

### A Christmas Carol – Stave 3

From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

"Oh, Man, look here! Look, look, down here!" exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and a girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude.

"Spirit, are they yours?" Scrooge could say no more.

"They are Man's," said the Spirit, looking down upon them. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!" cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. "Slander those who tell it ye. Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse. And abide the end."

"Have they no refuge or resource?" cried Scrooge.

"Are there no prisons?" said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words.

"Are there no workhouses?"

The bell struck twelve.

Scrooge looked about him for the Ghost, and saw it not. As the last stroke ceased to vibrate, he remembered the prediction of old Jacob Marley, and lifting up his eyes, beheld a solemn Phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground, towards him.

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the effects of social injustice?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents ideas about social injustice in the extract
- how Dickens presents ideas about social injustice in the novel as a whole

**[30 marks]**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is being shown the life of the Cratchit family.

“And how did little Tim behave?” asked Mrs. Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity, and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart’s content.

“As good as gold,” said Bob, “and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”

Bob’s voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire; and while Bob, turning up his cuffs—as if, poor fellow, they were capable of being made more shabby—compounded some hot mixture in a jug with gin and lemons, and stirred it round and round and put it on the hob to simmer; Master Peter, and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the good in people in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents the good heart of Tiny Tim in this extract
- how Dickens presents good people in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from the end of *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge has woken up a changed man on Christmas Day.

His hands were busy with his garments all this time; turning them inside out, putting them on upside down, tearing them, mislaying them, making them parties to every kind of extravagance.

“I don’t know what to do!” cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoön of himself with his stockings. “I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world. Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!”

He had frisked into the sitting-room, and was now standing there: perfectly winded. “There’s the saucepan that the gruel was in!” cried Scrooge, starting off again, and going round the fireplace. “There’s the door, by which the Ghost of Jacob Marley entered! There’s the corner where the Ghost of Christmas Present, sat! There’s the window where I saw the wandering Spirits! It’s all right, it’s all true, it all happened. Ha ha ha!”

Really, for a man who had been out of practice for so many years, it was a splendid laugh, a most illustrious laugh. The father of a long, long line of brilliant laughs!

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present positivity and happiness in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents a changed Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents happiness and happy times in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is being shown the streets on Christmas morning by the Ghost of Christmas Present.

The house fronts looked black enough, and the windows blacker, contrasting with the smooth white sheet of snow upon the roofs, and with the dirtier snow upon the ground; which last deposit had been ploughed up in deep furrows by the heavy wheels of carts and waggons; furrows that crossed and re-crossed each other hundreds of times where the great streets branched off; and made intricate channels, hard to trace in the thick yellow mud and icy water. The sky was gloomy, and the shortest streets were choked up with a dingy mist, half thawed, half frozen, whose heavier particles descended in a shower of sooty atoms, as if all the chimneys in Great Britain had, by one consent, caught fire, and were blazing away to their dear hearts' content. There was nothing very cheerful in the climate or the town, and yet was there an air of cheerfulness abroad that the clearest summer air and brightest summer sun might have endeavoured to diffuse in vain.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present places in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents a place in this extract
- how Dickens presents places in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is reaching the end of his journey and the Ghost of Christmas yet to Come is about to leave..

“Spirit!” he cried, tight clutching at its robe, “hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope!”

For the first time the hand appeared to shake.

“Good Spirit,” he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it: “Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!”

The kind hand trembled.

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!”

In his agony, he caught the spectral hand. It sought to free itself, but he was strong in his entreaty, and detained it. The Spirit, stronger yet, repulsed him. Holding up his hands in a last prayer to have his fate reversed, he saw an alteration in the Phantom’s hood and dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwindled down into a bedpost.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens show the attitudes of the characters?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s changed attitude in this extract
- how Dickens presents the attitudes of any other characters in the novel.

**[30 marks]**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is being shown the vision of the future where the Cratchit family have lost Tiny Tim..

She hurried out to meet him; and little Bob in his comforter—he had need of it, poor fellow—came in. His tea was ready for him on the hob, and they all tried who should help him to it most. Then the two young Cratchits got upon his knees and laid, each child a little cheek, against his face, as if they said, “Don’t mind it, father. Don’t be grieved!”

Bob was very cheerful with them, and spoke pleasantly to all the family. He looked at the work upon the table, and praised the industry and speed of Mrs. Cratchit and the girls. They would be done long before Sunday, he said.

“Sunday! You went to-day, then, Robert?” said his wife.

“Yes, my dear,” returned Bob. “I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you’ll see it often. I promised him that I would walk there on a Sunday. My little, little child!” cried Bob. “My little child!”

He broke down all at once. He couldn’t help it. If he could have helped it, he and his child would have been farther apart perhaps than they were.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the Cratchit family in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents the family and their thoughts/feelings in this extract
- how Dickens presents the family in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is meeting the Ghost of Christmas Present.

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit's eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

"I am the Ghost of Christmas Present," said the Spirit. "Look upon me!"

Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the ghosts in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents this ghost.
- how Dickens presents any of the ghosts in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge tries to get rid of the light shining from the Ghost of Christmas Past.

“Spirit!” said Scrooge in a broken voice, “remove me from this place.”

“I told you these were shadows of the things that have been,” said the Ghost.

“That they are what they are, do not blame me!”

“Remove me!” Scrooge exclaimed, “I cannot bear it!”

He turned upon the Ghost, and seeing that it looked upon him with a face, in which in some strange way there were fragments of all the faces it had shown him, wrestled with it.

“Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!”

In the struggle, if that can be called a struggle in which the Ghost with no visible resistance on its own part was undisturbed by any effort of its adversary, Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright; and dimly connecting that with its influence over him, he seized the extinguisher-cap, and by a sudden action pressed it down upon its head.

The Spirit dropped beneath it, so that the extinguisher covered its whole form; but though Scrooge pressed it down with all his force, he could not hide the light: which streamed from under it, in an unbroken flood upon the ground.

He was conscious of being exhausted, and overcome by an irresistible drowsiness; and, further, of being in his own bedroom. He gave the cap a parting squeeze, in which his hand relaxed; and had barely time to reel to bed, before he sank into a heavy sleep.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present shock and anger in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge and his reactions in this extract
- how Dickens presents shock and/ or anger in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

### **Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from the start of *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge has been asked to donate some money to charity – he has refused..

“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.”

“Many can’t go there; and many would rather die.”

“If they would rather die,” said Scrooge, “they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides—excuse me—I don’t know that.”

“But you might know it,” observed the gentleman.

“It’s not my business,” Scrooge returned. “It’s enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people’s. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, gentlemen!”

Seeing clearly that it would be useless to pursue their point, the gentlemen withdrew. Scrooge resumed his labours with an improved opinion of himself, and in a more facetious temper than was usual with him.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens portray cruelty in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents cruelty and meanness in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

## Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol*

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract the narrator is introducing us to the character of Scrooge.

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did. of the funeral, and solemnised it with an undoubted bargain.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, "No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!"

0 8

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present people's views on Scrooge.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents views of Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents views of Scrooge in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the two portly gentlemen have just been let in to Scrooge's office by Bob.

They were portly gentlemen, pleasant to behold, and now stood, with their hats off, in Scrooge's office. They had books and papers in their hands, and bowed to him.

5 "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?"

10 "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

15 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.

20 "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

25 thousands are in want of common necessities; 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."

0 8

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present wealth in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents wealth in this extract
- how Dickens presents wealth in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, a young carol singer is visiting Scrooge's counting house.

Foggier yet, and colder. Piercing, searching, biting cold. If  
the  
Good Saint Dunstan had but nipped the Evil Spirit's nose with a  
touch of such weather as that, instead of using his familiar  
5 weapons, then indeed he would have roared to lusty purpose.  
The owner of one scant young nose, gnawed and mumbled by  
the hungry cold as bones are gnawed by dogs, stooped down at  
Scrooge's keyhole to regale him with a Christmas carol: but at  
10 the first sound of  
"God bless you, merry gentleman!  
May nothing you dismay!"  
Scrooge seized the ruler with such energy of action, that the  
15 singer  
fled in terror, leaving the keyhole to the fog and even more  
congenial frost.

0 8

Starting with this extract, write about how Dickens presents children in *A Christmas Carol*.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents the carol singer in this extract
- how Dickens presents children in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

### Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol*

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Marley has just appeared in front of Scrooge.

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cashboxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent; so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before; he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

0 8

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents punishment in *A Christmas Carol*.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents punishment in this extract
- how Dickens presents punishment in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

## Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol*

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Marley has beckoned Scrooge to approach his window, having finished their discussion.

Not so much in obedience, as in surprise and fear: for on the raising of the hand, he became sensible of confused noises in the air; incoherent sounds of lamentation and regret; wailings inexpressibly sorrowful and self-accusatory. The spectre, after  
5 listening for a moment, joined in the mournful dirge; and floated out upon the bleak, dark night.

Scrooge followed to the window: desperate in his curiosity. He looked out.

The air was filled with phantoms, wandering hither and thither in restless haste, and moaning as they went. Every one  
10 of them wore chains like Marley's Ghost; some few (they might be guilty governments) were linked together; none were free. Many had been  
15 personally known to Scrooge in their lives. He had been quite familiar with one old ghost, in a white waistcoat, with a monstrous iron safe attached to its ankle, who cried piteously at being unable to assist a wretched woman with an infant, whom it saw below, upon a doorstep. The misery with them all was, clearly, that they sought to interfere, for good, in human matters, and had lost the power for ever.

20 Whether these creatures faded into mist, or mist enshrouded them, he could not tell. But they and their spirit voices faded together; and the night became as it had been when he walked home.

0 8

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents suffering in *A Christmas Carol*.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents suffering in this extract
- how Dickens presents suffering in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

### Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol*

Read the following extract from Chapter 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge has just heard Bob mention his name.

“Mr. Scrooge!” said Bob; “I’ll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!”

5 “The Founder of the Feast indeed!” cried Mrs. Cratchit, reddening. “I wish I had him here. I’d give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he’d have a good appetite for it.”

“My dear,” said Bob, “the children! Christmas Day.”

10 “It should be Christmas Day, I am sure,” said she, “on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is, Robert! Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow!”

“My dear,” was Bob’s mild answer, “Christmas Day.”

15 “I’ll drink his health for your sake and the Day’s,” said Mrs. Cratchit, “not for his. Long life to him! A merry Christmas and a happy new year! He’ll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt!”

20 The children drank the toast after her. It was the first of their proceedings which had no heartiness. Tiny Tim drank it last of all, but he didn’t care twopence for it. Scrooge was the Ogre of the family. The mention of his name cast a dark shadow on the party, which was not dispelled for full five minutes.

0 8

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents gratitude in *A Christmas Carol*.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents gratitude in this extract
- how Dickens presents gratitude in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]