poor
- Although Peter is provided in the is 'not proud' to blow the fire

AO3

- Victoria about poverty and philanthropy: differing opinions of the poor, such the view one poor as feckless and lazy
- Victorian ideas about work and value: workhouses
- Audience: Dickens trying to influence ideas about poverty and how/why people are

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Stave 4 pp. 93-95 Active Learning Task

Students will come up with a range of ideas. For example:

Word	In what way is it like that?	Evidence from the text	
Frightening	It is spooky and appears in a way we might associate with death.	It fills Scrooge with 'uncertain horror' as he looks at its 'dusky shour' but care it see sace	Scrooge is afraid of it as of death. Words to do we of death and his fate condemned like Marley constant warning of this think of the end of the death.
Silent	be. De. Journal only points.	'It gave him no reply'	By not answering Scroog under pressure to think f decisions. He is left to hi receiving guidance.
Resolved	Without speaking, it gives Scrooge firm, unrelenting instructions.	'The Spirit pointed onward' and does not stop doing so, whatever Scrooge does or says	Scrooge must pay attent journey; he cannot talk h future, just as in life he c
Spooky	This ghost is more haunting and phantom-like than the others.	Scrooge can barely see it, he imagines its 'ghostly eyes' and 'could see nothing but a spectral hand and one great heap of black'	Although the other spirit one that conforms most which might haunt peop fate, being condemned ideath. It seems that Didmore thought to the future name and potentially disappearing, unchanged which really haunts us.

Stave 4 pp. 93-95: Discus i

Ideas may in

- Scrooge wants to change but needs more warning / a sense of fear to keep him on the se
- Scrooge is still not fully self-aware, as demonstrated when the Ghost surprises him
- Scrooge needs to know what impact his change will have / what future he is averting
- Dickens wants to make clear to the reader the consequences of behaviour such as \$0

Stave 4 pp. 95-108: Active Learning Task

Although the groups are disparate: they range in wealth (the businessmen vs the thieves characterised as sympathetic and deserving (the couple) and hardened and criminal (the the death. They have little personal interest in the man who has died: only the couple, reaction.

Extension: They all agree that he was rich and mean, private and solitary. The near universally by some relief), and shared impression of his character, confirm it as an accurate different world views show the same attitude to him, and relief.

Stave Four pp. 108-115: Discussion

- The narrator tries to guide us it out in just anding of Tiny Tim's character
- He is idealised and link and seemingly perfect morally, if not physically
- Tiny Tirgent is the second of the author, rather than a fully realised character
- At Chris 1990 hristians celebrate the birth of Jesus: a child sent by God
- The arch thy' emphasises the religious links and symbolism
- Like Jesus, Tiny Tim is sacrificed: he dies so that Scrooge may be reformed

Stave Four pp. 108–115: Active Learning Task

Students may make a range of suggestions. Their answers should show an understanding of the way he has changed.

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For example:

- Something which renews his relationship with Fred: send a Christmas Card; attend
- Make a charitable donation
- Give money to a child / carol singer
- Give Bob a pay rise
- Pay for Tiny Tim to see a doctor
- Give more time for people to pay their debts

Stave Four Overview: Discussion

Students will express a range of views and solution of the encouraged to develop a personal reasons and evidence.

They may cons

- The far. To un ealistic and unbelievable, making the story unconvincing
- The noved actions as a fable so we expect these caricatures and they successfully
- Dickens is deliberately appealing to sentiment, not just to reason, as he is opposing
- The views of readers across time
- The perfect Cratchits are counterpointed by other characters, such as the thieves, to
- The Cratchits are not completely perfect: Mrs Cratchit resents the toast to Scrooge

Stave Four Overview: Practice Question

Students' answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretations Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of the presentation of Tiny Tim across the novel
- An understanding and interpretation of the role and presentation of Tiny Tim in the
- Tiny Tim as a character: characterised as saintly 'from God'
- Tiny Tim as symbolic: a morally perfect but weak child, challenging Victorian attitude elicit sympathy, his weakness requires support and process.
- Tiny Tim embodies the 'surplus population'
- Tiny Tim's narrative function: the sacrif acide im
- The message of the extract is 't is to the smilly, and more to the reader, who is urged virtues
- Serves 2 mg/limit death of Scrooge 'tenderness'

