

GCSE Literature Paper 1 Section B Confidence Grid

Literature Paper 1 Section B- A Christmas Carol	Areas to target	Confident
I understand that there will be one question and an extract which I must refer to, BUT I'm also expected to refer to the novella as a whole.		
I have re-read the novella at home.		
I understand each character's role in the story.		
I understand the authorial intentions- why Dickens wrote the novella and what his message is.		
<p>I am familiar with the characters and what they represent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Scrooge – Protagonist (main character). Initially miserly, selfish and cold, he experiences a moral transformation into a charitable philanthropist. • 2. Marley's Ghost - Scrooge's late business partner. Marley symbolises the limitations of a life focused on greed and selfishness. He visits Scrooge in chains to warn him about his own future. • 3. The Cratchits - The face of the poor. Scrooge's kind, mild-mannered clerk who is treated terribly by hi. He is a very poor man with a large family, but the family are still cheery and grateful. • 4. The Ghost of Christmas Past - A figure that is both old and young. Its illuminating head symbolises how shining a light on memories from the past can be used to illuminate one's thoughts and behaviours in the future. • 5. The Ghost of Christmas Present - A majestic jolly giant, who is dressed in a green robe. This ghost shows Scrooge how others spend Christmas, forcing him to contemplate his own solitary existence. • 6. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come - A silent phantom wearing black robes. This ghost presents Scrooge with an ominous view of his own death and the lack of care or love surrounding it. • 7. Tiny Tim- The son of Bob Cratchit and Mrs Cratchit. Tiny Tim is a young boy born with physical disabilities that his family are too poor to have treated, yet he still remains positive. • 8. Fred - Scrooge's nephew. Fred's life is fulfilled through his joy, kindness and interactions with others. He represents the Christmas spirit and is Dicken's mouthpiece. He's also Scrooge's foil. 		
<p>I understand the key themes of the novella:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greed and Poverty - Scrooge represents the selfish middle class who do not share their wealth. Dickens criticises how wealth has become associated with happiness, at the expense of relationships and good will. • Transformation - A moral transformation takes place as the reader witnesses a lonely boy's transformation into a bitter old man, and the efforts to redeem his character. • Family - Scrooge is reminded that being together with family is more important than being miserly and isolated. • Christmas Spirit - Scrooge learns that the true meaning of Christmas is to spend time with loved ones and to be charitable to those less fortunate. 		

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<p>I am aware of the motifs and symbolism within the text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chains - The chains that Scrooge's deceased partner wear are important because of their material. Whereas normal chains are forged from metal, Marley's are constructed from what he valued in life = versions of material wealth. Dickens uses this image to suggest that actions in life may have inescapable consequences even in death. • Fire - The use of fire imagery symbolises greed and generosity. Fuel was an expensive commodity for many so the amount burnt, reflected by the size of a fire, reflected the generosity of a character. The image of small fires at the start reflect the mean-spirited characteristics of Scrooge. By contrast, large fires represent happiness and generosity (such as Fezziwig's party for his employees). • Light - Symbolic of redemption, memories, knowledge, goodness and hope. • The Ghost of Christmas Past - This ghost symbolises the experiences and memories that have made him into the callous person he is today. The spirit's glowing head suggests the location of the memories that Scrooge holds. • Ignorance and Want - These children represent two social issues. While the poor are weighed down by Want, it is clear that Ignorance is more dangerous for society. • Ghost of Christmas Present - This ghost represents generosity and peace, bringing Scrooge visions of feasts. Scrooge's room is transformed to show the contrast between his cold home and abundance of other families. Though the others do not have material wealth, they are rich in happiness and warmth. • Scrooge's gravestone - The gravestone symbolises Scrooge's potential fate if he does not change: a lonely death, inconsequential to those who know him. • Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come - The final spirit, silent and clothed in black, symbolises the uncertainty of fear of the future. The presence is mysterious and without identifiable features, showing that the future is not yet set. 		
<p>I have memorised a few quotations for each character and their significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrooge • Marley's ghost • The Cratchits • The Ghost of Christmas Past • The Ghost of Christmas Present • The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come • Tiny Tim • Fred 		

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<p>I am aware of key vocabulary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miser a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible.• Misanthropist a person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society.• Stave a structure that mimics musical organisation – each stave is a chapter. Could the novella have musical links to make the message Dickens wants to share with his wealthy readers more memorable?• Diatribes a forceful verbal attack against someone or something.• Surplus more than what is needed or used; excess.• Solitary existing alone, secluded.• Benevolent kind, charitable, well-meaning• Avarice extreme greed for wealth or material gain.• Antithesis a person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.• Foil a character whose purpose is to accentuate or draw attention to the qualities of another character• Abundant having plenty of.• Impoverished made poor.• Ominous giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen; threatening.• Resolute admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering.• Repentance sincere regret.• Remorse deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed.• Redemption the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.• Transformation the task of changing who you are and becoming the person you want to be.• Philanthropist a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.• Morality principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour.• Juxtaposition two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect.• Parsimonious – unwilling to spend money or use resources.		

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I understand significant **contextual** issues and that I'll only refer to such things if absolutely relevant to the question.

1. The Poor Law Amendment Act - The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 allowed the poor to receive help only if they went to the workhouse. Workhouses were deliberately made to be miserable to deter the poor from relying on public assistance. The poor had to work for food and accommodation and often the poor would rather die than go to a workhouse.

2. Industrial Revolution - After the invention of steam power, many people moved from rural areas to cities in search of higher paying work. Everything converted from manual labour to machine driven labour, causing a reduction in the amount of people needed for work. This caused increased poverty levels and crime in cities.

3. Poverty - There were still significant distinctions between social classes. Life was terrible for the poorest: lack of money resulted in negligible food supply. For many, money was so tight that they required their children to work in order to survive.

4. Charles Dickens - Dickens was born in 1812 and spent his first years in Kent before moving to London at the age of 9. At 12, his father was sent to debtor's prison and Dickens was sent to label bottles in a factory near the prison.

5. Thomas Malthus - Malthus thought we would never have a truly perfect (or utopian) society, because every time we came close to providing a great standard of life for everyone, the population grew and the process had to start again. He stated that the supply of food could not keep up with the growing population and inevitably, this would lead to famine, disease, war and calamity. Dickens refuted this, he felt there **was** enough to go around (an abundance in fact – as shown by the Ghost of Christmas Present sitting on piles of food) and no one should have to experience extreme hunger. Dickens felt that it was down to those that could do something about it, the wealthy people like Scrooge, to change matters and make the lives of the poor more bearable.

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