Year 10 – English – A Christmas Carol

Stave 1:
The novella opens on Christmas Eve in London, seven years after the death of Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner Jacob Marley. Scrooge is a lonely, aging old miser. He hates Christmas and as such refuses a dinner invitation from his nephew Fred (the son of his dead sister Fan). Scrooge turns away two men who are collecting money for the local poor. He only grudgingly gives his underpaid clerk Bob Cratchit Christmas Day off with pay, as this is the usual way.
That evening Scrooge is visited at home by the ghost of his dead business partner Jacob Marley. Marley was like Scrooge, a miserly person, has been condemned to wander the earth entwined by heavy chains and money boxes forged during his lifetime of greed. Marley warns Scrooge that he has one chance to avoid the same fate and tells him that he will be visited by three spirits and must listen to them.

Stave 2:
The first spirit arrives, The Ghost of Christmas Past, the spirit takes Scrooge to Christmas scenes from his own childhood and adolescence. The scenes reveal Scrooge's lonely and miserable childhood at boarding school and his relationship with his beloved sister Fan. They also show the Christmas party hosted by Mr Fezziwig, with whom Scrooge did his apprenticeship. Mr Fezziwig treated Scrooge like his own son. Scrooge also sees his former neglected Fiancé Belle, she is shown breaking off their engagement as she knows Scrooge will never love her as much as he loves money. The ghost then takes Scrooge to see Belle and her happy, large family on the Christmas Eve that Marley died. Scrooge is upset when he hears her description of him and demands the spirit removes him from the house.

Stave 3:
Stave three begins with the arrival of the second spirit, The Ghost of Christmas Present. Firstly, the spirit takes scrooge to a couple of happy Christmas scenes, including a market with people buying ingredients for their Christmas Dinners and celebrations in a miner's cottage and in a lighthouse.
The ghost then takes Scrooge to see people he knows. Firstly, his nephew Fred's Christmas party; then to see the Cratchit family. Here, Scrooge sees Bob's youngest son, Tiny Tim. Tiny Tim Is a crippled boy who is seriously ill. The spirit warns Scrooge that Tiny Tim will die soon unless the course of events changes.
Before the ghost departs, it shows Scrooge two hideous children named Ignorance and Want. The spirit tells Scrooge to beware of the former above all, and that these have been created by 'Man'.

Context	Writer's Intentions
• The Victorians were religious, and believed in Christianity. Many believe that the novella should be seen as an allegory of the Christian concept of redemption. Redemption is the idea of being saved from sin or evil. • Dickens' family experience the brutal treatment of those in poverty during the Victorian era. His father was sent to a debtor's prison, and Dickens grew up with very little as a result. • The **Victorian** family was considered to be a very valuable part of the everyday life throughout the era. By today's standards, families were often considered to be very large. In 1870, you would find that the average household family contained five or six children. • At the beginning of the Victorian period, the celebration of Christmas was in decline. The **Industrial Revolution,** in full swing in Dickens' time, allowed workers little time for the celebration of Christmas. • Thomas Malthus, and those like him, wrote about brutal ways to end poverty, particularly centred around the idea that poor people should be allowed to die off, in order to 'make room' for everyone else and 'reduce the surplus population.'	• As Dickens experienced life living in poverty and wealth he wanted the moral message of the novella to be that all human beings have the opportunity to behave in kinder ways towards each other. He wanted people to see the joy redemption brings. • Dickens uses the novel to present his feelings that the rich must help the poor in order for the world to be improved, and that it is the rich's responsibility to help the poorest in society. He exposes the unfair treatment of the poor, and shows that the stereotypes that the poor are lazy are untrue, which he does by using the Cratchit's, six children. • Dickens wanted to re-ignite the Christmas spirit, believing this was one way that society could return to its once more 'charitable and forgiving state'. • Dickens wrote this diatribe as a way of demonstrating the need for social change, in regard to the treatment of the poor.

Stave 4:
The third spirit, The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, arrives. The ghost shows Scrooge Christmas Day in the future. The ghost remains silent and shows Scrooge scenes involving the death of a hated man, whose funeral is only attended by local businessmen as they will be given a free lunch. His charwomen, laundress and the undertaker steal his possessions to sell to a pawnbroker. Scrooge asks the spirit to show him a single person who feels any emotion over his death, he is only shown one poor couple who rejoice at his death as it gives them time to repay their debts.
When asked to see tenderness connected to any death, he is shown the Cratchit family mourning the death of Tiny Tim. The ghost then shows Scrooge his own neglected grave. Sobbing, Scrooge pledges to change his ways.

Stave 5:
Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning, a genuinely changed man. He starts by making a large donation to the charity he rejected the day before. He anonymously sends a large turkey to the Cratchit family and spends the afternoon with Fred's family. The following day he gives Bob Cratchit a substantial pay rise and becomes a father figure to Tiny Tim. From then on, Scrooge treats everyone with compassion, generosity and kindness.

