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ENGLISH LITERATURE: 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' BY CHARLES DICKENS Y10 - Terms 1 & 2

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Retrieval Task 1 – ‘An Inspector Calls’

1. In Act 1, during the engagement celebration at the Birling family home in 1912, who is Sheila Birling engaged to?
2. In Act 1, according to Inspector Goole, what substance did Eva Smith drink before taking her own life?
3. In Act 1, why does Mr Birling admit he dismissed Eva Smith from her job at his factory?
4. In Act 1, which member of the Birling family criticises Mr Birling's attitude towards his workers after Eva's dismissal?
5. In Act 1, what motive does Sheila Birling give for having Eva Smith fired from her job at the department store?
6. In Act 1, what emotion does Sheila Birling immediately feel after admitting her part in Eva Smith's misfortune?
7. When was An Inspector Calls written by J.B. Priestley?
8. In what year is An Inspector Calls set?
9. Which of these words best fits this sentence: After realising her role in Eva Smith's dismissal from Milwards, Sheila becomes deeply _____ and accepts responsibility for her actions.
A) Privileged B) Remorseful C) Elitist
10. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mr Birling is often _____ when speaking to Sheila and Eric, treating their opinions as less important than his own.
A) Patronising B) Vulnerable C) Naïve
11. What is the primary theme?
12. Which secondary theme focuses on age differences?

Retrieval Task 2 – ‘An Inspector Calls’

1. In Act 2, during Inspector Goole's questioning, what name does Gerald reveal Eva Smith used when he knew her?
2. In Act 2, what kind of help did Gerald provide when Eva was at risk of becoming homeless?
3. In Act 2, what does Sheila give back to Gerald after learning about his affair with Eva Smith?
4. In Act 2, what led to Eva Smith asking Mrs Birling's charitable organisation for help?
5. In Act 2, what social class does Mrs Birling look down on when explaining why she refused to help Eva Smith?
6. In Act 2, according to Mrs Birling, who should be held responsible for Eva Smith's pregnancy and situation?
7. What major ship, described by Mr Birling as unsinkable, sank in April 1912?
8. What were workers in the 1912 labour strikes demanding employers introduce?
9. Which of these words best fits this sentence: As a wealthy factory owner, Mr Birling is highly _____ and benefits from opportunities that many working-class people do not have.
A) Classist B) Privileged C) Remorseful
10. Which of these words best fits this sentence: The Inspector suggests that businesses that pay workers unfair wages _____ their employees for profit.
A) Exploit B) Patronise C) Forgive
11. Which secondary theme contrasts two economic systems?
12. Which secondary theme examines male-dominated power structures?

Retrieval Task 3 – ‘An Inspector Calls’

1. In Act 3, which character is revealed to be the father of Eva Smith's baby?
2. In Act 3, what did Eric steal from his father's business to support Eva Smith?
3. In Act 3, according to the Inspector, what do all people share for Eva Smith's death and society's treatment of vulnerable people?
4. In Act 3, what does the Inspector warn will happen if people ignore their social responsibility towards others?
5. In Act 3, what does Gerald discover about Inspector Goole when he contacts the local police force?
6. In Act 3, even after discovering that Inspector Goole may not have been genuine, what do Sheila and Eric still feel about their actions?
7. In Act 3, after calling the morgue and learning there has been no recent suicide matching Eva Smith's case, what do Mr and Mrs Birling seem most relieved about?
8. In Act 3, who is announced to be on the way in the play's final twist?
9. Which social class suffered most from poor wages, long hours, and lack of protection from employers?
10. What type of economic system was supported by many upper-class people in Edwardian Britain?
11. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling is _____ against Eva Smith and judges her unfairly because of her social class.
A) Naïve B) Vulnerable C) Prejudiced
12. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling appears _____ when she insists she has behaved morally while refusing help to Eva Smith.
A) Sanctimonious B) Subservient C) Remorseful

Retrieval Task 4 – ‘An Inspector Calls’

1. According to Edwardian values, who were women often expected to depend on?
2. Which political party won a landslide victory in 1945, helping make socialist ideas, like Priestley's, more popular?
3. Which of these words best fits this sentence: In Edwardian society, women were often expected to be _____ to men and obey their wishes.
A) Superficial B) Subservient C) Privileged
4. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling's decision to reject Eva is based on a _____ concern for appearances rather than compassion.
A) Patriarchal B) Naïve C) Superficial
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: At the beginning of the play, Sheila can seem quite _____ because she trusts Gerald completely and has little experience of the wider world.
A) Naïve B) Sanctimonious C) Classist
6. Which secondary theme explores differences in wealth and status?
7. What word is missing from this quote: “_____, absolutely _____” (Mr Birling, Act 1 – about the Titanic)
8. What word is missing from this quote: “There isn't a _____ of war” ... “I say fiddlesticks!” (Mr Birling, Act 1 – about the possibility of WW1)
9. What word is missing from this quote: “a rather _____ woman... Her husband's social _____” (Mrs Birling, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
10. What word is missing from this quote: “As if a girl of that _____ would ever refuse money” (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – referring to Eva Smith)
11. What word is missing from this quote: “M_____” and “D_____” (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – referring to her mother and father)
12. What word is missing from this quote: “Is it the one _____ wanted me to have?” (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – to Gerald, about her engagement ring)

Retrieval Task 5

'An Inspector Calls'

1. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mr Birling's speech about the future is highly _____ as he boasts about his success and importance.
A) Self-aggrandising B) Vulnerable C) Subservient
2. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling's treatment of Eva Smith could be described as _____ because she discriminates against people from a lower social class.
A) Remorseful B) Classist C) Vulnerable
3. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Some of the upper-class attitudes shown in the play are _____ because they suggest wealthy people are superior to others.
A) Elitist B) Naïve C) Subservient
4. What word is missing from this quote: “_____, half-assertive” (Eric Birling, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
5. What word is missing from this quote: “Why shouldn’t they try for higher _____?” (Eric Birling, Act 1 – to Mr Birling, about his workers)
6. What word is missing from this quote: “_____... man-about-town” (Gerald Croft, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which stave does Scrooge wake up on Christmas Day and send a turkey to the Cratchits?
8. In Stave 1, who visits Scrooge from the dead?
9. In Stave 3, whose party does Scrooge observe?
10. What class are the Cratchits?
11. In Stave 2, who is Scrooge’s cheerful employer?
12. Which stave does Scrooge refuse to give Bob Cratchit more coal?

Retrieval Task 6

'An Inspector Calls'

1. What word is missing from this quote: "I became at once the most _____ person in her life." (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – about Eva/Daisy)
2. What word is missing from this quote: "young and _____ and charming" (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – describing Eva/Daisy)
3. What word is missing from this quote: "creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and _____." (Inspector Goole, Act 1 – stage direction on his arrival)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "Public men, Mr Birling, have _____ as well as privileges." (Inspector Goole, Act 2 – to Mr Birling)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "community and all that _____" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – to his family and Gerald)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "It's my _____ to keep labour costs down" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – to the Inspector)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Who is Scrooge's clerk?
8. In Stave 4, what is Scrooge shown at the end?
9. In Stave 2, where is young Scrooge left alone?
10. Which stave does Belle end her engagement to Scrooge?
11. In Stave 3, who is the Cratchits' ill child?
12. Which stave does Jacob Marley visit Scrooge from the dead?

