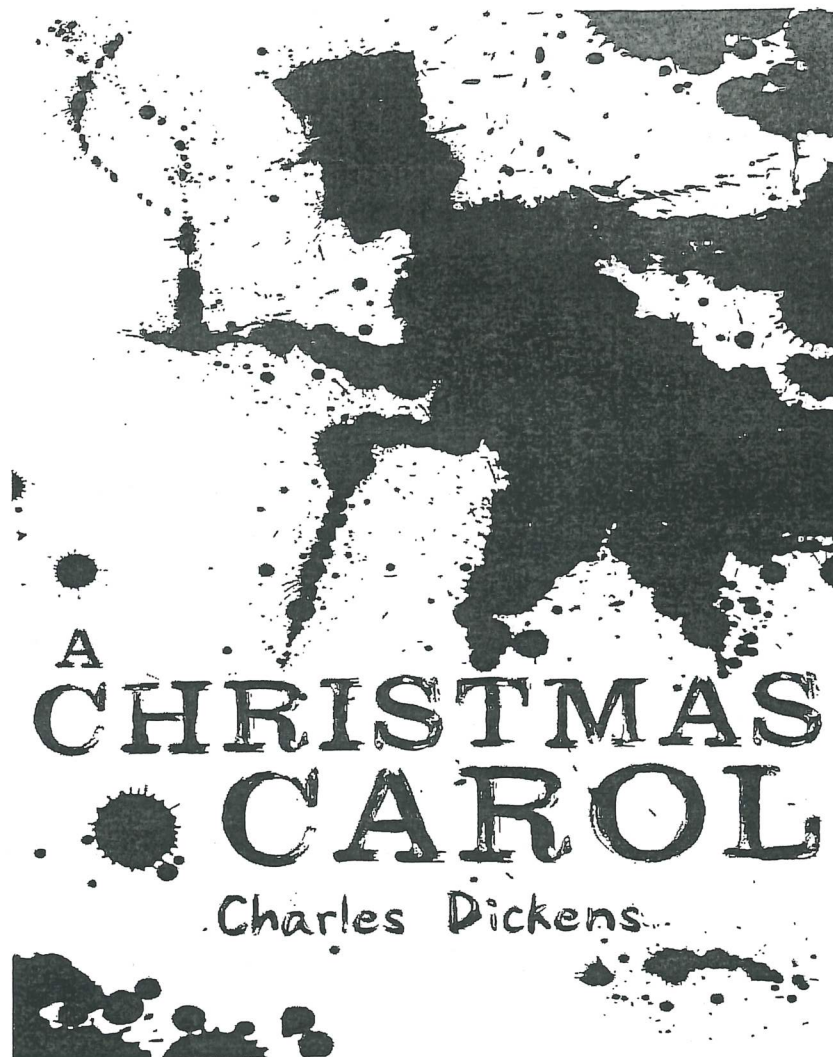


# A Christmas Carol



One question

Extract given but must make reference to text  
as a whole

Must explore the context of the text

## Practice Questions

And... exhale. We're officially done breaking down the chapters of 'A Christmas Carol', so you're in for another treat — it's question time. Just write a sentence or two for your answers to these questions — there are some more detailed questions over the page for you to get your teeth into later. If you find you can't remember something, have a flick back through the section to find out what you need to know.

### Quick Questions

- 1) Who was Jacob Marley? How does Scrooge know him?
- 2) Give three examples of Scrooge's actions in the first chapter which show his unpleasant personality.
- 3) List three supernatural events that occur before the arrival of Marley's ghost.
- 4) Find a quote from the novel that suggests Fezziwig is a generous man.
- 5) Why does Belle release Scrooge from his engagement to her?
- 6) What does the Ghost of Christmas Present do that improves people's moods?
- 7) The Ghost of Christmas Present echoes some of the things that Scrooge said in Chapter One in order to teach him a lesson. Give an example of something the spirit says to Scrooge.
- 8) How does Scrooge react to the appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?
- 9) Is the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come completely unsympathetic to Scrooge?
- 10) Give an example from either Chapter Three or Chapter Four of a character who:
  - a) makes fun of Scrooge
  - b) is kind about Scrooge
- 11) List three things that Scrooge does to improve Bob Cratchit's life in Chapter Five.
- 12) Briefly explain what the narrator tells us about Scrooge's future.



## A Christmas Carol - Key Quotations:

### Stave 1

'Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge.'

"I wish to be left alone... I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry."

"If they had rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."

'Foggier yet, and colder! Piercing, searching, biting cold.'

"It's humbug still! I won't believe it."

"I wear the chain I forged in life."

"Business? Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business: charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence were my business."

