

A Christmas Carol

In the second exam, you have to answer two questions on A Christmas Carol.

Part a: Extract based. You will need to analyse how language, structure and form are used to present a character, event, setting or a theme. You should spend 30 minutes responding to this question and use TEE in your written response.

Part b: Based upon your knowledge of the whole text. You need to explore how a character, event, setting or theme is presented across the novel. You should spend 30 minutes responding to this question. You need to write 3 paragraphs and think of three examples in relation to the question.

This part of the revision guide is organised into three sections:

1. Comprehension revision questions to secure your knowledge and understanding of the play.
2. Part a – information and practice
3. Part b – information and practice

You can find a copy of the novel here:

<http://literature.org/authors/dickens-charles/christmas-carol/>

A Christmas Carol – Comprehension questions

Stave One – Marley's Ghost

1. What adjectives does Dickens use to show us how greedy Scrooge was?
2. How did the author compare Scrooge to the weather?
3. What did Scrooge think about how people treated him?
4. Why was it so cold in the clerk's office?
5. Why did Scrooge think his nephew was foolish to feel happy at Christmas? If this was so, why do you think Scrooge wasn't happy?
6. How did Scrooge feel about Christmas?
7. What did Scrooge think should be done with people who were poor and destitute?
8. How were the ways the clerk and Scrooge behaved when they left the office different?
9. What happened to the knocker on the door when Scrooge went to unlock the door?
10. When he lit the candle, what did he think he saw going before him?
11. Why was Scrooge surprised at the sight of Marley's ghost?
12. Why did Marley wear chains?
13. What did Marley tell him about the seven years since his death?
14. Why was Christmas the most trying time of the year for Marley?
15. Why had he come to visit Scrooge?
16. What did Scrooge see when he looked out the window?

Stave Two – The First of the Three Spirits

1. Why did Scrooge want to stay awake until 1:00?
2. What vision appeared at his bed when the bell tolled one?
3. Where did the ghost first take Scrooge?
4. What was on Scrooge's cheek that he dismissed as a pimple? Why do you think it was there?
5. Who was the child left alone in the school?
6. What does this tell us about Scrooge's childhood?
7. How does the home of Scrooge's childhood compare with his present home?
8. How did Scrooge react when he saw his books? Why did the author say his face would have been a surprise to his business friends?
9. What regret did Scrooge have?
10. Who was 'little Fan'? Why had she come to the boarding school?

11. What impression do you get of Scrooge's father?
12. How was the place where Scrooge apprenticed different from his own office?

Stave Three – The Second of the Three Spirits

1. How did Scrooge react when the second spirit didn't arrive 'when the bell struck one'?
2. After Scrooge got up, what did he enter? Describe how it appeared.
3. Describe the appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Present.
4. How does the following quote show a change in Scrooge's character?
"Spirit," said Scrooge submissively, "conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. To-night, if you aught to teach me, let me profit by it."
5. Where did the spirit take Scrooge to?
6. What could the spirit do with his torch?
7. Where did the Ghost of Christmas Present take him next?
8. Describe Tiny Tim.
9. How is the demeanour of the Cratchit's?
10. What will happen to Tiny Tim? What can change that?
11. What does Cratchit toast? How does the family react?
12. Where did the spirit take him after they were at the Cratchit's house?
13. How do Scrooge's niece and nephew feel about him?
14. What did the family do after dinner?
15. Why did Scrooge beg to stay at the party?
16. Do you think that Scrooge was happy or sad that he stayed?
17. What did Scrooge notice about the change in the spirit's appearance?
18. How long will the spirit be 'upon the globe'?
19. What was under the spirit's robe?
20. *"Are there no prisons?" said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. "Are there no workhouses?"* Explain why this part of the text is ironic.

Stave Four – The Last of the Spirits

1. What does the third Spirit say to Scrooge when he sees him?
2. What feeling floods Scrooge when he meets the third Spirit?
3. Where do Scrooge and the third Spirit overhear the first conversation about death?
4. What type of men are discussing the death?
5. What name do the men give to the man who has died?
6. In what type of establishment does Scrooge see the laundress?

7. What has the laundress stolen from the dead body, which Scrooge finds more shocking?
8. Why is the family that Scrooge visits so happy to hear of the death of the dead man?
9. Who says the line 'Let me see some tenderness connected with a death'?
10. What is the name of the third Spirit?
11. Which family does the Spirit take Scrooge to revisit?
12. What has changed about the Cratchit family during the visit with the third Spirit?
13. When the Spirit takes Scrooge to see the Cratchits, which character has died?
14. In response to the death in the family, which character reacts generously to the family?
15. Fill in the blank: What message does the Cratchit family embrace? That even in _____ there is hope.
16. Who does Scrooge decide that he would like to catch a glimpse of now that he has recognised that he is seeing the future?
17. Where does Scrooge believe that he should be at that time of day, in the future?
18. Where is Scrooge when he realises that in the future he will be dead?
19. Who asks the Spirit if these events are the things that 'Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?'
20. What is the Spirit's response to the question of whether these are the things that will surely come to pass?
21. What does the Spirit use to point?
22. What is the name on the tombstone that Scrooge finds himself at?
23. What does Scrooge do after he sees the name on the tombstone?
24. When Scrooge is returned to his bedroom, what does he wake up clutching?
25. When Scrooge first sees the third Spirit, what does he do involuntarily?
26. What does Scrooge promise to honour, from the bottom of his heart?
27. In the cemetery, what part of the Spirit's body begins to tremble?
28. In the cemetery, what part of the Spirit shrinks and collapses?
29. What did the businessmen wonder about the dead man's funeral?
30. What is the general emotion surrounding the death of the man in town?
31. What does the Cratchit family believe about the death of their family member?
32. What does Scrooge ask the Spirit to be quick to share?