Retrieval Task 7

'An Inspector Calls'

1. What word is missing from this quote: "nothing more than my _____" and was "_____" (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – explaining why she turned Eva away)
2. What word is missing from this quote: "had only _____ to blame" (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – about Eva Smith)
3. What word is missing from this quote: "But these girls aren't cheap _____ – they're people." (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – to Mr Birling)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "You mustn't try to build up a kind of _____ between us and that girl." (Sheila Birling, Act 2 – to Mrs Birling)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "She was pretty and a good _____." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – about Eva Smith)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "I am _____ of you... both of you." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. In Stave 1, what does Scrooge refuse to give Bob?
8. In Stave 5, who does Scrooge send a turkey to?
9. In Stave 2, what emotion does Scrooge feel?
10. In Stave 3, what are the two children called that are hidden under the Ghost's cloak?
11. Which ghost remains silent?
12. Where does Scrooge work?

Retrieval Task 8

'An Inspector Calls'

1. What word is missing from this quote: "upset... by this _____" (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – referring to Eva/Daisy's death or the Inspector's questioning)
2. What word is missing from this quote: "Everything is _____ now." (Gerald Croft, Act 3 – to Sheila, offering her the engagement ring at the end)
3. What word is missing from this quote: "We are members of one _____." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "There are _____ and _____ of Eva Smiths and John Smiths." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "the famous younger _____ who know it all" (Mr Birling, Act 3 – responding to Eric and Sheila)
6. What word is missing from this quote: They're "overtired", "_____", "childish" (Mrs Birling, Act 3 – about her children)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which stave do Ignorance and Want appear?
8. In Stave 1, who argues with Scrooge about Christmas?
9. Which stave does Scrooge see his old employer Fezziwig?
10. In Stave 2, who ends Scrooge's engagement?
11. In Stave 5, what day does Scrooge wake up on?
12. In Stave 3, which spirit visits Scrooge?

Retrieval Task 9

'An Inspector Calls'

1. What word is missing from this quote: Mr Birling and Mrs Birling are “_____”
(Mrs Birling, Act 3 – about her and her husband's reaction)
2. What word is missing from this quote: “You don’t seem to have _____
anything.” (Sheila Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)
3. What word is missing from this quote: “The girl’s dead and we all _____ to kill her
– and that’s what matters.” (Eric Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)
4. What word is missing from this quote: “Fire and blood and _____.”
(Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)
5. In Act 1, during the engagement celebration at the Birling family home in 1912, who is Sheila Birling engaged to?
6. In Act 1, according to Inspector Goole, what substance did Eva Smith drink before taking her own life?

'A Christmas Carol'

7. In Stave 4, how do people react to Scrooge’s death?
8. Which stave does Scrooge observe Fred’s Christmas party?
9. Which of these words best fits this sentence: At the start of the novel, Scrooge is so _____
that he refuses to help the poor and shows no concern for their suffering.
a) Grateful b) Callous c) Genial
10. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Marley warns Scrooge that his obsession with
wealth led him to a miserable fate, showing the dangers of _____.
a) Avarice b) Gratitude c) Geniality
11. Which of these words best fits this sentence: After the visits from the three spirits, Scrooge
experienced _____ and changed his life for the better.
a) Avarice b) Redemption c) Antithesis
12. Which of these words best fits this sentence: The generous and kind Fezziwig is the _____
of the selfish and cold Scrooge.
a) Redemption b) Philanthropy c) Antithesis

Retrieval Task 10

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 2, during Inspector Goole's questioning, what name does Gerald reveal Eva Smith used when he knew her?
2. In Act 2, what kind of help did Gerald provide when Eva was at risk of becoming homeless?
3. When was An Inspector Calls written by J.B. Priestley?
4. In what year is An Inspector Calls set?
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: After realising her role in Eva Smith's dismissal from Milwards, Sheila becomes deeply _____ and accepts responsibility for her actions.
A) Privileged B) Remorseful C) Elitist
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mr Birling is often _____ when speaking to Sheila and Eric, treating their opinions as less important than his own.
A) Patronising B) Vulnerable C) Naïve

'A Christmas Carol'

7. In Stave 2, what causes Belle to leave Scrooge?
8. Which stave does Scrooge see his own grave?
9. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Fred's warm welcome and cheerful attitude show his _____ personality.
a) Genial b) Callous c) Deprived
10. Which of these words best fits this sentence: By buying the Cratchits a larger turkey and helping those in need, Scrooge acts in a _____ way.
a) Materialistic b) Philanthropic c) Avaricious
11. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Scrooge's love of money and wealth reveals his _____ nature.
a) Materialistic b) Altruistic c) Grateful
12. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Tiny Tim always thinks about the happiness of others, even during difficult times, making him an _____ character.
a) Altruistic b) Materialistic c) Callous

Retrieval Task 11

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, which character is revealed to be the father of Eva Smith's baby?
2. In Act 3, what did Eric steal from his father's business to support Eva Smith?
3. What major ship, described by Mr Birling as unsinkable, sank in April 1912?
4. What were workers in the 1912 labour strikes demanding employers introduce?
5. What word is missing from this quote: "Unsinkable, _____ unsinkable" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – about the Titanic)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "There isn't a chance of war" ... "I say _____" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – about the possibility of WW1)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. In Stave 3, which workers celebrate in isolation?
8. In Stave 2, who visits Scrooge first?
9. Which of these words best fits this sentence: The Cratchit family are financially _____, yet they remain loving and hopeful.
a) Grateful b) Deprived c) Genial
10. Which of these words best fits this sentence: After his transformation, Scrooge feels _____ for the chance to change his future.
a) Avaricious b) Callous c) Grateful
11. Which of these words best fits this sentence: When Scrooge refers to poor people as part of the "surplus population," he demonstrates the _____ of those living in poverty.
a) Morality b) Dehumanisation c) Allegory
12. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Through the lessons taught by the three spirits, Dickens uses the novella to _____ greater compassion towards the poor.
a) Advocate b) Criminalise c) Dehumanise

Retrieval Task 12

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 1, why does Mr Birling admit he dismissed Eva Smith from her job at his factory?
2. In Act 1, which member of the Birling family criticises Mr Birling's attitude towards his workers after Eva's dismissal?
3. Which social class suffered most from poor wages, long hours, and lack of protection from employers?
4. What type of economic system was supported by many upper-class people in Edwardian Britain?
5. What word is missing from this quote: "a rather cold woman... Her husband's _____ superior" (Mrs Birling, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "As if a girl of that sort would ever _____ money" (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – referring to Eva Smith)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which stave does the Ghost of Christmas Past first appear?
8. Which stave does Scrooge meet the Cratchit family and Tiny Tim?
9. In Stave 1, how many ghosts does Jacob Marley tell Scrooge will visit him?
10. Which of these words best fits this sentence: When Scrooge suggests that the poor should go to prisons or workhouses, he helps to _____ poverty.
a) Advocate b) Morality c) Criminalise
11. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Some readers see A Christmas Carol as an _____ for Victorian society, teaching lessons about social responsibility and compassion.
a) Dehumanisation b) Advocate c) Allegory
12. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Dickens encourages readers to think carefully about _____ and their duty to help others.
a) Criminalisation b) Morality c) Dehumanisation