AO2

- Comments on Dickens' use of language in the extract and novella as a whole to prese
- Dialogue: largely presented, in the extract, through his father's voice
- Adjectives: 'mild'; 'little'; 'poor': he is weak and pitiable. Associated with Jesus, the L
 others, just as Tiny Tim is sacrificed in the novella that Scrooge might be transformed
- The family are united by his death: 'they all cried', 'cried they all', they all 'kissed' Bo
- The intrusion of the narrative voice
- Tiny Tim as another 'Spirit' haunting the narrative
- 'thy': archaism emphasising symbolic value
- Language used to describe Tiny Tim elsewhere: emphasis on his size and innocence
- Comparing language regarding Tiny Tim's death and Scrooge's

AO3

- Victorian attitudes to children: sentimental and idealised view of childhood innocence mines, as chimney sweeps, etc.
- Victorian attitudes to the poor and those up a le 5 vi.... thinking particularly about Tim?
- Different audience reaction > fire in: a sympathetic character? An underdevelor
- Religious connotation of your as messenger from God / compared to Jesus
- Moder disability: Dickens is associated disability: Dickens is associated disability and be forward thinking to him, but as a modern audience are we modern audience are well and a discount and a discount audience are well and a discount and a discount audience are well and a discount and a discount

Stave Five pp. 117-123: Active Learning Task

Students will come up with a range of responses, which should show an understanding of S also be used to encourage students to explore context and contemporary reactions.

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Stave Five pp. 117-123: Discussion

- Nervousness
- Excitement
- Still a little fear

Stave Five pp. 123-end: Active Learning Task

This is an open-ended task to which students may respond in a variety of ways. It provide and revisit writing skills for the language exam.

Stave Five pp. 123-end: Discussion

Students may raise a range of points (FO) & ample:

- From a narrative per consimply not as interesting or compelling. We need to be consigned as bject of the story is complete; the lesson has been learnt
- The gla. The gla. tan gives more sense of possibility; the actions are not so tightly define
- This encurages the audience to consider what can be done
- There is a sense of new birth, and potential; this is only the beginning and change is

Stave Five Overview: Discussion

Students may make a number of suggestions including:

- To be generous
- To be considerate of others
- To be self-reflective
- To improve our lives
- To have more empathy and sympathy

Stave Five Overview: Active Learning Task

Stave One	Stave Five
Rude to Fred and refuses his invitation	Attends the y and becomes 'at he
Refuses to give money to the charity collectors	M (es v r, generous donation
Throws a ruler at the carol singer: a	peaks kindly to a child and is conside encouraging him to take a cab and of
Only allows Boh a very a lost e	Tells him to 'make up the fires'
Pays Bob pt 79	Offers Bob a pay rise

Stave Five Overview: Practice Question

Student answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretation. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of the presentation of playfulness across the novel
- An understanding and interpretation of the role and presentation of playfulness
- Scrooge as transformed from someone with no 'fancy' about him into pretending he
- The child Scrooge escaping into a book: it comes to life and offers comfort to him, the regains
- Play as associated with childhood: the role of children in the novel
- Games at the Christmas parties: Fred and Belle's houses are full of games, and joy
- In Stave One Bob runs off 'as hard as he could pelt' to playing man's buff
- Play as a bonding experience
- Play as providing joy and excitement

AO2

- Comments on Dickers of Singuage in the extract and novella as a whole to prese
- Repetit 19 ita 13 orooge's excitement about his plan to be early
- Exclamation rks: excitement and childishness
- 'he had se his heart upon': wish fulfilment
- Scrooge has to 'feign' his own voice, so complete is the transformation; he is playing
- The moment of relief and release
- Elsewhere, play is associated with joy and high energy

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AO3

- Victorian attitudes to children: sentimental and idealised view of childhood innocend mines, as chimney sweeps, etc.
- The value of play and work: Dickens emphasises the importance of community and come together
- Audience: children