Stave Five – The End of It

1. How does Scrooge respond when he wakes up in his own bed on Christmas morning?
2. Who tells Scrooge what day it actually is?

3. What does Scrooge send to Bob Cratchit?
4. What does Scrooge do when he meets the man who had asked him for a donation the day before?
5. At whose home does Scrooge have Christmas dinner?

6. How does the change of weather reflect Scrooge's transformation?
7. Offer your interpretation of the phrase 'I'm quite a baby' Scrooge uses to describe how he feels.
8. What language device has Dickens used in 'as light as a feather...as happy as an angel...as merry as a schoolboy.....as giddy as a drunken man'? What is their effect on the reader?
9. How does Scrooge feel about knocking on Fred's door? Why has Dickens decided to show us this?
10. Identify the repetition Scrooge uses to describe Fred's party? What is the purpose of the repetition? What does Dickens want to make sure the reader understands?
11. Everything that Scrooge does wrong in Stave One is put right in Stave Five. Find three examples to support this statement.
12. In Stave Two young Scrooge is left on his own and in Stave Three the Cratchits are described as the model happy family. How is the theme of family presented in Stave Five?
13. Dickens's view of social responsibility was formed as a result of his understanding of the Christian teachings, according to which everyone should look after those less fortunate than them. Find two quotes from Scrooge to support this. Then explain the.
14. What is the meaning of Scrooge's statement, 'I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future!'?
15. Why do you think Dickens ends with the narrator's voice rather than a scene with Scrooge? How effective is this ending?

Part a: Analysing language, structure and form

You must make sure you know and understand the following terms. For each term offer a definition and an example from the play. In this part of the exam, you need to be able to identify and comment on the range of techniques that Dickens draws upon to present a character, a situation, a theme or a setting.

Language techniques		
	Definition	Example from the play
Noun		
Verb		
Adjective		
Adverb		
Personal pronoun		
Possessive pronoun		
Simile		
Metaphor		
Personification		
Imagery		
Tone		

Hyperbole		
Structural techniques		
	Definition	Example from the play
Simple sentence		
Compound sentence		
Complex sentence		
Repetition		
Rhetorical question		
Declarative sentence		
Exclamatory sentence		
Imperative sentences		
Short sentences		
Oxymoron		
Paradox		
Juxtaposition		
List of three, cluster of three, triadic structure		

Now let's practise how to respond to this question.

Process for responding to part a.

Planning stage

1. Read the question.
2. Identify the key word / phrase or focus point.
3. Read the extract, highlighting or underlining anything that is relevant to the focus of the question.
4. For each example, try and identify a technique that Dickens has used within it.
5. In the margin, explain what is revealed in the example you have highlighted – making sure it is relevant to the question.

Writing stage

6. Write a minimum of four TEE (technique, example, explanation) paragraphs in response to part a.

Here I am going to model an example for you.

Steps 1 +2: Firstly, I need to read the question:

- 4 (a) Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge's character in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

In this question, the key focus is on **Scrooge's character**.

Steps 3+4: Now I need to read the extract and highlight everything that is relevant. In this black and word document I have put all the text I feel might help me answer

this question in bold and underlined it. I also need to try and identify the techniques that have been used.

A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens

From Stave 1, 'Marley's Ghost' – Scrooge is visited by two men collecting money from the poor.

This lunatic, in letting Scrooge's nephew out, had let two other people in. They were portly gentlemen, pleasant to behold, and now stood, with their hats off, in Scrooge's office. **They have books and papers in their hands, and bowed to him.**

"Scrooge and Marley's, I believe," said one of the gentlemen, referring to his list. "Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge or Mr. Marley?"

"Mr Marley has been dead these seven years," Scrooge replied. "He died seven years ago, this very night."

"We have no doubt his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner," said the gentleman, presenting his credentials.

It certainly was; for they had been two kindred spirits. At the ominous word 'liberality', **Scrooge frowned**, and shook his head, and handed the credentials back.

"At this festive season of the year, Mr Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, "it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the Poor and Destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessaries; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir."

"Are there no prisons?" asked Scrooge.

"Plenty of prisons," said the gentleman, laying down the pen again.

"And the Union workhouses?" demanded Scrooge. "Are they still in operation?"

"They are. Still," returned the gentleman, "I wish I could say they were not."

“The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour, then?” said Scrooge.

“Both very busy, sir.”

“Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course,” said Scrooge. **“I’m very glad to hear it.”**

“Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude,” returned the gentleman, “a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drinks and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?”

“Nothing!” Scrooge replied.

“You wish to be anonymous?”

“I wish to be left alone,” said Scrooge. “Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don’t make merry myself at Christmas and I can’t afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned – they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.”