Retrieval Task 13

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 2, what does Sheila give back to Gerald after learning about his affair with Eva Smith?
2. In Act 2, what led to Eva Smith asking Mrs Birling's charitable organisation for help?
3. According to Edwardian values, who were women often expected to depend on?
4. Which political party won a landslide victory in 1945, helping make socialist ideas, like Priestley's, more popular?
5. What word is missing from this quote: " _____ " and "Daddy" (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – referring to her mother and father)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "Is it the one you _____ me to have?" (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – to Gerald, about her engagement ring)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. According to Dickens, who should take responsibility for helping others?
8. Which group does Dickens criticise for dehumanising the working class?
9. What was the only form of support available to the poor under the New Poor Laws?
10. What Victorian value focused on right and wrong behaviour?
11. What word is missing from this quote: "Hard and sharp as _____" (Stave 1, Narrator)
12. What word is missing from this quote: "Solitary as an _____" (Stave 1, Narrator)

Retrieval Task 14

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, according to the Inspector, what do all people share for Eva Smith's death and society's treatment of vulnerable people?
2. In Act 3, what does the Inspector warn will happen if people ignore their social responsibility towards others?
3. What word is missing from this quote: "half-shy, _____" (Eric Birling, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "Why shouldn't they try for _____ wages?" (Eric Birling, Act 1 – to Mr Birling, about his workers)
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: As a wealthy factory owner, Mr Birling is highly _____ and benefits from opportunities that many working-class people do not have.
A) Classist B) Privileged C) Remorseful
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: The Inspector suggests that businesses that pay workers unfair wages _____ their employees for profit.
A) Exploit B) Patronise C) Forgive

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What does Scrooge's transformation represent?
8. According to Dickens, what is more important than money?
9. What theory argued that poor people should not be helped too much?
10. At what age did Dickens begin working?
11. What word is missing from this quote: "Are there no _____?... workhouses?" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
12. What word is missing from this quote: "The poor should ' _____ ' and 'decrease the surplus population'" (Stave 1, Scrooge)

Retrieval Task 15

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 1, what motive does Sheila Birling give for having Eva Smith fired from her job at the department store?
2. In Act 1, what emotion does Sheila Birling immediately feel after admitting her part in Eva Smith's misfortune?
3. What word is missing from this quote: "well-bred... _____" (Gerald Croft, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "I became at once the _____ important person in her life." (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – about Eva/Daisy)
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling is _____ against Eva Smith and judges her unfairly because of her social class.
A) Naïve B) Vulnerable C) Prejudiced
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling appears _____ when she insists she has behaved morally while refusing help to Eva Smith.
A) Sanctimonious B) Subservient C) Remorseful

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which stave does Scrooge wake up on Christmas Day and send a turkey to the Cratchits?
8. What does Dickens use in the story to appeal to the Victorian reader?
9. What is the Catholic place of purification before Heaven?
10. What did Spiritualism claim people could communicate with?
11. What word is missing from this quote: "I wear the _____ I forged in life" (Stave 1, Marley)
12. What word is missing from this quote: "Are there no prisons?... _____?" (Stave 1, Scrooge)

Retrieval Task 16

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 2, what social class does Mrs Birling look down on when explaining why she refused to help Eva Smith?
2. In Act 2, according to Mrs Birling, who should be held responsible for Eva Smith's pregnancy and situation?
3. What word is missing from this quote: "creates at once an impression of _____, solidity and purposefulness." (Inspector Goole, Act 1 – stage direction on his arrival)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as _____." (Inspector Goole, Act 2 – to Mr Birling)
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: In Edwardian society, women were often expected to be _____ to men and obey their wishes.
A) Superficial B) Subservient C) Privileged
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling's decision to reject Eva is based on a _____ concern for appearances rather than compassion.
A) Patriarchal B) Naïve C) Superficial

'A Christmas Carol'

7. In Stave 1, who visits Scrooge from the dead?
8. In Stave 3, whose party does Scrooge observe?
9. What was introduced in 1834 to supposedly provide support for the poor?
10. According to Victorian Christian values, what was important aside from respectability and family?
11. What word is missing from this quote: "The poor should 'die' and 'decrease the _____ population'" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
12. What word is missing from this quote: "I wear the chain I _____ in life" (Stave 1, Marley)

Retrieval Task 17

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, what does Gerald discover about Inspector Goole when he contacts the local police force?
2. In Act 3, even after discovering that Inspector Goole may not have been genuine, what do Sheila and Eric still feel about their actions?
3. What is the primary theme?
4. Which secondary theme focuses on age differences?
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling's treatment of Eva Smith could be described as _____ because she discriminates against people from a lower social class.
A) Remorseful B) Classist C) Vulnerable
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Some of the upper-class attitudes shown in the play are _____ because they suggest wealthy people are superior to others.
A) Elitist B) Naïve C) Subservient

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "Hard and sharp as _____" (Stave 1, Narrator)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Another idol has displaced me... a _____ one."
(Stave 2, Belle)
9. In Catholic belief, where does a soul go before entering Heaven?
10. Which theory argued that food supplies could not keep up with population growth?
11. What was Dickens' father imprisoned for?
12. What Victorian movement involved communicating with the dead?

Retrieval Task 18

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, after calling the morgue and learning there has been no recent suicide matching Eva Smith's case, what do Mr and Mrs Birling seem most relieved about?
2. In Act 3, who is announced to be on the way in the play's final twist?
3. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Once Gerald is exposed by the Inspector, his _____ is damaged because the family begins to question his honesty.
A) Credibility B) Inequality C) Privilege
4. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Eva Smith is particularly _____ because she has little money, no social power, and few people willing to support her.
A) Sanctimonious B) Vulnerable C) Self-aggrandising
5. What word is missing from this quote: "_____ and all that nonsense" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – to his family and Gerald)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "It's my duty to keep labour _____ down" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – to the Inspector)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which of these words best fits this sentence: By Christmas morning, Scrooge has undergone _____, becoming a kinder and more generous person.
a) Avarice b) Redemption c) Antithesis
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Are there no _____?... workhouses?" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Solitary as an _____" (Stave 1, Narrator)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Another _____ has displaced me... a golden one." (Stave 2, Belle)
11. Which stave does Scrooge refuse to give Bob Cratchit more coal?
12. Who is Scrooge's clerk?

Retrieval Task 19

'An Inspector Calls'

1. Which secondary theme contrasts two economic systems?
2. Which secondary theme examines male-dominated power structures?
3. What word is missing from this quote: "nothing more than my duty" and was " _____ " (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – explaining why she turned Eva away)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "had only herself to _____ " (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – about Eva Smith)
5. What word is missing from this quote: They're "overtired", "hysterical", " _____ " (Mrs Birling, Act 3 – about her children)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "You don't seem to have learnt _____ ." (Sheila Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which of these words best fits this sentence:
Fezziwig's kindness towards his employees makes him the complete _____ of Scrooge's selfish behaviour.
a) Redemption b) Philanthropy c) Antithesis
8. Which of these words best fits this sentence:
Fred's laughter, hospitality, and positive outlook reflect his _____ nature.
a) Genial b) Callous c) Deprived
9. What word is missing from this quote: "The poor should ' _____ ' and 'decrease the surplus population'" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "I wear the _____ I forged in life" (Stave 1, Marley)
11. In Stave 4, what is Scrooge shown at the end?
12. In Stave 2, where is young Scrooge left alone?