Key terms	Definition
Redemption	
Diatribe	
Novella	
Isolation	
Allegory	
Miserly	
Misanthrope	
Foil	

Year 10 – English – A Christmas Carol

Characters

Jacob Marley
Scrooge's old business partner who comes back as a ghost to warn him. He is *wrapped in a chain.*

Ghost of Christmas Past
A shapeshifting ghost with a *candle on top* of its head. It shows Scrooge the past.

Fezziwig
Scrooge's former boss who was nice and hosted parties for his workers.

Employs (S.2)

Scrooge
A rich Victorian misanthrope (K).

Employs – Cratchit Family

Shows a vision of (S.2):

Belle
Scrooge's old girlfriend who he rejected in favour of money. He sees a vision of her future with a family.

Ghost of Christmas Present
A jolly ghost who looks *like Santa Claus*, only dressed in green. **He shows Scrooge the present and introduces him to two starving children, *Ignorance (I)* and *Want.***

Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
A ghost dressed in black who *looks like the Grim Reaper.* This ghost does not speak and shows Scrooge what could happen in the future if he does not change.

Fan
Scrooge's younger sister..

Fred
Scrooge's nephew who invites him to Christmas dinner.

Themes

- Social injustice
- Redemption
- Moral Responsibility
- Christmas
- Supernatural
- Family
- Threat of Time
- Inequality
- Greed vs Generosity

'as light as a _____'	At the _____ of the novella, Scrooge is a _____ man. The metaphorical _____ that he wore earlier as a symbol of his _____ and _____ have now been lost as he is '_____'. **Feathers** connote **freedom** and _____, implying that Scrooge is now closer to **Heaven** than he was before. For a Victorian audience, familiar with the _____, feathers would also symbolise **God's protection**, as He guards His followers 'under his wings'. Through this **simile,** Dickens suggests that Scrooge's newfound _____ and _____ have brought him back to **God's flock.** Dickens also uses Scrooge's transformation to advocate for the _____ of **Christianity**, which he believed a deeply divided society had forgotten.
"an idol has displaced me"	Through the Ghost of Christmas Past, we see Belle tell Scrooge that an idol has 'displaced' her. To a modern reader, **Scrooge's greed** here is obvious; _____, including his relationships to the point that he worships money like a god. Toa religious, contemporary audience, the ramifications of this statement are much more serious. In Isaiah 44:9-20 , _____: 'all who fashion idols are nothing'. Perhaps Dickens uses a reference to an idol to _____the **unchristian-like behaviour** of greed and avarice. This moment would serve as a stark reminder to a contemporary audience to follow one God and behave like true Christians.
'Belle'	**Belle's** name, derived from the Latin "Bella" meaning "beautiful," symbolises the inner beauty of love, compassion, and virtue that _____. Her departure marks the moment when Scrooge sacrifices emotional fulfilment for material gain, losing his humanity. This loss parallels the recurring **motif** of **bells** throughout *A Christmas Carol*, which symbolise time, change, and _____. **Bells** toll at key moments—such as Marley's ghost's arrival—signalling _____ _____. The resonance between **Belle**'s name and the bells deepens her significance as a reminder of the path _____.

Character Quotations		Character Adjectives
Scrooge (start)	'hard and sharp as a flint' 'solitary as an oyster'	Solitary Miserly
Scrooge (end)	'light as a feather'	Redeemed
Fred	'all in a glow' **'Christmas has done me good, and will do me good…'**	Kind Charitable
Ghost of Christmas Past	'bright, clear jet of light'	Enlightening
Ghost of Christmas Present	'its sparkling eye…its open hand'	Joyous
Ghost of Christmas Yet to come	'The phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached'	Harrowing
Marley	'I wear the chains I forged in life'	Remorseful
Cratchit Family	'not handsome but happy…' **'God Bless us, everyone!' –Tiny Tim**	Impoverished

Year 10 – English – Language Paper 1 Section A

Start of the exam

- ✓ Use the context box to infer (e) information about what the text is about and make predictions

Top Tips

- ✓ Use the **What/How** paragraph structure,
- ✓ On questions 2 and 4, **zoom in** on words from text.
- ✓ Refer to the **steer of the question throughout** and
- ✓ Keep quotes to 5-10 words long.

Additional information:

1: Multiple choice

– Tick the boxes of the correct answers.

Top tips:

Read the correct section.

4 marks

2: The 'Language' Question

How does the writer use language to…? based on a specific part of the source e.g. lines 8-18.

Top tips:

Read the correct section

Highlight and annotate first, creating a plan.

Name and analyse the methods.

8 marks

3 The 'Structure' Question

How has the writer structured the text to build suspense/tension etc? Based on the whole text.