Step 5: Once I have done this, in the margin, I need to identify what the sections of the text I have highlighted suggest about Scrooge’s character. I have done this below, using text boxes to reflect my thoughts.

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Verb – 'bowed' – Scrooge is someone of importance

Declarative sentence – shows lack of emotion – statement of fact

Verb – 'frowned' – he had no time for a generous spirit

Question – he disregards the poor referring to institutions and Laws which exist to bring relief to the poor rather than him offering to help and support

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"Both very busy, sir."

"Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course," said Scrooge. "**I'm very glad to hear it.**"

Sarcastic tone – shows he is unsympathetic

"Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude," returned the gentleman, "a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drinks and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?"

"Nothing!" Scrooge replied.

Exclamatory sentence – completely refuses to donate to the poor – showing he is mean

"You wish to be anonymous?"

"I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned – they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there."

Declarative sentence – shows he is a solitary character and has no time for being sociable or joy

Step 6: Once I have done this, I am ready to write my paragraphs using my TEE structure. To highlight the different parts of my paragraph I have written the **technique** in bold, the *example* in italics and I have underlined the explanation and I have used both bold and underlining for the **effect on the audience.**

A verb has been used to present the character of Scrooge. *This is evident in the line 'They have books and papers in their hands, and bowed to him.'* In this line we learn that some people have come to visit Scrooge. The use of the verb 'bowed' suggests to the reader that Scrooge is an important man as bowing to someone is a sign of respect.

A declarative sentence has been used to present the character of Scrooge. *This is evident in the line 'Mr Marley has been dead these seven years,' Scrooge replied.* In this line we learn that Scrooge is referring to his business partner who has been long dead. The use of the declarative sentence suggests to the reader that Scrooge lacks emotion and is responding to the arrival of the men in a factual way.

A question has been used to present the character of Scrooge. *This is evident in the line "Are there no prisons?"* This line tells me Scrooge is questioning the men about the poor. The use of the question suggests to the reader that he is personally disregarding the poor and sharing his belief that there are places for them to go, such as prisons. He would prefer that they go there rather than offer to help them himself.

A sarcastic tone has been used to present the character of Scrooge. *This is evident in the line "I'm very glad to hear it."* This line tells me Scrooge is happy that both prisons and the laws regarding poor people are in place. However, the tone is sarcastic because he is sharing his relief that other things are in place to support the poor and therefore he feels his support is not needed. A reader would infer he is a selfish man who only considers himself.

An exclamatory sentence has been used to present the character of Scrooge. *This is evident in the line "Nothing!"* This line tells me Scrooge is not willing to give anything to the poor. The use of the exclamatory sentence reveals to the reader that he is appalled to be asked to give support to the poor and thus emphasises his meanness to them.

Points to note:

1. Always identify the technique that has been used first.
2. Use the question in your first sentence of each paragraph.
3. Sentence start: This is evident in the line/s....
4. Sentence start: The use of ___(insert technique)___ shows the audience

Now it is your turn to practice! Use the questions below to practice the planning process (10 minutes) and the writing process (20 minutes). Practising will enable you to perfect your approach and will help you speed up your responses.

Practice 1:

Use this extract to answer Question 4.

A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens

From Stave 1, 'Marley's Ghost' – Scrooge's business partner has died and the reader is introduced to Scrooge.

Once upon a time – of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve – old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather; foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement-stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already: it had not been light all day: and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door to Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.

'A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!' cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

'Bah!' said Scrooge, 'Humbug!'

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

'Christmas a humbug, uncle!' said Scrooge's nephew. 'You don't mean that, I am sure?'

'I do,' said Scrooge. 'Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? what reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough.'