Retrieval Task 20

'An Inspector Calls'

1. Which secondary theme explores differences in wealth and status?
2. Which of these words best fits this sentence: At the beginning of the play, Sheila can seem quite _____ because she trusts Gerald completely and has little experience of the wider world.
A) Naïve B) Sanctimonious C) Classist
3. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mr Birling's speech about the future is highly _____ as he boasts about his success and importance.
A) Self-aggrandising B) Vulnerable C) Subservient
4. What word is missing from this quote: "But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're _____." (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – to Mr Birling)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "You mustn't try to _____ up a kind of wall between us and that girl." (Sheila Birling, Act 2 – to Mrs Birling)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "the famous _____ generation who know it all" (Mr Birling, Act 3 – responding to Eric and Sheila)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. Which of these words best fits this sentence:
Donating to charity and supporting the Cratchit family demonstrates Scrooge's _____ behaviour after his transformation.
a) Materialistic b) Philanthropic c) Avaricious
8. Which of these words best fits this sentence:
Before the visits from the spirits, Scrooge judges success largely by wealth, showing his _____ outlook on life.
a) Materialistic b) Altruistic c) Grateful
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Are there no prisons?... _____?" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "The poor should 'die' and 'decrease the _____ population'" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
11. Which stave does Belle end her engagement to Scrooge?
12. In Stave 3, who is the Cratchits' ill child?

Retrieval Task 21

'An Inspector Calls'

1. What word is missing from this quote: "She was _____ and a good sport." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – about Eva Smith)
2. What word is missing from this quote: "I am ashamed of you... _____ of you." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)
3. What word is missing from this quote: "_____ and fresh and charming" (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – describing Eva/Daisy)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "_____ ... by this business" (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – referring to Eva/Daisy's death or the Inspector's questioning)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "The girl's dead and we all helped to _____ her – and that's what matters." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "_____ all right now." (Gerald Croft, Act 3 – to Sheila, offering her the engagement ring at the end)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "Happy, _____, pleased with one another." (Stave 3, Narrator)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, _____ ... they are Man's." (Stave 3, Ghost of Christmas Present)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "I wear the chain I _____ in life" (Stave 1, Marley)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Another _____ has displaced me... a golden one." (Stave 2, Belle)
11. Which stave does Jacob Marley visit Scrooge from the dead?
12. In Stave 1, what does Scrooge refuse to give Bob?

Retrieval Task 22

'An Inspector Calls'

1. What word is missing from this quote: "We are _____ of one body." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)
2. What word is missing from this quote: "There are millions and millions and millions of _____ and John Smiths." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)
3. What word is missing from this quote: "_____ and blood and anguish." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)
4. In Act 1, during the engagement celebration at the Birling family home in 1912, who is Sheila Birling engaged to?
5. In Act 1, according to Inspector Goole, what substance did Eva Smith drink before taking her own life?
6. When was An Inspector Calls written by J.B. Priestley?

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "_____, grateful, pleased with one another." (Stave 3, Narrator)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Yellow, _____, ragged, scowling, wolfish... they are Man's." (Stave 3, Ghost of Christmas Present)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Glowing torch" like "Plenty's horn ... shed its _____." (Stave 3, Narrator)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "God _____ us every one" (Stave 3, Tiny Tim)
11. In Stave 5, who does Scrooge send a turkey to?
12. In Stave 2, what emotion does Scrooge feel?

Retrieval Task 23

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 2, during Inspector Goole's questioning, what name does Gerald reveal Eva Smith used when he knew her?
2. In Act 2, what kind of help did Gerald provide when Eva was at risk of becoming homeless?
3. In what year is An Inspector Calls set?
4. What major ship, described by Mr Birling as unsinkable, sank in April 1912?
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: After realising her role in Eva Smith's dismissal from Milwards, Sheila becomes deeply _____ and accepts responsibility for her actions.
A) Privileged B) Remorseful C) Elitist
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mr Birling is often _____ when speaking to Sheila and Eric, treating their opinions as less important than his own.
A) Patronising B) Vulnerable C) Naïve

'A Christmas Carol'

7. According to Dickens, who should take responsibility for helping others?
8. Which group does Dickens criticise for dehumanising the working class?
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Another idol has displaced me... a _____ one."
(Stave 2, Belle)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Glowing torch" like "_____ horn ... shed its light."
(Stave 3, Narrator)
11. In Stave 3, what are the two children called that are hidden under the Ghost's cloak?
12. Which ghost remains silent?

Retrieval Task 24

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, which character is revealed to be the father of Eva Smith's baby?
2. In Act 3, what did Eric steal from his father's business to support Eva Smith?
3. What is the primary theme?
4. What word is missing from this quote: "_____, absolutely _____" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – about the Titanic)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "There isn't a _____ of war" ... "I say fiddlesticks!" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – about the possibility of WW1)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "We are members of one _____." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What was the only form of support available to the poor under the New Poor Laws?
8. What does Scrooge's transformation represent?
9. According to Dickens, what is more important than money?
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Unwatched, unwept, _____ for." (Stave 4, Narrator)
11. Where does Scrooge work?
12. Which stave do Ignorance and Want appear?

Retrieval Task 25

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 1, why does Mr Birling admit he dismissed Eva Smith from her job at his factory?
2. In Act 1, which member of the Birling family criticises Mr Birling's attitude towards his workers after Eva's dismissal?
3. What were workers in the 1912 labour strikes demanding employers introduce?
4. Which social class suffered most from poor wages, long hours, and lack of protection from employers?
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: As a wealthy factory owner, Mr Birling is highly _____ and benefits from opportunities that many working-class people do not have.
A) Classist B) Privileged C) Remorseful
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: The Inspector suggests that businesses that pay workers unfair wages _____ their employees for profit.
A) Exploit B) Patronise C) Forgive

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What theory argued that poor people should not be helped too much?
8. What does Dickens use in the story to appeal to the Victorian reader?
9. What word is missing from this quote: "As merry as a _____." (Stave 5, Scrooge)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Unwatched, _____, uncared for." (Stave 4, Narrator)
11. In Stave 1, who argues with Scrooge about Christmas?
12. Which stave does Scrooge see his old employer Fezziwig?

Retrieval Task 26

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 2, what does Sheila give back to Gerald after learning about his affair with Eva Smith?
2. In Act 2, what led to Eva Smith asking Mrs Birling's charitable organisation for help?
3. Which secondary theme focuses on age differences?
4. What word is missing from this quote: "a rather _____ woman... Her husband's social _____" (Mrs Birling, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "As if a girl of that _____ would ever refuse money" (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – referring to Eva Smith)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "young and _____ and charming" (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – describing Eva/Daisy)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. At what age did Dickens begin working?
8. What is the Catholic place of purification before Heaven?
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Happy, _____, pleased with one another." (Stave 3, Narrator)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, _____... they are Man's." (Stave 3, Ghost of Christmas Present)
11. In Stave 2, who ends Scrooge's engagement?
12. In Stave 5, what day does Scrooge wake up on?

Retrieval Task 27

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, according to the Inspector, what do all people share for Eva Smith's death and society's treatment of vulnerable people?
2. In Act 3, what does the Inspector warn will happen if people ignore their social responsibility towards others?
3. What type of economic system was supported by many upper-class people in Edwardian Britain?
4. According to Edwardian values, who were women often expected to depend on?
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling is _____ against Eva Smith and judges her unfairly because of her social class.
A) Naïve B) Vulnerable C) Prejudiced
6. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling appears _____ when she insists she has behaved morally while refusing help to Eva Smith.
A) Sanctimonious B) Subservient C) Remorseful

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What was introduced in 1834 to supposedly provide support for the poor?
8. What word is missing from this quote: "I am as light as a _____." (Stave 5, Scrooge)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Glowing torch" like "Plenty's horn ... shed its _____." (Stave 3, Narrator)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "God _____ us every one" (Stave 3, Tiny Tim)
11. In Stave 3, which spirit visits Scrooge?
12. In Stave 4, how do people react to Scrooge's death?