Characterisation: Scrooge: Active Learning Task

- 1. Moments may include: seeing his possible future of the windon himself alone as a child; seeing the pove imagination; remembering Fan with changing; seeing how easily For a will be ake people happy; regretting prioritising to could have had with Boundard and Cratchit family's affection for one another; syn Tim; admired and the solve and morality; realising how other people, such as Minsell and the solve and morality; realising what Fred thinks of him; seeing the death of death.
- 2. This is a good opportunity for students to be evaluative, think about the impact of the consider the novel's structure, as well as prepare for the exam. They could be encounted across the text before completing the task, or perform a self-evaluation in which the show an understanding of the whole text. If, for example, all choices are from Staves of the Ghost of Christmas Future?

Extension:

For example:

Scrooge's realisation that the dead man is him is a crucial moment in his transformation. as the realisation dawns on him, showing that he is afraid to recognise the truth about him the 'neglected stone' the revelation is complete. He now knows he will die, uncared for, a This encourages him to no longer neglect and ignore others, so that he will have a better novella he has learnt much and has already promised to change, this fear, which means he 'trembling', is the final, more personal, motivation he needed to be phim on the right pair

Characterisation: Scrooge: Discussion

Students will form a personal response. 5.1 (x) 1 55 a range of opinions. For example:

- Scrooge is motivated by sym, Very legisly the plight of Tiny Tim, for whom he shows
- Seeing the examples is a disad Fezziwig, and how their small gestures help make permore some like it and the same seeing the same seeing the like it and the same seeing the like it and the same seeing the same seeing the like it and the same seeing the same seeing
- The nan framed by a warning about Scrooge's fate, from Marley, and ends with the other events do cause him to feel emotion, including sympathy, he still needs a self-
- Scrooge ultimately changes after seeing his own death
- The first person he sympathises with is himself as a child
- These framing incidents could be seen as showing the selfish nature of his change; how
 him a way in to feeling for others and a warning should he ever stray from his new life
- Ultimately he seems relieved to have the chance to avoid his terrible fate
- He sets about trying to change the lives of others and knows the true spirit of Christmas

Characterisation: Practice Question: Scrooge

Student answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretation Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of how Scrooge changes in the nove
- Key events contributing to his change: Manage: v. the three ghosts; witnessing Tir
- An understanding of the range contact have an effect on Scrooge, and their
- The completeness of the Stave One
- Change 19 og 3 actions: buying the largest turkey, when previously he was mean
- The bala education the narrative as Scrooge makes amends

AO2

- The change in Scrooge is reflected in the weather: the fog of Christmas Eve has lifted
- The abundance of adjectives shows the overflowing of emotion and has a richness in stingy personality
- Change in Scrooge's language: calling the boy 'my fine fellow', 'intelligent' and 'delig

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- Scrooge is active: 'running' 'calling' as he actively set out to change
- Scrooge is voluntarily engaging in dialogue, and using lots of exclamations: showing positive personality
- Form and structure: the novella is not realistic but has a narrative logic which the au three ghosts, making amends, balance in the narrative

AO3

- An understanding of the message Dickens is trying to compare cate to his contempor Scrooge
- An understanding of some of the ideals and which is Dickens criticises through Scrool
- An understanding of some of the include advocates through the transformation conditions, sympathy for
- An understanding the croose, and his transformation, reflect different attitudes profit

Characterisation: Marley: Active Learning Task

- They were business partners
- The name of their business 'Scrooge and Marley' makes the link clear
- Scrooge was Marley's 'sole mourner' and they are both 'solitary'
- The narrator describes them as 'kindred spirits' in their attitude to charity
- Scrooge does not mind being called by Marley's name or being mistaken for him
- Scrooge lives in Marley's old apartment
- Scrooge describes Marley as a 'good man of business'

Characterisation: the Ghosts: Active Learning Task

Students may pick a number of features. For example:

Feature	Past	Present	Future
Is associated with light	/	/	х
Carries holly	/	/	
Directs Scrooge	/	_1	SY^{-}

Extension 1:

Directs Scrooge		
Extension 1: For example:		
'Featu Zog Education	Past	Present
Is associated with light	Carries light, but fluctuates. 'what was light one instant at another time was dark' (32)	Does not have supernatural light like Past but has a 'glowing torch' (59) and 'sparkling' eyes (60)
Carries holly	'It held a branch of fresh green holly' (32)	wears a 'holly wreath' as a crown (60)
Directs Scrooge	'Rise! And walk with me!' (34)	'Look upon me!' (60) 'Touch my robe!' (61)





Extension 2:

For example:

All three ghosts give Scrooge directions: this is because they are his guides and teachers hife so that he might change his ways. While the first ghost invites him to 'Rise! And Walk withrough his past, the last ghost does not speak at all. The Ghost of Christmas Past support the past; however, by the visitation of the Ghost of Christmas Future, Scrooge must becomeed to be asked to rise and go but he still requires guidance, and the ghost shows him will require the still requ

Characterisation: The Cratchits: Practice Question,

Students' answers will vary and examiners a raged to reward any valid interpretated Answers might, however, include some control lowing:

AO1

- An ove 79 h the idea of family is presented and the values associated with it
- An undergood of how the Cratchit family are presented, what they represent, and through them
- Love and the family as key features of Christmas for Dickens
- Happy families and unhappy families: Scrooge's rejection by his father contrasted with parties
- The importance of Belle: her happy family is included among the 'past' events even t memories
- Fan: the kind-hearted sister and mother of Fred, who is in turn kind-hearted
- The importance of togetherness
- The family as safe haven: worth more than material riches
- Bob as loving father
- The whole Cratchit family work together for one another's happiness
- By contrast, Scrooge is solitary

AO₂

- The business of the family: 'bustle' 'mashed' 'dusted' all s' t endeavour and a ha
- Everyone has a job and the repeated grammatical ctip's 'Mister Peter mashed to sweetened up the apple sauce' 'Bob too'. The Tir.' aggest unity of purpose and action
- The family enjoy being together
- The family are 'excited' to a satival and all get caught up in the atmosphere
- Langua Pearding families throughout the novel: active verbs, positive adjecti

AO3

- An understanding of the message Dickens is trying to communicate to his readers ab
- The family as the starting point for love, affection and sharing
- The Victorian ideal of the family as a safe haven from work
- Victorian view of working-class life: the Cratchits are good and loving parents, they

Characterisation: Women and girls

Fan; Mrs Cratchit; Belle and her daughter; Belinda and Martha Cratchit; Fred's wife; Wart Old Joe's shop; Caroline

- The women are mostly wives and daughters; they are homely and associated with the
 pleasant and comfortable; marriage and having children are idealised
- While Fan is sweet and gentle, Mrs Cratchit isn't afraid to speak her mind and Belle t break off the engagement
- It is particularly shocking that the two women are __l ng _ing_in Old Joe's shop

Characterisation: Fred: Practice Questing

Students' answers will vary and in pare encouraged to reward any valid interpretat Answers might, bowers in a second of the following:

A01

- An overview of how Fred is presented and his role in the novel
- Fred's characterisation and role in the extract
- Fred as a contrast or foil to Scrooge, particularly in this extract where they present
- Fred as an aspirational figure or role model: friendly, polite, compassionate, forgiving
- The Cratchits' admiration of Fred

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- Fred and Scrooge presenting opposing views and values: Fred representing an individual view of charity; complemented by Fezziwig the businessman, and the two charity collisions.
- The significance of Fred as Scrooge's only family

AO₂

- Scrooge's language towards Fred becomes so violent part is left blank. Yet Fred remaining word'.
- The contrast between them in dialogue: Fred effusive ; crooge abrupt, rude
- Fred 'cried' in passion or shock in response to Sci Top is although he remains feeling
- Fred questioning Scrooge region is more to get Scrooge to open up, yet Scrooge answer him
- Language sed to refer to Fred throughout the novel: positive, happy, pleasant
- Fred is 'ruddy and handsome', physically attractive character as well
- Fred is 'sparkling' associated with the positive, light imagery of the novel
- Structure: accepting the change in Scrooge, Fred demonstrates forgiving behaviour a

AO3

Fred:

- Contexts of reception: Fred is a palatable and relatively realistic role model for middle otherwise feel too criticised or that too much was being asked of them
- The novella's expression of charity as patriarchal and individual: Fred's offer of help
- Victorian family values: Fred's home is a haven of love

Relationships... Fred: Active Learning Task

- Fred: Uncle!
- Scrooge: Nephew! Keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine.
- Fred: Keep it! But you don't keep it!