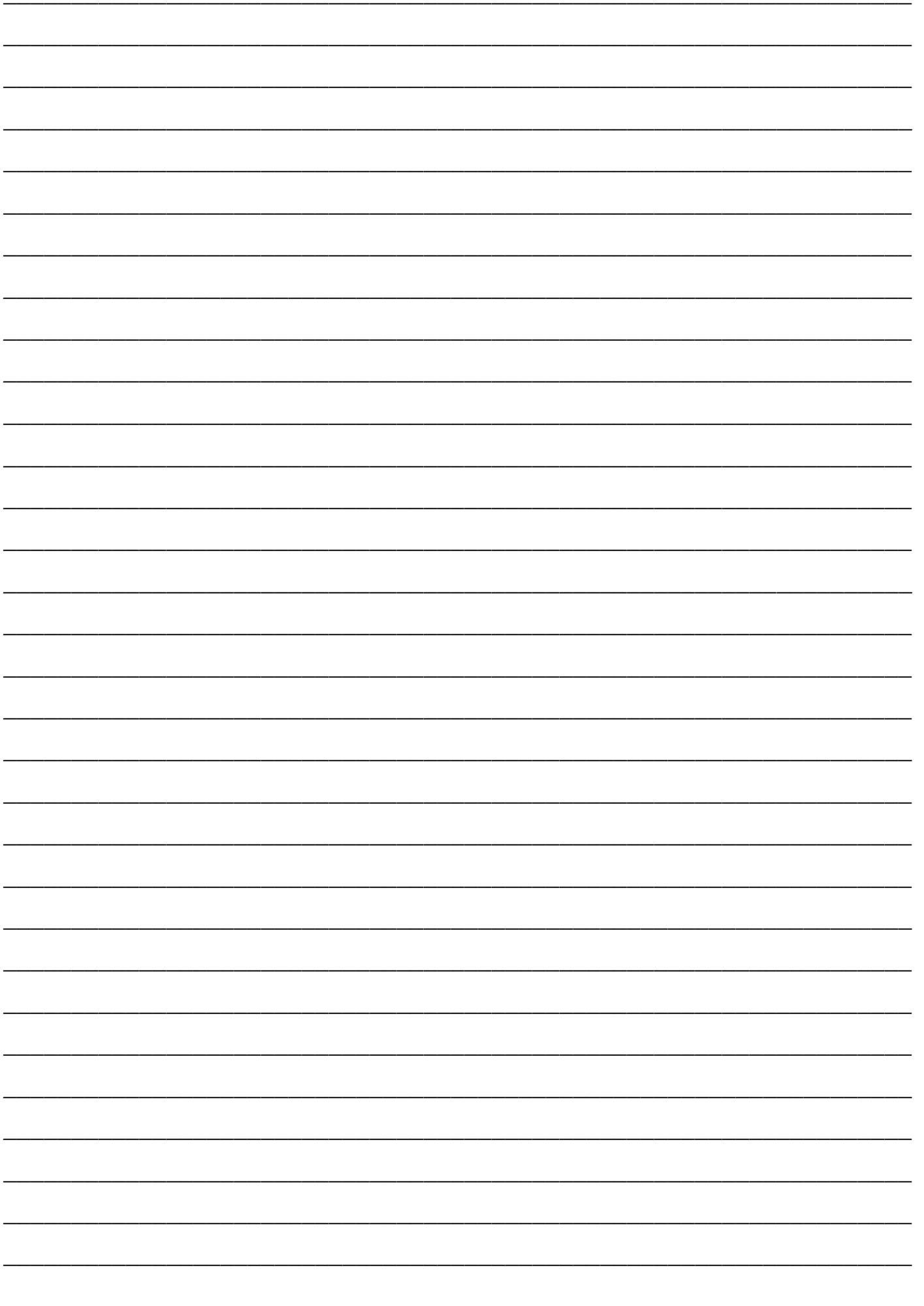
'Come, then,' returned the nephew gaily. 'What right have you to be dismal? what reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough.'

Question 4 – *A Christmas Carol*

4 (a) Explore how Dickens presents the setting in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)



Practice 2:

A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens

From Stave 2, 'The first of the three spirits' – The first spirit takes Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey into his past.

The Ghost stopped at a certain warehouse door, and asked Scrooge if he knew it.

'Know it!' said Scrooge. 'Was I apprenticed here?'

They went in. At sight of an old gentleman in a Welch wig, sitting behind such a high desk, that if he had been two inches taller he must have knocked his head against the ceiling, Scrooge cried in great excitement:

'Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!'

Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoats; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

'Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!'

Scrooge's former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, accompanied by his fellow-'prentice.

'Dick Wilkins, to be sure!' said Scrooge to the Ghost. 'Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick! Dear, dear!'

'Yo ho, my boys!' said Fezziwig. 'No more work tonight. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let's have the shutters up,' cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, 'before a man can say, Jack Robinson!'

You wouldn't believe how those two fellows went at it! They charged into the street with the shutters – one, two, three – had 'em up in their places – four, five six – barred 'em and pinned 'em – seven, eight, nine – and came back before you could have got to twelve, panting like race-horses.

'Hilli-ho!' cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. 'Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here! Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer!'

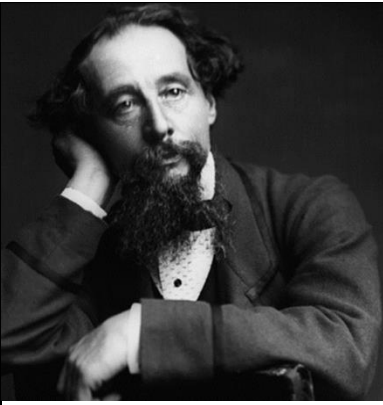
Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn't have cleared away, or couldn't have cleared away, with old Fezziwig looking on. It was done in a minute. Every moveable was packed off, as if it were dismissed from public life evermore; the floor was swept and watered, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room, as you would desire to see upon a winter's night.

In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it, and tuned like fifty stomach-aches. In came Mrs Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and loveable.

Question 4 – A Christmas Carol

4 (a) Explore how Dickens presents Christmas Eve in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.



Dickens' life

Born in 1812 he grew up in the countryside around Portsmouth where his father was a clerk in the Navy Pay Office. A sickly child, he spent a lot of time at home reading. His family moved to London but their finances collapsed and the family was imprisoned for the father's debts whilst Dickens had to leave school and work in a blacking factory. Luckily, later the family was released, their money situation improved and Dickens was able to go back to school then train in an office, become a journalist then writer.



Poverty

Written in 1843, the novel was intended to make people understand the plight of England's poor in response to a government report on the abuse of child labourers in mines and factories. Dickens wanted to strike a 'sledgehammer blow ... on behalf of the Poor Man's child'. The Poor Law of 1834 was designed to provide help in extremis as the middle and upper classes had a growing feeling that the help they provided through local taxes was being spent on the undeserving (and lazy) poor. Those who had to go into the Poor Houses left their homes, family and friends and were often maltreated by those in charge (in Andover Workhouse the inmates were found eating rotting flesh from bones).