### Stave 2

'Marley's ghost bothered him exceedingly.'

"A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still."

"I have come to bring you home, dear brother."

'During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits. His heart and soul were in the scene, and in his former self.'

"It isn't that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy."

"Our contract was an old one... You are changed."

"Conduct me home. Why do you delight to torture me?"

"... and when he thought that such another creature, quite as graceful and full of promise, might have called him father... his sight grew very dim indeed."

### Stave 3

'In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see...'

"Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it."

'The sky was gloomy, and the shortest streets were choked up with a dingy mist...'

"Why to a poor one most?" Asked Scrooge. / "Because it needs it most."

"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."

"The Founder of the Feast indeed! // It should be Christmas day on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr Scrooge."

'Scrooge was the ogre of the family.'

"Spirit, tell me if Tiny Tim will live."

"Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words quoted back at him and was overcome with penitence and grief."

'From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject frightful, hideous, miserable.'

"They are Man's... This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both..."

## How does Dickens present the redeemed character of Scrooge? [40]

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge at other points in the novella
- the historical context of the text

"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!

Sample Answers:

### Sample answer 1

*Scrooge is shown as being happy in this extract from the end of the novella. We know this because Dickens uses the word 'cried' instead of something negative like 'muttered' or 'grumbled'. This shows that Scrooge is excited. He says that he is 'as light as a feather' which suggests that he is feeling happy and weightless. He also cheers, saying 'Whoop!' and 'Hallo!' which shows how he is much more joyous than at the start of the story.*

### Feedback comments - good, but could be improved

- This answer shows that the candidate understands the character and has some sense of how language is used to convey meaning. However, a clearer explanation of the literary techniques used would be useful. For example, showing how the similes are used in the extract.
- The candidate identifies that the extract is from the end of the novella and briefly compares it to the presentation of Scrooge at the start. An improved answer would make more detailed comparisons, focusing on the actual language used in the text.
- Correct spelling and punctuation is used. For a higher level, more sophisticated language and use of technical language is needed.



## Sample answer 2

*In this extract from the end of the novella, we see Scrooge as a reformed character. Where he is described as 'tight-fisted' and 'grasping' in Stave I, in this final section we see him as 'light as a feather'. The similes that Scrooge uses in his dialogue show how cheerful he is. They are clichéd ideas that carry a sense of his new carefree spirit. When we first met Scrooge his repeated expression was a gloomy 'Bah!' and a dismissive 'Humbug!' showing the reader that he was mean-spirited. Here, however, he is changed to a man who cheerfully cries 'Whoop!' and 'Hallo!' and even 'Merry Christmas!' The onomatopoeia of 'Whoop!' carries a sense of his joy and the repeated exclamation marks add to the presentation of a man caught up in a child-like joy.*

### Feedback comments - much improved!

- The expression here is more sophisticated. Sentences are complex and ideas are confidently conveyed.
- The candidate makes use of literary terminology and explores the effects of language on the reader.
- Comparisons with earlier parts of the novella are integrated in the response.
- Candidate refers to structure in mentioning 'Stave I' and could expand on this further.
- Reference to historical context would make this an even better answer.

What you could explore:

1. (1) **'cried Scrooge'** - the verb 'cried' is lively and shows that Scrooge is excited.
2. (2) **'making a perfect Laocoön of himself'** - Dickens is referring to a famous statue of a man in agony. He means that Scrooge is struggling with his stockings.
3. (3) **"I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel"** - this series of **clichéd similes** shows how light-hearted Scrooge is.
4. (4) **"A merry Christmas to everybody!"** - Scrooge had earlier responded to his nephew's wishes for a 'merry Christmas' with his typical 'Bah!' and 'Humbug!' He is a changed man now and is happily **shouting** his own Christmas wishes to 'everybody'.
5. (5) **"Whoop! Hallo!"** - these **exclamations** of joy are childlike and give us the impression of Scrooge skipping around his room.
6. (6) **'Frisked'** - the verb 'frisked' suggests that he is moving lightly and with gaiety.
7. (7) **"There's the window where I saw the wandering Spirits!"** - Scrooge speaks his thoughts aloud and remembers with joy the ghosts that he has been visited by, showing how they have changed him.
8. (8) **"Ha ha ha!"** - his **speech** is **reduced** to laughter, showing how cheerful he has become.
9. (9) **'a most illustrious laugh'** - the adjective 'illustrious' means well-known. It is as if Scrooge has already laughed so much that the sound has become part of his usual utterances.
10. (10) **'The father of a long, long line of brilliant laughs!'** - this metaphor shows that there will be many more laughs to come.

**Have a go at writing a response to this question.**