Annotations will vary: for example, students hooge to sound angry, exasperate For example:

Fred: Uncle! (Fred is 'r') inis uncle to be more kind; he is shocked by Scroon

Christians; A sound frustrated and shocked, but, overall, imploring)

Scrooge: N. Pruse – the dialogue breaks here for narrative, suggesting a pause. Swheeling a pause of Fred's – imperhaps a little whining, to show how little he thinks of both Fred's opinion and

- he wants to suggest the fact he is Fred's uncle means very little to him. He the final manner) Keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine.

Keep it! (shocked – pause) But you don't keep it! (Exasperated. Emphasis 'you'

Ext: Students may pick a phrase from any point in the conversation, annotating as above phrases they have chosen to a key point about one or more of the following to show their relationship; the novel's main themes

Relationships... Fan: Discussion

- The fact they are taken to this memory shows its significance the importance of the
- Fan's kindness contrasts the behaviour we have seen elsewhere in the novella she no one would behave like this with Scrooge now
- Scrooge's halting dialogue and uneasy discourse in nor pnew suggest guilt and sad

Relationships... Bob: Discussion

- Bob is afraid of Scroos & Scrooge are his old self

 Bob is afraid of Scroos & Scrooge are his old self

 Bob is afraid of Scroos & Scrooge are his old self

 Bob is afraid of Scroos & Scrooge are his old self
- Bob is the 'pleaded' for his job
- Bob is solutions by Scrooge's transformations he 'trembled' and considers asking formad or is continuing to taunt him
- It is the mention of Christmas that allows Bob to be convinced their relationship is as Scrooge's greetings are expressed with 'earnestness'

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Relationships... Marley: Active Learning Task

Student responses will vary but should show an understanding of character and relationshelief or pride in Scrooge, or pleased that Scrooge has avoided his fate.

Relationships... The Ghost of Christmas Past: Active Learning Task

Students' responses will vary, but could show:

- Meeting the Ghost of Christmas Past for the first time: Scroog cowering, or hiding for face in the absence of bed curtains, and the Ghost reaction by to him
- Meeting the Ghost of Christmas Present for the f St 1 > 3 crooge moving towards t jolly, perhaps reaching out to show will as

Relationship

G A Consistmas Future: Discussion

Scrooge goe: paring the Ghost to clinging to it for comfort when he is afraid.

Relationships: Practice Question

Students' answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretat Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1

- An overview of how employee/employer relationships are presented
- Fezziwig and the apprentices: Fezziwig as a kind and beloved employer
- Scrooge and Bob at the beginning: Scrooge bullying and Cratchit cowering
- Scrooge and Bob at the end: Scrooge generous but still powerful
- An understanding of the power of the employer: Fezziwig's power to make people here.
- Different models of employment and work/capitalism shown by the characters in the
- Scrooge as the reformed 'master': a paternalistic relationship

AO2

- The enthusiasm of Scrooge and ______ed' about and are 'panting like race horse
- Fezziwig calls the appropriate first names: familiarity
- 'There's round inspire. There's round makes everything seem possible; they 'could' do anything for
- 'old' Fez Education hows their affection: they want to please, they are not motivated by be the better motivation
- Lists showing business
- Language used to describe relationships of employer/employee throughout the nove

AO3

- An understanding of the message Dickens is trying to communicate to his readers ab for one's employees rather than squeezing every last drop out of them
- Victorian attitudes to work and labour: particularly utilitarian philosophies
- The position of the clerk: Dickens' father an impoverished clerk; the clerk appears the

Setting: London: Active Learning Task

This is an open-ended, creative task.