'Are there no prisons?'
'Are there no workhouses?'
'he boasted no greatcoat'
'brave in ribbons'
'nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family'
'The ways were foul and narrow...the people half-baked, drunken, sli-shod, ugly.'
'yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish'
'The girl is Want.'
'many thousands are in want of common necessaries'
'a wretched woman with an infant...upon a doorstep'

Unfair legal and economic system

Debts were transferred between businesses; whole families were sent to debtors' prison; employers could pay what they wanted

'We are quite ruined?'
'To whom will our debt be transferred?'
'it was a happier house for this man's death!'
'His wealth is of no use to him'



1845 Queen Victoria with her eldest daughter

The family and home

Dickens' mother taught him how to read; his father led the family into financial disaster; he left one life for a small, dismal house in London and then was left hungry, living with strangers and working in a factory. Dickens shows his complex feelings towards family in all his novels.

Many families lost children – life was precarious – and often boys were sent away to school at a very early age. The life of a middle-class child was very different to that of a working class family.

'The noise in this room was perfectly tumultuous' 'young Cratchits danced about the table, and exalted Master Peter Cratchit to the skies' 'Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever.' 'a cheerful company assembled round a glowing fire. An old, old man and woman, ... children ... children's children ... another generation'



Childhood

Dickens had a large family who he loved and played with. Victorians had large families and this was the time of the beginning of the mythology of the family unit as sacred. Queen Victoria had 9 children. Dickens' childhood was split by the family fortunes and this scarred him for life.

'went down a slide on Cornhill, at the end of a lane of boys' 'Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame!' 'Scrooge ... wept to see his poor forgotten self as he used to be.' 'to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father.'

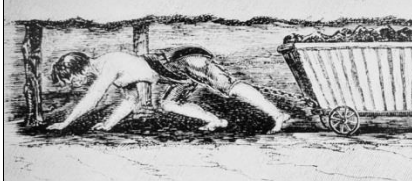


All's well that ends well

Education

Scrooge worked with a wealthy friend Angela Burdett-Coutts to create the Ragged schools as they believed that education was the route out of poverty. As schools became more widespread, so did literacy rates – hence why so many people were able to read his novel. Where people were uneducated, crime, immorality and disease were common and many feared a revolution.


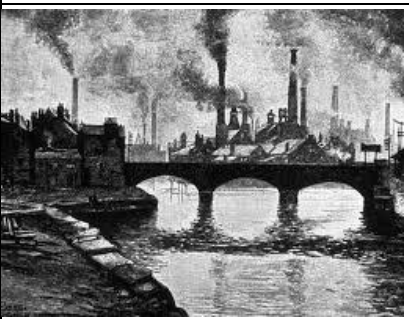
'This boy is ignorance... beware this boy for [he] is Doom' wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility' 'No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity... has monsters half so horrible and dread.'



Social conscience

Although many people attended church, Dickens rejected strict interpretations of the Bible in favour of a liberal reading of the New Testament in which the individual is instructed to love and look after the less fortunate.

'[t] this ... is... a time, ... when Want is keenly felt, and abundance rejoices.' 'Mankind was my business' 'who cried piteously at being unable to assist'

		<p>'He has the power to render us happy or unhappy – to make our service light or burdensome'</p>
 <p>A MERRY CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>Christmas Before the success of the novella, Christmas was not observed by most people. It was during Victorian times, partly due to the success of his Christmas Stories, that it became the festival we know today. Dickens always said "My father was always at his best at Christmas." and Dickens himself loved that time of year. This was also when there were many very cold winters and the Thames froze over and Frost fairs were held on it.</p>	<p>'Bah! Humbug!' 'a simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur ...its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice ...' 'The grocers'! oh, the grocers'! 'a feathered phenomenon'</p>
	<p>Industrial Revolution People left the country to work in cities. Factory work meant families did not see each other most of the day; that people were inside dark, noisy and dangerous factories all day; that the air was thick with coal smoke and that natural life was subsumed by progress. People did not know each other as they had in small villages and a more individualistic view was taken.</p>	<p>'They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard,' 'heavier particles descended in a shower of sooty atoms' 'He had made a point always of standing well in their esteem: in a business point of view, that is; strictly in a business point of view.'</p>

The best way to revise for this part of the paper is by testing your knowledge (before you practise writing). To do this, you will find a range of potential questions for the second part of the A Christmas Carol question. For each question, you need to think of 3-4 examples from the rest of the novel you could draw upon, a potential quote to use (remember the link to the text of the play is at the start of the booklet) and a link to context. On the next page is one I have done for you to demonstrate how the essay plans should be done.