Retrieval Task 28

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 1, what motive does Sheila Birling give for having Eva Smith fired from her job at the department store?
2. In Act 1, what emotion does Sheila Birling immediately feel after admitting her part in Eva Smith's misfortune?
3. Which secondary theme contrasts two economic systems?
4. What word is missing from this quote: "M_____ " and "D_____ " (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – referring to her mother and father)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "Is it the one _____ wanted me to have?" (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – to Gerald, about her engagement ring)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "She was pretty and a good _____." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – about Eva Smith)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. According to Victorian Christian values, what was important aside from respectability and family?
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Unwatched, unwept, _____ for." (Stave 4, Narrator)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "_____, grateful, pleased with one another." (Stave 3, Narrator)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Yellow, _____, ragged, scowling, wolfish... they are Man's." (Stave 3, Ghost of Christmas Present)
11. Which stave does Scrooge observe Fred's Christmas party?
12. In Stave 2, what causes Belle to leave Scrooge?

Knowledge Retrieval

Retrieval Task 29

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 2, what social class does Mrs Birling look down on when explaining why she refused to help Eva Smith?
2. In Act 2, according to Mrs Birling, who should be held responsible for Eva Smith's pregnancy and situation?
3. Which political party won a landslide victory in 1945, helping make socialist ideas, like Priestley's, more popular?
4. Which of these words best fits this sentence: In Edwardian society, women were often expected to be _____ to men and obey their wishes.
A) Superficial B) Subservient C) Privileged
5. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling's decision to reject Eva is based on a _____ concern for appearances rather than compassion.
A) Patriarchal B) Naïve C) Superficial
6. What word is missing from this quote: "As _____ as a schoolboy." (Stave 5, Scrooge)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "Unwatched, _____, uncared for." (Stave 4, Narrator)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Glowing torch" like "_____ horn ... shed its light."
(Stave 3, Narrator)
9. Which stave does Scrooge see his own grave?
10. In Stave 3, which workers celebrate in isolation?
11. When time period was 'A Christmas Carol' written?
12. What was the name of the ghost that visited Scrooge in Stave 1?

Retrieval Task 30

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, what does Gerald discover about Inspector Goole when he contacts the local police force?
2. In Act 3, even after discovering that Inspector Goole may not have been genuine, what do Sheila and Eric still feel about their actions?
3. Which secondary theme examines male-dominated power structures?
4. What word is missing from this quote: "_____, half-assertive" (Eric Birling, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "Why shouldn't they try for higher _____?" (Eric Birling, Act 1 – to Mr Birling, about his workers)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "But these girls aren't cheap _____ – they're people." (Sheila Birling, Act 1 – to Mr Birling)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "The poor should 'die' and 'decrease the _____ population'" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "I am as _____ as a feather." (Stave 5, Scrooge)
9. Which theory argued that food supplies could not keep up with population growth?
10. What was Dickens' father imprisoned for?
11. In Stave 2, who visits Scrooge first?
12. Which stave does the Ghost of Christmas Past first appear?

Retrieval Task 31

'An Inspector Calls'

1. Which of these words best fits this sentence: At the beginning of the play, Sheila can seem quite _____ because she trusts Gerald completely and has little experience of the wider world.
A) Naïve B) Sanctimonious C) Classist
2. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mr Birling's speech about the future is highly _____ as he boasts about his success and importance.
A) Self-aggrandising B) Vulnerable C) Subservient
3. Which secondary theme explores differences in wealth and status?
4. What word is missing from this quote: " _____ ... man-about-town" (Gerald Croft, Act 1 – stage direction at the start of the play)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "I became at once the most _____ person in her life." (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – about Eva/Daisy)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "nothing more than my _____ " and was " _____ " (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – explaining why she turned Eva away)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "Unwatched, unwept, _____ for." (Stave 4, Narrator describes Scrooge)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Another idol has displaced me... a _____ one." (Stave 2, Belle)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Hard and sharp as _____ " (Stave 1, Narrator)
10. What Victorian movement involved communicating with the dead?
11. Which stave does Scrooge meet the Cratchit family and Tiny Tim?
12. In Stave 1, how many ghosts does Jacob Marley tell Scrooge will visit him?

Retrieval Task 32

'An Inspector Calls'

1. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Mrs Birling's treatment of Eva Smith could be described as _____ because she discriminates against people from a lower social class.
A) Remorseful B) Classist C) Vulnerable
2. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Some of the upper-class attitudes shown in the play are _____ because they suggest wealthy people are superior to others.
A) Elitist B) Naïve C) Subservient
3. What word is missing from this quote: "creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and _____." (Inspector Goole, Act 1 – stage direction on his arrival)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "Public men, Mr Birling, have _____ as well as privileges." (Inspector Goole, Act 2 – to Mr Birling)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "community and all that _____" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – to his family and Gerald)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "It's my _____ to keep labour costs down" (Mr Birling, Act 1 – to the Inspector)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "Solitary as an _____" (Stave 1, Narrator)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "As merry as a _____." (Stave 5, Scrooge)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "I am as light as a _____." (Stave 5, Scrooge)
10. What Victorian value focused on right and wrong behaviour?
11. What class are the Cratchits?
12. In Stave 2, who is Scrooge's cheerful employer?

Retrieval Task 33

'An Inspector Calls'

1. In Act 3, after calling the morgue and learning there has been no recent suicide matching Eva Smith's case, what do Mr and Mrs Birling seem most relieved about?
2. In Act 3, who is announced to be on the way in the play's final twist?
3. What word is missing from this quote: "had only _____ to blame" (Mrs Birling, Act 2 – about Eva Smith)
4. What word is missing from this quote: They're "overtired", "_____", "childish" (Mrs Birling, Act 3 – about her children)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "You mustn't try to build up a kind of _____ between us and that girl." (Sheila Birling, Act 2 – to Mrs Birling)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "You don't seem to have _____ anything." (Sheila Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. According to Dickens, what is more important than money?
8. What does Scrooge's transformation represent?
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Yellow, _____, ragged, scowling, wolfish... they are Man's." (Stave 3, Ghost of Christmas Present)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Another _____ has displaced me... a golden one." (Stave 2, Belle)
11. In Catholic belief, where does a soul go before entering Heaven?
12. What did Spiritualism claim people could communicate with?

Retrieval Task 34

'An Inspector Calls'

1. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Once Gerald is exposed by the Inspector, his _____ is damaged because the family begins to question his honesty.
A) Credibility B) Inequality C) Privilege
2. Which of these words best fits this sentence: Eva Smith is particularly _____ because she has little money, no social power, and few people willing to support her.
A) Sanctimonious B) Vulnerable C) Self-aggrandising
3. What word is missing from this quote: "I am _____ of you... both of you."
(Eric Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)
4. What word is missing from this quote: "The girl's dead and we all _____ to kill her – and that's what matters." (Eric Birling, Act 3 – to Mr and Mrs Birling)
5. What word is missing from this quote: "upset... by this _____" (Gerald Croft, Act 2 – referring to Eva/Daisy's death or the Inspector's questioning)
6. What word is missing from this quote: "There are _____ and _____ of Eva Smiths and John Smiths." (Inspector Goole, Act 3 – to the Birlings)

'A Christmas Carol'

7. What word is missing from this quote: "_____, grateful, pleased with one another." (Stave 3, Narrator)
8. What word is missing from this quote: "Glowing torch" like "_____ horn ... shed its light."
(Stave 3, Narrator)
9. What word is missing from this quote: "Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, _____... they are Man's." (Stave 3, Ghost of Christmas Present)
10. What word is missing from this quote: "Are there no _____?... workhouses?" (Stave 1, Scrooge)
11. What word is missing from this quote: "As _____ as a schoolboy." (Stave 5, Scrooge)
12. What word is missing from this quote: "I am as _____ as a feather." (Stave 5, Scrooge)



What first impressions does Dickens want to give the reader of Scrooge and why?