Top tips:

Check the focus.

Ensure you look at the beginning, middle and end of the text.

Mention how the focus grows/chances/decreases as the text progresses, and WHY this happens

8 marks

Question	marks % of paper	% of GCSE
1	4	10	5
2	8	20	10
3	8	20	10
4	20	50	25

QUESTION 2 Sentence Stems	The use of the _____ implies… This creates the impression of…. This evokes a sense of… It allows a better insight into …. This intensifies… This creates an image of … The reader is able to imagine/think/feel…

QUESTION 3 Sentence Stems	In the beginning/middle/end... The shift in... The writer is doing this here to... As the extract open, the writer focuses our attention on… As the text develops, the writer shifts the focus to… By the end of the extract, the focus is……

Year 10 – English – Language Paper 1 Section A

4: The 'Agree' Question



To what extent do you agree with the statement provided? Based on a specific part of the source.

Top tips:

Both agree and disagree with the statement.

Include methods and explore the impact of these on the statement.

Keep linking to the statement, and how your analysis demonstrates whether you agree/disagree.

20 marks

QUESTION 4 Sentence structure	○ P1: Answer the question 'Firstly, I agree that… try and include more than one evidence example. ○ P2: Develop with another point to prove your view; 'The writer also…' ○ P3: Counter argument; 'However, there are moments in the extract when…' ○ P4: Try and identify a different trait for the final point; 'It is clear that, for the majority of the extract, there is actually a feeling of…' Vocabulary: Ultimately/however/it could be argued/somewhat/possible/partially...

Analytical Verbs (similar to" shows")

The writer _(active verb)___ the…

- Connotes
- Depicts
- Demonstrates
- Illustrates
- Portrays
- Reflects

- Conveys
- Exhibits
- Emphasises
- Implies
- Presents
- Suggests

Vocabulary	Definition
Foreshadowing	Writer suggesting something that happens in the future of the text.
Counter argument	Demonstrating the opposite view
Analysis	Picking apart quotations, demonstrating what they show about characters/themes
	4

Year 10 – English – Language Paper 1 Section B

Start of the exam

Top Tips

- ✓ 5- minute plan with question in mind.
- ✓ Use a variety of punctuation.
- ✓ Keep your tone consistent
- ✓ Use a variety of structural (e) features: flashbacks (f)
- ✓ Use a wide variety of descriptive language and vocabulary.
- ✓ Keep to one or two characters in a narrative.
- ✓ 5 minutes' of checking SPaG, including paragraphing.

5: The 'Writing for a purpose' question.

Question 5: Writing a narrative or description AO5/AO6
You will produce an opening to a story or description based on a picture or a sentence detailing your task.

*Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition, and the best entries will be published. **Either** write an opening to a story about time travel as suggested by this picture or write a description of a time you felt happy in your life.*

Key skills:

AO5: You should:

Ensure the story or description is **clear.**

AO6: You should:

Use **varied and accurate** sentence structures.

Section B: Question 5

AO	marks	% of paper	% of GCSE
5	24	30	15
6	16	20	10

Key language devices to use:

Simile

Where you compare two things by saying they're like something else:

"He was as timid as an urban fox."

Pathetic fallacy

Where you use the weather to set the atmosphere (b).

"The sky became cloudy and darkness fell."

Metaphor

Where you compare two things by saying something is something else when it clearly is not.

"She was a night owl."

Sensory Language

Where you use vocabulary to describe the character's five senses.

"I could taste blood streaming from my lip."

Punctuation to use

Question Mark	?	Exclamation Mark	!
Comma	,	Full stop	.
Semi-Colon	;	Speech Marks	" "
Colon	:	Apostrophe	'

	Key terms	Definition
A	Cyclical	Returning back to a previous point like a cycle.
B	Atmosphere	The tone or mood.
C	Vice versa	The two items can be switched around or reversed.
D	Motif	An object which is repeated and has importance to the events. E.g. a raven for death.
E	Structural	The way a text is put together, whether through paragraphs, subheading or flashbacks (f) etc.
F	Flashback	When the text goes back in time.
G	Consistent	Keeping something the same.

Narrative Structure

Weather	Describe the weather in the opening of the 'chapter'. Set the tone of your story.
Character	*Introduce your key character. Focus on linking them to the tone. What is happening to them?*
Flashback	*The character sees something: it triggers a flashback, setting the scene for what would happen in the rest of the novel.*
Back to Present	*Return to the character. They must be thinking about something/emotional over it, but the 'ending' is not revealed. Build to a climax – what 'big event' is going to happen to your character?*

Description Structure

Scan
Give an overview of the setting, backdrop or main parts of the image.



Zoom
Zoom in on a key detail and track it.



Shift
Broaden the focus of your description engaging with other key aspects of the image.

