

Important Exam Information

- Paper 1 Section B
- Extract question
- No choice of question



A CHRISTMAS CAROL (1843)

GCSE Knowledge Organiser



Characters (AO1)

Ebenezer Scrooge 	Miserable and cold-hearted owner of a London counting-house. He is redeemed by the end of the novella **Irony of his name referring to the “stone of help”**
Jacob Marley (Ghost) 	When alive, Scrooge’s equally greedy partner. Died 7 years before story. Returns as a ghost to warn Scrooge. Marley hopes to save his old partner from a similar fate.
Bob Cratchit 	Scrooge’s clerk, a kind, mild but poor man with a large family. Treated harshly by Scrooge but remains humble and dedicated employee. **Irony of his name meaning “money” and “heartier eater”**
Fred 	Scrooge’s nephew- genial man who loves Christmas. Invites Scrooge to every annual Christmas party, every year Scrooge refuses to go.
Fezziwig 	Jolly- Scrooge’s boss when Scrooge was an apprentice. Renowned for his wonderful Christmas parties. *A foil character to Scrooge*
Ghost of Christmas Past 	First spirit to visit Scrooge. Child-like with a glowing head. Shows Scrooge Christmas of past.
Ghost of Christmas Present 	Second spirit to visit Scrooge, a giant in a green robe. Lifespan is restricted to Christmas day and shows Scrooge the present Christmas celebrations.
The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come 	Third spirit to visit Scrooge, a silent phantom in a hooded black robe. Shows Scrooge his lonely death.

Key Quotations (AO1)

Stave One	‘As solitary as an oyster’ “as hard and sharp as flint” – about Scrooge ‘His face was ruddy and handsome, his eyes sparkled’ – Fred (presented as the opposite to Scrooge) ‘I wear the chain I forged in life’ – Ghost of Marley
Stave Two	‘It wore a tunic of the purest white... from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light’ – Ghost of Christmas Past ‘A lonely boy was sat reading near a feeble fire’ – Scrooge as a young boy “‘Your lip is trembling,’ said the Ghost, ‘And what is that upon your cheek?’ – first sign of emotion from Scrooge
Stave Three	‘There sat a jolly Giant, who wore a glowing torch...it was clothed in one simple green robe’ – Ghost of Christmas Present ‘God bless us everyone!’ – Tiny Tim’s positive attitude ‘Tell me Tiny Tim will live...’ – Scrooge showing compassion.
Stave Four	‘The phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached’ – Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come ‘I fear you more than any spectre I have seen’ – Scrooge ‘Tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!’ – Scrooge desperate to change his ways **Ebenezer Stone** ‘I will honour Christmas in my heart’ - Scrooge
Stave Five	‘I’ll raise your salary Bob and endeavour to assist your struggling family’ – Scrooge changing his ways. ‘to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he [Scrooge] was a second father’ – Scrooge changing his ways ‘Light as a feather, happy as an angel...’ – similes used to contrast those from the beginning show Scrooge’s change

Sentence Starters

Point (AO1)	Use the words from the question and include a method (terminology) used by the writer.
Evidence (AO1)	For example/ This is seen when ‘...’
Analysis (AO2)	This word/method ‘...’ implies/suggests... It makes us realise/think/feel/imagine... Furthermore, the word ‘...’ is crucial because...
Link (AO3)	This could represent/symbolise the ... in society/it may represent Dickens view that...

Context (AO3)

Malthusian Theory	The idea that population growth exponential while the growth of the food supply or other resources is linear. In other words, resources would run out. He believed that population should be controlled to match supplies.
Disabled Children	Many of Dickens children died. This is reflective of Tiny Tim. Additionally, many children and disabled children in this era and were very judged and looked down upon.
The Class Divide/ Marxism	The novella is a criticism of the Victorian Era’s class system and how the upper and middle classes treated the lower, with Scrooge representing the higher classes (bourgeoisie) and the Cratchits the lower (proletariat). There was a huge divide between the rich and the poor as well as a significant difference of how they were treated.
Dickens’ Childhood	His dad got into debt and sent to debtors’ prison. Dickens mother and 7 children moved into prison with Charles living alone and working with child labourers

Challenge Questions

How did Dickens use characters and language to convey his opinions on social inequalities?
How has the theme of Family been presented throughout the novella?
How has Dickens used the characters of Fezziwig and Fred in the novella?

Themes (AO1)

Compassion & Forgiveness	Social Responsibility	Christmas Spirit
Isolation	Redemption	Family
Supernatural	Time	Education
Transformation	Poverty	



Allegory