Stave 1 – Scrooge Description

1 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
5 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.

10 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.

15 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
20 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!"

But what did Scrooge care! It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the
crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the
knowing ones call "nuts" to Scrooge...

25 The door of 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
30 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 a strong
imagination, he failed.

Stave 1

Powerful Vocabulary		Example	Non-Example
Dehumanise	Treating people as if they are less than human, without respect or dignity	Dickens criticises the dehumanisation of the poor.	The Cratchits experience dehumanisation when treated kindly.
Redemption	The act of being saved or forgiven, especially after doing something wrong – religious connections.	Scrooge finds redemption by the end.	Scrooge's redemption makes him greedier.

Exposition: Themes

Primary Theme

Social responsibility/change (through the use of Christmas)

- Dickens **challenges** the way the **higher-class** members of society often **dehumanise** the **working class**.
- Dickens believed that **everyone** should take **responsibility** to look after each other – aiming this particularly at those with **more wealth** to offer.
- Dickens believed that this kind of change was **urgent** and needed to come from society as a whole.

Secondary Theme

Redemption (personal change)

- Dickens believed that **anyone** could change – no matter where your starting point.
- Dickens believed this change was **essential** to saving your soul and to living a **good Christian life**.



Powerful Vocabulary		Example	Non-Example
Poverty	Living without enough money to meet basic needs.	Dickens highlights the effects of poverty through the Cratchit family.	Scrooge lives in poverty because he owns a successful business and has plenty of money.
Morality	Ideas or rules about what is right and wrong behaviour.	Dickens teaches morality through Scrooge.	Scrooge shows morality by mocking charity.

Exposition: Historical Context

The novel was written in 1843 – the Victorian Period

New Poor Laws introduced in 1834

- Support was only given to the poor through Workhouses.
- Anyone unable to provide for themselves was sent here (with families often split up) to work long hours doing hard labour in order to get a very basic place to stay and food.

Christian Values in Society

- Values such as these were held in very high regard: respectability and morality, charity and helping the poor, family

Thomas Malthus and Malthusian Theory

- The theory that the food supply couldn't keep up with the increasing population, and therefore the poor should not be helped too much to survive.

Dickens' Family

- They experienced real poverty, when his father went to Debtor's Prison and Dickens had to go to work at 12 years old.
- They were not always in poverty.

How does Dickens use this moment to criticise the criminalisation of the poor in the Victorian Period?

Stave 1 – Charity Workers

1

“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 necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.”

5

“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.”

10

“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.”

15

“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 drink, 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.

20

“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.”

25

“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.

30

“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.



Powerful Vocabulary		Example	Non-Example
Materialistic	Caring too much about money and possessions.	Scrooge is materialistic early on.	Tiny Tim is materialistic because he values family.

Exposition: Key Themes

Secondary Themes

Family and Relationships

- Dickens believed this to be far **more important** than **material** wealth – suggesting this was the key to **true happiness** in life.

The Supernatural

- Dickens uses the supernatural to appeal to his readers at the time and to highlight the **consequences** of not living a **moral** life.

Exposition: Historical Context

Purgatory

- The Catholic belief that a **soul** would go here to **purify** itself before being allowed entry into **Heaven**, and avoid going to Hell.
- This **fear of judgement** and punishment after death was also held by **Protestants** (although they didn't believe in purgatory).
- Most of Victorian society were **Protestant**.

The Supernatural

- Victorians had a **genuine interest/belief** in the supernatural, and there was a rise of **Spiritualism** (people talking with the dead).



How does Dickens explore the consequences of immoral behaviour?

Stave 1 – Marley's Ghost – Page 1

- 1 There was something very awful, too, in the spectre's being provided with an infernal atmosphere of its own. Scrooge could not feel it himself, but this was clearly the case; for though the Ghost sat perfectly motionless, its hair, and skirts, and tassels, were still agitated as by the hot vapour from an oven...
- 5 At this the spirit raised a frightful cry, and shook its chain with such a dismal and appalling noise, that Scrooge held on tight to his chair, to save himself from falling in a swoon. But how much greater was his horror, when the phantom taking off the bandage round its head, as if it were too warm to wear indoors, its lower jaw dropped down upon its breast!
- 10 Scrooge fell upon his knees, and clasped his hands before his face.
"Mercy!" he said. "Dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me?"
"Man of the worldly mind!" replied the Ghost, "do you believe in me or not?"
"I do," said Scrooge. "I must. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?"
- 15 "It is required of every man," the Ghost returned, "that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world—oh, woe is me!—and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!"
- 20 Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain and wrung its shadowy hands.
"You are fettered," said Scrooge, trembling. "Tell me why?"
"I wear the chain I forged in life," replied the Ghost. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you?"



How does Dickens explore the consequences of immoral behaviour?

Stave 1 – Marley’s Ghost – Page 2

- 25 Scrooge trembled more and more.
- “Or would you know,” pursued the Ghost, “the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!”
- 30 Scrooge glanced about him on the floor, in the expectation of finding himself surrounded by some fifty or sixty fathoms of iron cable: but he could see nothing.
- “Jacob,” he said, imploringly. “Old Jacob Marley, tell me more. Speak comfort to me, Jacob!”...
- 35 “Oh! Captive, bound, and double-ironed,” cried the phantom, “not to know, that ages of incessant labour by immortal creatures, for this earth must pass into eternity before the good of which it is susceptible is all developed. Not to know that any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, whatever it may be, will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness. Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life’s opportunity misused! Yet
- 40 such was I! Oh! Such was I!”

**WAGOLL Analytical Paragraph****How does Dickens present Scrooge in this extract?**

- 1 Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract as callous and emotionally closed off, showing how his avarice has made him deeply materialistic. This is clear in the line, “‘I was a boy,’ he said impatiently,” which shows that Scrooge speaks in a short, abrupt way that dismisses his past. The word “was” suggests that he sees his childhood as completely
- 5 finished and no longer important, implying he has lost the innocence and warmth he once had. The adverb “impatiently” shows he is irritated and uncomfortable, suggesting he does not want to think about his past or his feelings, which makes him seem callous. Dickens uses dialogue here to reveal Scrooge’s character, as his tone makes him seem cold and unwilling to reflect, which may make the reader feel
- 10 frustrated but also aware of how his avarice has shaped him into a materialistic person who values money over relationships. This links to Dickens’ message about how a focus on wealth in Victorian society could damage people’s humanity and emotional connections. Therefore, Dickens presents Scrooge as a callous and materialistic character who rejects his past due to his avarice.

How does Dickens advocate for values that go beyond the materialistic?

Stave 2 – Belle

1 He was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

5 “It matters little,” she said, softly. “To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve.”