My model:

English Literature Paper 2 Section A: A Christmas Carol Part B	
<p>Question: In this extract, poverty is discussed. Explain how Dickens portrays poverty elsewhere in the novel. In your answer you must consider: what poverty is shown and how poverty affects those involved.</p>	
<p>Bigger picture: Poverty affects a range of characters, presenting a stark contrast between the rich and poor to enable Scrooge to learn and develop as a character.</p>	
The portrayal of poverty Point and quote:	How poverty affected people Point and quote:
<p>Contrast of rich and poor in terms of food, housing and way of life.</p> <p>Many of the poor 'would rather die' than go to the Union workhouses or Treadmill.</p> <p>'an obscure part of town'</p> <p>'den of infamous resort'</p>	<p>The stark contrast between rich and poor show that this was a society where the State's provisions did not prevent people from living in extremely harsh conditions, such as the workhouse.</p> <p>Dickens places Old Joe's shop in a part of the city which 'reeked with crime, with filth, and misery'.</p> <p>'foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched; the people half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly'</p>
<p>The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the Cratchit family's humble dwelling and the way they have to eke out the food for their Christmas meal on the one-day holiday from working. Yet despite their poverty, they have other 'riches'.</p> <p>'But they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time'</p>	<p>The Cratchit family's humble circumstances mean that they are unable to have special Christmas celebrations.</p> <p>'nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing'</p>
<p>The three ghost are used structurally to show the differences in people's lives.</p> <p><u>Ghost of Christmas Past:</u> Begins to open Scrooge's eye to the error of his ways by creating guilt in him for his harsh treatment of for example Bob Cratchit and the difference in their living conditions. Ghost is described as 'from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light' (link to Bible</p>	<p>Debt severely affects the poor and they live in fear of what will happen to them. The Ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge a couple who owed him money and the hardship that debt produced.</p> <p>'care-worn and depressed, though he was young'</p> <p>'thankful in her soul' to hear of the man's death</p>

here and Christ, seen as 'the light of the world'.)

Ghost of Christmas Present:

Reminds Scrooge of his callous comments: 'if they'd rather die, they'd better do it and decrease the surplus population'.

Also shows Scrooge the ways others find ways to celebrate Christmas despite their poverty and isolation. 'the people who were shovelling away on the housetops were jovial and full of glee', The miners: 'the old man, in a voice that seldom rose above the howling of the wind upon the barren waste, was singing them a Christmas song'

Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come:

Ghost reveals the horrific effects ('alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offences of smell and dirt and life') of poverty when he takes Scrooge to 'an obscure part of the town'. This ghost forces Scrooge to see his eventual fate.

Over the next few pages, you will find a series of questions that might appear in the Macbeth, part b section of the paper. Have a go at

- Identifying the 3-4 key points you could make across the play in relation to the question
- Identifying supporting quotations
- Where possible, identify a link to your contextual understanding

This will really help you prepare for this part of the examination as you will have already identified great examples to use.

English Literature Paper 1 Section B: A Christmas Carol

Question: In this extract, Scrooge shows a lack of consideration for others. Explain how Scrooge is unkind to other characters elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider: Scrooge's poor treatment of other people and how Scrooge's lack of consideration affects other people.

Bigger picture (forms your introduction – could be a summary of the main points you identify below):

Point and quote: Scrooge's poor treatment of other people	Point and quote How Scrooge's lack of consideration affects other people

English Literature Paper 1 Section B: A Christmas Carol

Question: In this extract, Scrooge remembers working for Fezziwig. Explain how working life is shown elsewhere in the novel. In your answer, you must consider: who the workers are and what their working life is like.

Bigger picture (forms your introduction – could be a summary of the main points you identify below):

Point and quote Who the workers are:	Point and quote What their working life is like:

Once you feel confident about generating the ideas that can go into your response, you should begin to write. Rather than another model from me, this time, I am going to show you a variety of student responses and the levels they were given by the examiners.

All the responses seek to answer the following question:

In this extract, poverty is discussed. Explain how Dickens portrays poverty elsewhere in the novel. In your answer you must consider: what poverty is shown and how poverty affects those involved.

Exemplar One:

4b) In this extract, poverty is discussed. Explore how Dickens presents poverty in 'A Christmas Carol'

Dickens presents poverty as a major theme in the book. We know this as the book is set during the Industrial Revolution where many families were forced to share houses and rooms with other families and poverty was a major issue.

People 'in the streets' are described in the novel to represent normal people, who face poverty every day. They are described as being 'happy' because it is Christmas, which shows that being poor does not mean being unhappy.

The Clerk, Bob Cratchit, is a character in the book who represents the poor. A direct contrast is provided when he has only one piece of 'coal' to heat up his room, when his employer, Mr Scrooge, has lots - although he doesn't use it. He also has no 'coat,' because he needs all his money to pay for his wife and children. This shows the wealth gap that existed at the time.

Charles Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' to tell people that the poor people of the time were extremely poor and the rich people, like Scrooge, were unnecessarily rich. Scrooge says 'Humbug!' to everything like rich people at the time ignored the poor, which was what Dickens was trying to stop from happening.

4b)	Level 2 - 7	The response is largely narrative but has some personal engagement and valid points are made of how poverty is presented elsewhere in the novel. The candidate considers the character of Bob Cratchit and how he only has 'one piece of coal to heat up his room.'
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Exemplar Two:

4b) In this extract, poverty is discussed. Explore how Dickens presents poverty in 'A Christmas Carol'

Dickens presents poverty in 'A Christmas Carol' as being a very big problem in the Victorian era following the industrial revolution. Various aspects of the plot are about poverty and what happens to the people who are in poverty.