Setting: Scrooge's Bedroom: Discussion

Ideas may include:

- The return to domesticity aids the following particularly the bathos, setting gloomy fourth stave
- Raising the residual street the ghosts are real or imagined
- The rel 19 rolge had on the ghost meant although it seemed terrifying it became place of education

Setting: Happy Homes: Active Learning Task

Happy homes; ghosts; conversations in the office in Stave One (Fred; charity collectors; Bc Stave One (Fred; charity collectors; carol singer)

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Setting: Joe's Shop: Active Learning Task

Students may pick out a range of details. For example:

ltem	Significand
'A seal or two, a pencil-case, a pair of sleeve-buttons, and a brooch of no great value'	Even the thieves cannot find much of valuagest items of work and business, the phrooch are decorative but cheap.
'Sheets and towels, a little wearing apparel, two old-fashioned silver teaspoons, a pair of sugar-tongs, and a few boots'	Again, a minime us list of items. Thes impre sion of person or personality. Pr
Bed curtains 2 bla 1 1 5 Februaries	A very personal theft: the bed is the hear closed-off place where he is alone. There intimate about this theft. The woman labest then they would go to waste. Scrool

Themes: Christmas: Active Learning Task

This is an open-ended and imaginative task which students will respond to in a number of opportunity to revisit context: key features of a Victorian Christmas; themes and message characterisation: the new Scrooge.

Themes: Kindness and Charity: Discussion

Students will form a personal response making a range of points. This task should help the audience as well as the themes of the novel.

For example, they may consider:

- Are they patronising? Fred using the language of hierarchy: our responsibility for the patronising and paternalistic. In this picture characters such as Bob benefit from the Fred or Fezziwig but are not really empowered or in control of their own destiny: the masters, and Bob's admiration of Fred's politeness could be preferred as a naïve of other hand. Dickens aims to humanise the poor, and the poor aiming to assert the humanise the poor.
- other hand, Dickens aims to humanise the poor, a liming to assert the humanise they dated: useful for his audience by the cives difficult and there was no real safety and cruel and there was no real safety would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives to education. Dickens saw the government would come from the cives difficult and there was no real safety and crue and there was no real safety and crue and there was no real safety and crue and crue
- Are they universal: still lessons we need today? Continued debate on 'deserving' and
 poverty; how to support people into work; food bank use; access to universal service
 tax/charity) to help others; and whether taxation or individual giving is best
- Are they good: do they encourage us to be more responsible for one another? For ex master: good working conditions make a huge difference to people's lives and Dicker boss to provide them.
- Or bad: do they suggest we should all be more charitable but that this relies on every
 the government support people who are ill and out of work using taxes? By removing
 government, it becomes random / pot luck. People can't be trusted to be generous
 fairer distribution of resources.

Themes: Social Responsibility: Practice Question

Students' answers will vary and examiners are encouraged to by and any valid interpretate Answers might, however, include some of the same in the same of the same

A01

- An overview of how of the seemts social responsibility in the novel
- An und in a number pretation of the role of social responsibility in the extract
- The kin bonsibilities Dickens wants to encourage in his readers: charity; person
- The role of education
- The role of the government: the 'workhouse' is not enough

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AO2

- Comments on Dickens' use of language in the extract and novella as a whole to prese
- The extract uses dialogue to present two sides of an argument; however, Dickens he argument (as other language features show)
- Scrooge's sarcasm and rudeness: he is not fully engaging with the argument but sneed of the charity collectors
- The charity collectors mention 'Christian cheer', appealing to a religious nature
- Language of the charity collectors mild and reasonable with f us are endeavouring
- Scrooge's abruptness 'Nothing!'
- 'idle people': Scrooge's view of the
- 'business': Scrooge's ideas (business): Scrooge's ideas

AO3

- The pool Education and reformers
- Victorian views of work and poverty
- Changing readers' attitudes to responsibilities of government/charity, e.g. schools

Themes: Social Injustice and Inequality: Active Learning Task

Examples:

- 'Meagre' Christmas dinner at the Cratchit house
- The suffering of Tiny Tim; treatable illness and affording a doctor
- Old clothes of the Cratchits
- The slums which force people into crime
- Ignorance and Want

Is poverty the greatest hardship? Other contenders: isolation; loss (the death of Tiny Tim

Themes: Social Injustice and Inequality: Discussion

Dickens presents those who criticise Scrooge as sincere: to do chick wise would undermin One might suggest they are hypocrites — Fezziwig is plum of the a comfortable home not have to live a totally ascetic life to do good (in the congression of wealth that is being criticis at or pearth in and of itself.