“What Idol has displaced you?” he rejoined.

“A golden one.”

10 “This is the even-handed dealing of the world!” he said. “There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!”

15 “You fear the world too much,” she answered, gently. “All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?”

“What then?” he retorted. “Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed towards you.”

She shook her head.

“Am I?”

20 “Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so, until, in good season, we could improve our worldly fortune by our patient industry. You *are* changed. When it was made, you were another man.”

“I was a boy,” he said impatiently.

25 “Your own feeling tells you that you were not what you are,” she returned. “I am. That which promised happiness when we were one in heart, is fraught with misery now that we are two. How often and how keenly I have thought of this, I will not say. It is enough that I *have* thought of it, and can release you.”...

She left him, and they parted.

30 “Spirit!” said Scrooge, “show me no more! Conduct me home. Why do you delight to torture me?”



How does Dickens use the Cratchits to challenge the dehumanisation of the poor?

Stave 3 – Cratchit Christmas

1 At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless
pause, as Mrs. Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it
in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued
forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by
5 the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly
cried Hurrah!

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose
cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal
admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner
10 for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one
small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet every one had
had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion
to the eyebrows! But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Cratchit left
the room alone—too nervous to bear witnesses—to take the pudding up and bring it
15 in....

Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the
greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that
now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the
quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought
20 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.

At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire
made up. The compound in the jug being tasted, and considered perfect, apples and
oranges were put upon the table, and a shovel-full of chestnuts on the fire. Then all
25 the Cratchit family drew round the hearth, in what Bob Cratchit called a circle,
meaning half a one; and at Bob Cratchit's elbow stood the family display of glass. Two
tumblers, and a custard-cup without a handle.

These held the hot stuff from the jug, however, as well as golden goblets would have
done; and Bob served it out with beaming looks, while the chestnuts on the fire
sputtered and cracked noisily. Then Bob proposed:

"A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!"

Which all the family re-echoed.

"God bless us every one!" said Tiny Tim, the last of all.

How does Dickens ensure his key message of social responsibility is understood?

Stave 3 – Ignorance and Want

- 1 “Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask,” said Scrooge, looking intently at the Spirit’s robe, “but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?”
- 5 “It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it,” was the Spirit’s sorrowful reply. “Look here.”
- 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.
- 10 They were a boy and 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.
- 15 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.
- 20 “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 bide the end!”
- 25 “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?”
- 30 The bell struck twelve.

How does Dickens use Scrooge's changed outlook as a lesson to Victorian society?

Stave 5 – Scrooge Description

- 1 Yes! and the bedpost was his own. The bed was his own, the room was his own. Best and happiest of all, the Time before him was his own, to make amends in!

"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!" Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed. "The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and
5 the Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, old Jacob; on my knees!"

He was so fluttered and so glowing with his good intentions, that his broken voice would scarcely answer to his call. He had been sobbing violently in his conflict with the Spirit, and his face was wet with tears.

"They are not torn down," cried Scrooge, folding one of his bed-curtains in his arms,
10 "they are not torn down, rings and all. They are here—I am here—the shadows of the things that would have been, may be dispelled. They will be. I know they will!"

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.

15 "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!"

20 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!"

25 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!

"I don't know what day of the month it is!" said Scrooge. "I don't know how long I've been among the Spirits. I don't know anything. I'm quite a baby. Never mind. I don't care. I'd rather be a baby. Hallo! Whoop! Hallo here!"...

30 Running to the window, he opened it, and put out his head. No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; Golden sunlight; Heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious! Glorious!

How does Dickens present the 3 Christmas Ghosts?

Christmas Past

- “like a **child**: yet not so like a child as like an **old man**”
- “It wore a tunic of the purest **white**”
- “from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear **jet of light**”
- Constantly changing form/shape-“ now with **one leg**, now with **twenty legs**”
- “Its legs and feet...were, like those upper members, **bare**”

Christmas Present

- “to form a kind of **throne**, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn...” - long list of food that the ghost’s throne sits on.
- “bore a **glowing torch**, in shape not unlike Plenty’s horn... to shed its **light** on Scrooge”
- “**genial** face, its **sparkling** eye, its **open** hand, its **cheery** voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its **joyful** air”
- “an antique scabbard; but **no sword** was in it, and the ancient **sheath** was eaten up with **rust**.”
- Its ‘**bare**’ chest visible beneath its top, and its feet were ‘**bare**’.

Christmas Yet to Come

- “**solemn** Phantom, draped and **hooded**, coming, like a mist along the ground”
- “slowly, gravely, silently, approached”
- “**shrouded** in a deep black garment, which **concealed** its head, its face, its form”
- “the Spirit neither **spoke** nor moved”



WAGOLL Analytical Paragraph – Grouping evidence

Q: How does Dickens present the Ghost of Christmas Past?

- 1 Dickens presents the Ghost of Christmas Past as strange and mysterious, emphasising its supernatural and symbolic nature. This is shown through the descriptions “child”, “old man”, “one leg” and “twenty legs”, which suggest that the spirit is both young and old and constantly changing at the same time. The noun “child” has connotations of
- 5 innocence and purity, linking to memories from the past, while “old man” suggests wisdom and experience, implying that the past contains both lessons and emotional growth. This juxtaposition makes the reader feel unsettled and highlights the ghost’s unusual appearance. Similarly, the contrast between “one leg” and “twenty legs” adds to this confusion, suggesting that the spirit is unstable and difficult to fully understand,
- 10 reflecting how memories can shift and change over time. Dickens presents the ghost in an allegorical way, as it represents the complex and powerful nature of memory and the past. This would remind a Victorian audience of the importance of reflection and learning from earlier experiences in order to improve morally. Therefore, Dickens presents the Ghost of Christmas Past as a confusing and allegorical figure who
- 15 represents the changing and significant nature of memory.



Practice Question 1

Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol

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

In this extract, the narrator is describing Scrooge's character.

1 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,
5 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.

10 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.

15 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
20 courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, 'No eye at all is better than an
evil eye, dark master!'

But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the
crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the
knowing ones call 'nuts' to Scrooge.

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents Scrooge as an unlikable and
isolated character.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge as unlikable and isolated in the novel as a whole



Practice Question 2

Read the following extract from Chapter 3 of A Christmas Carol and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Present is about to leave Scrooge

- 1 “Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask,” said Scrooge, looking intently at the Spirit’s robe, “but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?”
- “It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it,” was the Spirit’s sorrowful reply. “Look here.”
- 5 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 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
- 10 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
- 15 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
- 20 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 bide 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
- 25 there no workhouses?”
- The bell struck twelve.

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the suffering of the poor in A Christmas Carol.

Write about:

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

How does Dickens use symbolism across the novella?

WAGOLL Analytical Paragraph – Symbolism

Q: How does Dickens use fire as a symbol throughout the novella?

- 1 Dickens presents fire as a powerful symbol of warmth, generosity and moral character throughout 'A Christmas Carol'. This is clear in the contrast between "a very small fire indeed", "fuel was heaped upon the fire" and "the brightness of the roaring fires". The adjective "small" in Scrooge's fire suggests not only a lack of physical warmth but also
- 5 emotional coldness and selfishness, reflecting his isolated and ungenerous nature. In contrast, the verb "heaped" in Fezziwig's fire implies abundance and willingness to give, showing how his generosity creates joy and comfort for others. The imagery of "roaring fires" on Christmas Day suggests powerful, lively warmth spread across society, symbolising communal happiness and kindness. Dickens uses this contrast in
- 10 fire imagery to highlight the difference between selfishness and generosity, encouraging the reader to admire characters who share warmth with others. This reflects Dickens' intention to criticise the lack of compassion in Victorian society and promote the importance of charity and goodwill. Therefore, fire is presented as a symbol that reflects characters' moral values, showing the contrast between Scrooge's
- 15 coldness and the warmth of a more generous society.

