

Key term	Definition
Allegory	A story that has a hidden moral message
Miser	A person who keeps their money and spends as little as possible
Redemption	Being saved from sin or wrongdoing
Benevolence	Being kind
Antithesis	Opposite/Contrast
Workhouse	A place where the poor could work for lodgings
Injustice	Lack of fairness
Destitute	Extreme poverty
Philanthropy	The desire to help others, especially by donating money
Didactic	A story that intends to teach a moral lesson

Characters in A Christmas Carol	
Scrooge (at the beg) Cold-hearted Miserly	Scrooge (at the end) Charitable Kind
Jacob Marley Tormented Regretful	Ghost of Christmas Past Gentle Ethereal
Ghost of Christmas Present Jolly Generous	Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come Silent Foreboding
The Cratchit Family Poor Resilient	Fred Cheerful Kind-hearted

Key Quotations	
“Solitary as an oyster”	 “If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population” 
“I wear the chain I forged in life.”	 “A solitary child, neglected by his friends.” 
“Another idol has displaced me... a golden one”	 “I see a vacant seat. The child will die” 
“This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both ... but most of all beware this boy.”	 “I am light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy.” 

Plot summary				
STAVE 1 Scrooge is at work where he turns down his nephew, Fred's, invitation and the request from two men who want money for charity. He is visited by the ghost of his Jacob Marley who tells him he will be visited by three ghosts.	STAVE 2 The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to his childhood school days, his apprenticeship with Mr Fezziwig, and his engagement to Belle. Scrooge sheds tears of regret before being returned to bed.	STAVE 3 The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge Christmas this year. He visits the Cratchit family, the miners, lighthouse workers, sailors and finally to Fred's house. The ghost then begins to age and two children appear, Want and Ignorance.	STAVE 4 The Ghost of Christmas Future takes Scrooge to see a group of businessmen discussing someone who has died. He is then taken to see some robbers, the Cratchit family (where we learn Tiny Tim has died) and then a graveyard where he sees his own gravestone. He promises to change his ways.	STAVE 5 Scrooge wakes up in his own bed. He sends a boy to buy a big turkey for the Cratchit family. He offers money to the charity men and then goes to Fred's house to join in the Christmas celebrations. On Boxing Day he raises Bob's salary.

Model paragraph

21. You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole novel to answer this question.

In A Christmas Carol, characters have different views about poverty and the poor. Write about how Dickens presents some of these different views throughout A Christmas Carol.

Writer's name

Analytical verb

Inference (your own idea)

quotation to support

Link to context

Explanation

Writer's intentions

Key word analysis/SST

Link to the wider novel

Dickens presents Scrooge as having little compassion for the poor at the beginning of the novella. He refuses to donate money to the charity collectors and states that the poor should be left to die and therefore "decrease the surplus population". Similar to Thomas Malthus' views, Scrooge is stating that helping the poor would only make the overcrowding in the city worse. Dickens might have included this quotation to portray Scrooge in a negative light because Dickens' views were the opposite of Scrooge. Dickens believed that it was society's responsibility to look after the poor. Dickens has used clinical language and a cold tone in words such as "decrease" and "surplus", maybe to show Scrooge as being detached and unfeeling towards the poor in a nineteenth century society. This is in stark contrast to the end of the novella, where Scrooge donates money to charity, buys a turkey for the Cratchit family and raises his clerk's salary. Dickens uses the character of Scrooge to educate society about taking responsibility for the poor.

Exam information

- You will have one essay to write
- You will have 45 minutes on this section
- You must write about the extract and the wider text
- You MUST include context
- You should aim for approx. 4 pghs in the main body of the essay

Key themes

Family Christmas Redemption Poverty Supernatural Time



Context

Dickens' life: Dad imprisoned for debt. Dickens worked in a blacking factory as a child. His sister and nephew died young.

Industrial Revolution: People flocked to the cities. Overcrowding led to hunger, disease and crime.

Malthus: Malthus believed poverty was the result of overpopulation. He thought helping the poor encouraged laziness and their incentive to work. Dickens disagreed.

Poor Laws: In 1834, the Poor Law Amendment Act stated that all unemployed people would have to enter a workhouse to receive food and shelter or go to prison. Conditions of workhouses were dire.

Education: Dickens believed strongly in the importance of education and how it can help people leave poverty. He was involved in Ragged Schools.

Christmas: At the start of the 19th century, Christmas was hardly celebrated. By the end, it was the most important celebration of the year.