Themes: Family and the Acave Learning Task

For example 79

You should us a xtract below and your knowledge of the whole novella to answer the Write about the presentation of families in the novel.

In your answer you should:

- refer to the extract and the novella as a whole
- show your understanding of characters and events in the novel
- refer to the contexts of the novel

'But now a knocking... very dim indeed' (52-53)

AO2

- Active verbs: knocking, laughing, shouting, struggling, scaling
- Lots going on: lists of things people are doing
- · Affection: 'hug' 'irrepressible affection'
- Joy: 'wonder and delight'
- Triplet 'the joy, the passion, the ecstasy'

Ideas and Messages: The Possible of Surveness and Redemption: Discussion

- Marley's fate to war araris in contrast with the new lighter mood of the novel, than for the second secon
- Scrooge formation frees Marley
- The supernatural element of the story is over and there is no place for Marley in it

Ideas and Messages: The Innocence of Children: Active Learning Task

If students struggle to complete research tasks due to lack of resources, they could be pronovels.

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Dickens is interested in formative events and influences

- He also creates exaggeratedly innocent victims of misfortune to show the virtuous possible assumptions about the poor (Oliver Twist)
- Poverty as a corrupting force on children (the Artful Dodger)
- Education as an escape from poverty
- Education as civilising

Ideas and Messages: Discussion

- It is not Scrooge's wealth but his obsession with it and a miserliness, which is critic
- There are positive examples of wealth of the charity collectors

Ideas and Messages: Practical de Jon

Students' are villed, and examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretate. Answers might examiner are encouraged to reward any valid interpretate.

AO1

- An overview of the presentation of community across the novel
- An understanding and interpretation of the role and presentation of community
- The idea of a universal humanity: we are all responsible for one another
- Fred and Marley both hint at our commonality
- Responsibility for others
- Christmas as a unifying time and community event: the gatherings even in isolated p
- Family as a kind of community, and the foundation of wider community
- Even the thieves form their own community and code

AO₂

- Comments on Dickens' use of language in the extract and novella as a whole to prese
- The house fronts look alike: 'smooth white snow' links their rooves
- The furrows of wagons 'crossed and recrossed' illustrating the mingling paths of people shared spaces.
- 'as if all the chimneys' all-unifying: the shared exteries on Christmas and shared tra
- 'air of cheerfulness' which is irrepressible mood of the people the power of t
- 'the people who were shove" ς: α η η ωπ activity
- 'full of glee' sharing, hat a cosphere 'jovial'
- Tiny Tir Taylar 1 Stave Three 'God bless us every one': perhaps all the family family a long family a long

AO3

- Victorian debates about responsibilities and rights: access to education and support
- Victorian societies for social improvement, such as poor schools: patchy and individu
- Victorian social hierarchies: in some ways Dickens softens these boundaries, suggest
 at the expense of the majority is wrong; however, he also reinforces them, suggestin
 paternalistic responsibility for the poor

Language: Light: Discussion

Connects her to other positive characters, such as Fred, whose eyes sparkle: she is not to and this connection is a shorthand for that

- Positivity of brightness
- The reflection of light shows that the ghost is choosing this moment to help illustrate
- It also shows that, although the past cannot be changed in some senses interior

Language: Fires and Warmth: Active Learning

Light/dark; warmth/cold; meanness/ wealth/poverty; kindness/unkindness; carifamilies and friends / loneling of coope; Fezziwig/Scroope; The Ghost of Christmas Past

Extension:

- Creates strong dichotomies
- Can create clear sense of right and wrong
- Can oversimplify
- Transformation is more dramatic
- Transformation perhaps more convincing as change from good to bad rather than m