Light as a symbol

- 'Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it' – Stave 1
- Ghost of Christmas Past had a 'bright clear jet of light' coming from its head – Stave 2
- Fezziwig's 'calves were shining in every part of the room.' - Stave 2
- Fred and Ghost of Christmas Present have eyes that 'sparkled' – Stave 3

**WAGOLL Full Answer**

1 In Victorian England, many people lived in poverty and there was increasing concern about how
the wealthy treated the poor, with some behaving in a callous and uncaring way. Dickens, who
experienced hardship in his own life, wanted to encourage readers to think about their
behaviour and become more philanthropic in their attitudes towards others. Therefore, in 'A
5 *Christmas Carol*', Dickens presents the idea that actions have consequences by showing how
avaricious and selfish behaviour leads to suffering, while kindness can lead to redemption and
positive change.

In the extract, Dickens shows that Marley's actions have serious consequences through the
image of his punishment. Marley says, "I wear the chain I forged in life," which uses a metaphor
10 to show that his suffering has been caused by his own choices. The verb "forged" suggests that
he created the chain himself, meaning he is responsible for his fate, just as his avaricious
lifestyle has led to this punishment. Dickens also describes how the chain was made "link by
link," implying that every small selfish action added to his punishment over time. This makes the
reader realise that actions build up and cannot be escaped. The repetition in "I cannot rest, I
15 cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere" shows that his punishment is endless, creating a sense of
fear and reinforcing the consequences of living a callous life without compassion. Dickens uses
Marley as a warning to show that if people live selfishly, they will face serious consequences.

Elsewhere in the novella, Dickens presents the consequences of society's actions through the
figures of Ignorance and Want. When the Ghost of Christmas Present reveals them, they are
20 described as "yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish," showing how badly they have been
affected by neglect. These children represent what happens when society behaves in a callous
way and ignores the poor, suggesting that poverty leads to suffering and danger. The adjective
"wolfish" has connotations of something animal-like and threatening, which implies that these
problems could grow worse if they are not addressed. It also adds to Dickens' commentary on
25 the dehumanisation of the poor by society. Dickens uses this moment to criticise those who are
unwilling to act in a philanthropic way, suggesting that failing to help others will result in serious
consequences for society as a whole.

Dickens also shows that actions have consequences through Scrooge's vision of his own death in
Stave 4. When Scrooge dies, people react coldly, with one man saying he will only attend the
30 funeral if lunch is provided. This shows that Scrooge's avaricious behaviour has led to a lack of
care or respect from others. The fact that his belongings are stolen and sold highlights how little
people valued him in life, reinforcing the consequences of a selfish and isolated existence. This
shocks both Scrooge and the reader, making it clear that a life without kindness leads to
loneliness, even in death. However, this moment also encourages Scrooge's desire for
35 redemption, as he realises he still has time to change. Dickens uses this to show that while
actions have consequences, it is possible to avoid them by becoming more generous and
compassionate.

WAGOLL Full Answer – Linking Ideas Cohesively

- 1 In Victorian England, many people lived in poverty and there was increasing concern about how the wealthy treated the poor, with some behaving in a callous and uncaring way. Dickens, who experienced hardship in his own life, wanted to encourage readers to think about their behaviour and become more philanthropic in their attitudes towards others. Therefore, in *A Christmas Carol*,
- 5 Dickens presents the idea that actions have consequences by showing how avaricious and selfish behaviour leads to suffering, while kindness can lead to redemption and positive change.
- In the extract, Dickens introduces this idea through Marley's punishment, showing immediately that people are responsible for the consequences of their own actions. Marley states, "I wear the chain I forged in life," using the metaphor of the chain to demonstrate that his suffering has been caused by
- 10 his own avaricious choices. The verb "forged" emphasises that, like Scrooge, he created his fate himself, reinforcing Dickens' message about personal responsibility. This idea is developed further through "link by link," suggesting that many small, callous actions built up over time into a permanent punishment. The repetition in "I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere" highlights the endless nature of his suffering, creating fear and reinforcing the seriousness of these
- 15 consequences. In this way, Dickens uses Marley as a warning, establishing early in the novella that a selfish life will inevitably lead to regret and punishment if there is no change.
- Dickens then extends this idea beyond the individual through the presentation of Ignorance and Want, showing that callous behaviour has consequences not just for one person, but for society as a whole. The children are described as "yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish," which highlights
- 20 the suffering caused by neglect. This links back to Marley's chain, as just as his punishment was built "link by link," these figures are the result of repeated social neglect and a lack of philanthropic action. The adjective "wolfish" suggests something dangerous and uncontrollable, implying that ignoring these problems will lead to greater harm in the future. It also adds to Dickens' commentary on the dehumanisation of the poor by society. By developing his earlier warning, Dickens suggests
- 25 that consequences are not only personal but collective, and that a society driven by avarice will ultimately damage itself. This reinforces his message that people must act with compassion to avoid these growing consequences.
- Finally, Dickens brings these ideas together through Scrooge's vision of his own death, which shows the final consequences of continuing a selfish lifestyle. Like Marley, Scrooge is shown the outcome of his actions, as people respond to his death with indifference, revealing how his avaricious and callous behaviour has left him isolated. The fact that his belongings are stolen and sold mirrors the
- 30 idea of the chain, as it shows the lasting impact of his actions and how little he was valued. This moment clearly connects back to Marley's warning, as Scrooge is essentially seeing the same fate awaiting him. However, unlike Marley, Scrooge is given the chance for redemption, which highlights
- 35 Dickens' more hopeful message that consequences can still be changed through positive action. By choosing to become more philanthropic, Scrooge breaks the pattern established earlier in the novella, proving that while actions do have consequences, individuals still have the power to change their future.

**WAGOLL – Start of an answer**

Q: Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents Scrooge as an unlikable and isolated character.

- 1 In Victorian England, there was growing concern about poverty and the behaviour of wealthy individuals, many of whom were seen as selfish and uncaring towards others. Dickens, influenced by his own experiences of hardship, aimed to criticise this lack of compassion and encourage social responsibility. Therefore, in *A Christmas Carol*,
- 5 Dickens presents Scrooge as an unlikable and isolated character to highlight the dangers of living a selfish, unkind life.

- In this extract, Dickens presents Scrooge as both unlikable and isolated through the use of harsh descriptions and cold imagery. The list “*squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous*” emphasises his extreme avarice, with the repeated verbs
- 10 suggesting he is obsessed with money and unwilling to share, making him appear deeply unpleasant. The adjective “*covetous*” reinforces this greed, showing that his desire for wealth has made him cold and selfish. Dickens also uses the simile “*solitary as an oyster*” to highlight Scrooge’s isolation, suggesting he is closed off from others and emotionally distant. This reflects how his avarice has led him to become callous,
- 15 pushing others away and leaving him completely disconnected from society. Dickens presents Scrooge this way to criticise those in Victorian society who valued money over people, and to show how such behaviour leads to loneliness and unhappiness.