At this time of year, at Christmas charity collectors come round collecting for the poor as it is a time of giving, yet Scrooge give "Nothing!" The reader will recognise that many would react in this way and that Scrooge surely will not be the only person who has not donated. Many businessmen who think like Scrooge at this time, motivated by self interest, will have done the same thing. The tragedy here is that this is the time of year when people give the most. So this is when the most money is donated, but some people are not giving at all, forcing the reader to question what must it be like throughout the rest of the year.

Dickens also displays poverty through the Cratchit family, and how they do not have enough money for medical care to help poor "little" Tiny Tim, which highlights the difficulty of the lives of poor people at the time. However, Dickens

also has other messages to deliver about the poor. When the Cratchit family sit down for their Christmas dinner, Dickens makes out in the dialogue that they view their meal as large and plentiful; 'nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family.' The reality is quite different. For this impoverished family the meal is many times larger than any other they would have, but it is still meagre. The fact that they can make the best of it shows that poor people are not necessarily bad people.

Dickens makes regular reference to the fact that during the industrial revolution time many poor and underprivileged people will have been sent away to either "union workhouses" or "prisons." The regular references show that society did not know the reality of these places, and that many people did not realise that they should help. This is the realisation that the reader is supposed to make when reading the novel. Charles Dickens definitely tries to prove to people how big an issue poverty was becoming in Victorian London in 'A Christmas Carol' and to highlight the fact that no-one was trying to prevent it.

4 b)	Level 4 - 16	A sustained and developed response analysing the presentation of poverty in the novel, through the use of the 'charity collectors collecting for the poor', the poverty of the Cratchit family and their meagre Christmas meal and the discussion of 'workhouses' and 'prisons'. There are relevant and well-chosen references to the text to support the points made.
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Exemplar Three:

4b) In this extract, poverty is discussed. Explore how Dickens presents poverty in 'A Christmas Carol'

In 'A Christmas Carol' Dickens presents poverty in a variety of different ways, one of them being the setting. He describes London as being 'quite dark' and 'gloomy' with a lot of people living on the streets, or at least spending a lot of time there. The setting highlights the reality of Dickensian London - which was very overcrowded. The purpose of this was to evoke sympathy in the reader and force them to recognise the issues that surrounded them. Some of this impact is probably lost on a modern reader.

However, the setting in the novella also portrays poorer people who "celebrate" on the streets. This shows the reader that not all of the poor were sad, grumpy people, and not all of them turned to crime because they didn't have much money. They are just as capable of being happy, and they love to celebrate

Christmas with their families and loved ones. Perhaps the message here is that happiness is more important than wealth.

Dickens also presents poverty through the existence of the charity men coming to collect money for the poor. This shows the reader that there were a lot of poor people in this era who needed help. The way that Scrooge turns the charity men away is an example of what some rich people in the Victorian era did when asked for money. This was not necessarily because they were mean-spirited, but may have been because they didn't know what happened to the poor, so Dickens was trying to highlight the problem - and the need for action.

Poverty is represented by the character Cratchit who is Scrooge's clerk. He symbolises their two classes through the motif of coal. Scrooge gets as much coal as he likes and gets the bucket to "top it up," but Cratchit only gets "one piece" and daren't ask for another in case he gets fired. In a way, this is a metaphor for the situation in society, where the poor feared the rich, which is a sign of the inequality which existed.

Another way in which Dickens presents Cratchit occurs when he is going home to spend time with his family for Christmas. He "runs" home with "no coat." This shows the extremes of his poverty - that he cannot afford transport or even a coat, which may be a shock to readers who take such things for granted.

Overall Dickens shows the reader the different people that lived in the Victorian era. It makes the people who read this book at the time of its release aware of what help the poor needed and promoted the need to donate to charity and to treat people in a humane way.

	Level 5 – 19	The candidate explores a number of ways Dickens presents poverty within the novel, including: the setting; the poorer members of society on the streets of London; the charity men collecting for the poor and the Cratchit family. Each point made is fully supported by appropriate reference to the text and the analysis is developed, assured and perceptive in style.
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Exemplar Four:

4b) In this extract, poverty is discussed. Explore how Dickens presents poverty in 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens sets his book 'A Christmas Carol' in the Victorian era in which he was writing. In this era poverty was a huge social problem. However, the general theme in this book is that anyone can be happy if they put their relationships first, even those in poverty. This would have been a fairly controversial position at the time.

The first example of the presentation of poverty in this book is the characterisation of Bob Cratchit. He is described to have 'boasted no great coat' but in the same scene he also is said to have 'run home'. This could imply that

he is embarrassed by his financial situation or it could be a sign of happiness and his keenness to get home and see his family. Dickens describes Cratchit in this way to portray the message that family is more important than money, and even though someone is impoverished, it doesn't necessarily mean they have to be unhappy. This would hopefully impact the readers to change the way they think about the poor and see them as equals or even role models.

Another examples of an interesting presentation of poverty is Belle. During her break up with Scrooge she describes herself as being a 'dowerless girl'. This is a concept from the Victorian era which a modern reader may not understand, the fact that if a woman got married then the man she was marrying would receive money from her parents. The fact that Belle is 'dowerless' may influence Scrooge's lack of inclination to fight for her, but it also shows us the gender inequality which existed at the time. Dickens writes about this to show us what society was like in those days - particularly the discrimination against women.