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Language: Commerce: Discussion

Students may pick out a range of details. For example:

- Our relationships with others
- Happiness, and the power to make others happy
- Family
- Our own comfort and prosperity
- The well-being of other people
- Sharing: food, games, laughter, music, as well as mong.
- Goodwill towards others

Language: Pathetic Fallacy: Activ arn Wask

- 1. This time frame covers have an afrom its beginning: 3pm in Scrooge's office, until 6 of the representation of the representation of the representation of the ghosts have their effect morning the new day brings new life. Students may vary within this general traject the novel.
- 2. This should begin the same but either show a continuance or worsening of the weath freezing temperatures.

Extension: Students should be able to explain the link between Scrooge and the weather, the gloomy weather would continue.

Form: Ghost Stories: Active Learning Task

- The rise of the periodical: cheap, easy-to-produce texts
- A migrant population: means moving house and being in a new place
- servant class as ghostly inhabitants of large homes
- Gas lamps: carbon monoxide and hallucinations
- Gas lamps: light in homes: able to do more after dark; eerie
- Fashion for spiritualism
- Growing scientific knowledge; interest in supernature openially relating to community telegraph
- Trick photography

tructure: Marie and Marie Learning Task

- The car wno flees from Scrooge in Stave One
- The field conscrooge's school are 'full of merry music'
- The fiddler, and dancing, at Fezziwig's party
- At the start of Stave Two the people scraping snow make a 'rough but not unpleasan
- The Cratchits' Christmas pudding is described as 'singing in the copper'
- Tiny Tim sings a 'plaintive song' about a lost child
- The old man in the mud hut sings a song and his audience join him
- Men humming Christmas tunes on the boat
- Two men in the lighthouse sing a song
- Lots of music at Fred's party: 'They were a musical family'

Context: Poverty and Workhouses: Active Learning Task

Images: cramped, dark, frightening, hard, the work looks dangerous, the children are nake mine: suggests possible fatalities, doing jobs you might expect and list to do: pushing, pul posture, damaging growth and development, chains

Extension:

'The Cry of the Children'

- Verse rather than an sale
- Also lin 19 e i 13 of song / the spoken voice
- Compare vitime' of some children to harsh conditions of others, as Dickens juxta
- Children 'pale and sunken' like Ignorance and Want
- Children dying before their time: Alice / Tiny Tim
- Children 'binding up their hearts': becoming unfeeling
- Tiredness of the poor
- The idea of being robbed of youth that Dickens hints at is made explicit

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- The idea that preaching and religion are not helping the children made more explic
- Idea that the 'nation' has created the situation: like 'man' in the novella

Context: Poverty and Workhouses: Discussion

- The Cratchits are a 'deserving family' and a working one: Bob works for Scrooge and for a milliner; Peter is having some form of employment arranged by his father, the
- Their clothes are worn: Peter has his father's old collars, Mrs C atchit's dress is 'twice
- They have no oven but take their goose to the baker's to be cooked
- Their celebration is contrasted with Fred's: the food is sore meagre and the family r
- Poverty makes them afraid: Scroops in the othem

 The eldest children work. ar a fine therefore, be educated out of poverty
- However, the family of the desperately impoverished as the thieves and slum dw appren 79 , t . . . ave a goose for Christmas dinner; they are a respectable poor hey struggle to subsist rather than flounder sympat

Context: Tiny Tim and Illness: Discussion

- Makes it more poignant
- Sympathy for family increases: imagine having the knowledge a cure is available but
- Makes Scrooge seem even more cruel: low wage has direct impact on health of Cra
- Aim to make audience see injustice / feel outraged

Context: Audience: Discussion

This is an evaluative question which should encourage a personal interpretation so answer students may consider could include:

- Scrooge is such a caricature readers will not see themselves in him and see him as re than them
- Fezziwig and Fred offer realistic model for the middle class
- Texts like this tend to be bought by people who already sympathise; preaching to the
- Sympathy for the poor: portrayal of the Cratchits mor time than change in Scro