Another scene which highlights the societal discrimination occurs when the Cratchits are sitting down for Christmas dinner and the mother gets up to go get the Christmas pudding which she worried about 'being stolen.' To an extent, this demonstrates the stereotype which existed of poor people being criminals, revealing that they not only stole from the wealthy, but also from people in similar situations. However, I believe that Dickens included this scene to highlight how desperate people were at the bottom rung of society and how far they were willing to go to feed themselves. This is a stark image and would again force Victorian readers to realise that societal change was needed.

4b)	Level 5 - 20	Three specific areas of the novel are explored by the candidate in relation to the theme of poverty: Bob Cratchit's appearance and how despite being 'impoverished', it does not mean they are unhappy – Cratchit considers his family as more important than wealth. The candidate also perceptively analyses the character of Belle and how she is 'dowerless'. Finally, the response considers the impact of crime on the community within <i>A Christmas Carol</i> and how Mrs Cratchit worries that the pudding might be 'stolen'. The response conveys how desperate lives were for people in poverty. A secure Level 5 response.
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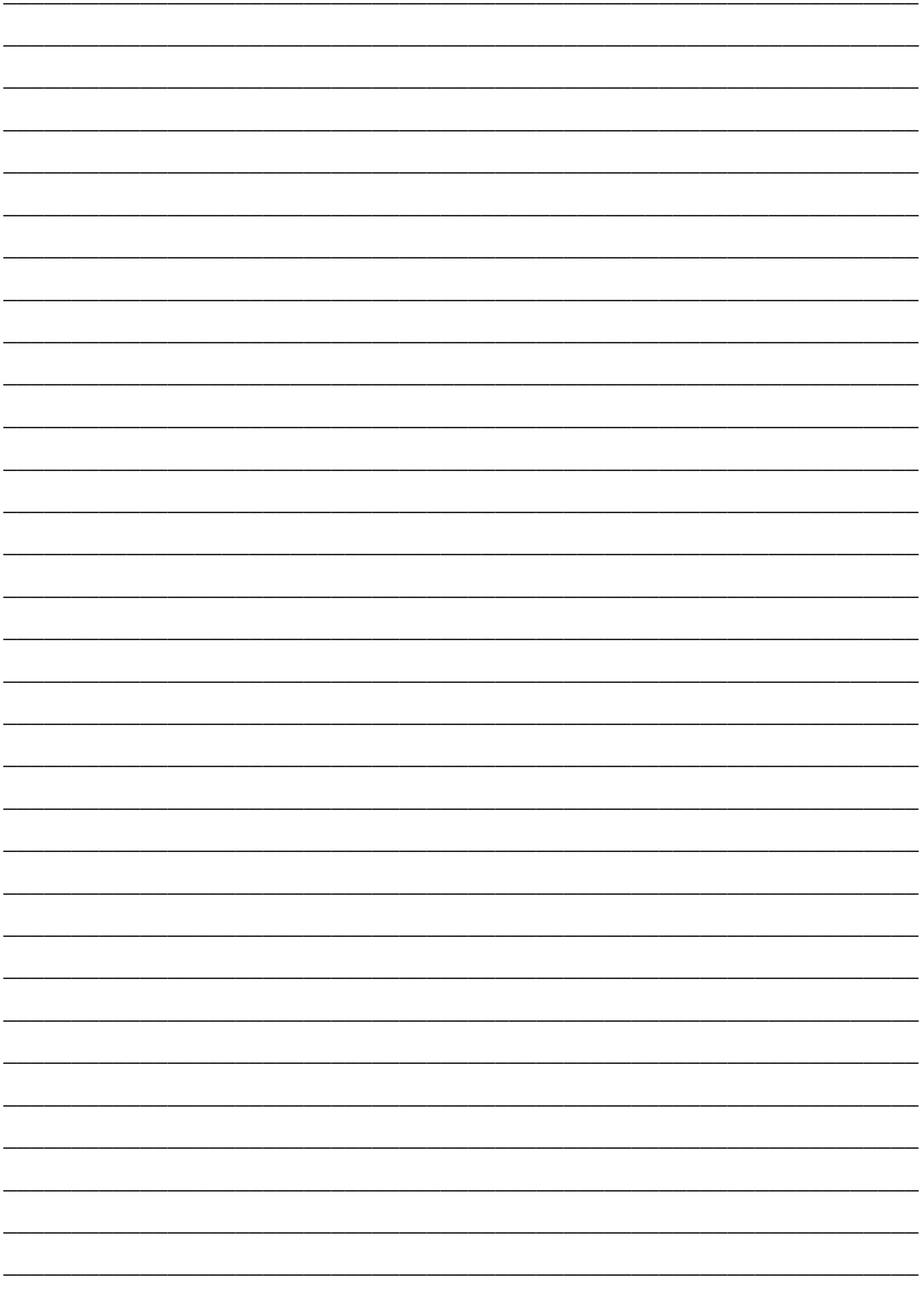
After reading these exemplars, take a moment to reflect on what you have learnt about how to construct a good response to this part of the paper.

Now you practise! Choose one of the character questions you have planned a response for and one of the thematic questions you have planned a response for and write answers to both of those questions. Your teacher will be happy to mark your response.

Practice question One

Question: _____

My response: _____



Practice question two

Question: _____

My response: _____

