



What are you studying over spring?

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

What will you be assessed on?

Assessment objectives (AOs)

A01	Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
A02	Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
A03	Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

Over the term, you will:

- Discuss and analyse CHARACTERS and THEMES.
- Understand how to link your ideas to your knowledge and understanding of the CONTEXT and the writer’s purpose.
- Know how to select the most appropriate quotations.
- Begin to analyse the language, structure and form in detail.

A Christmas Carol themes:

- Family
- Redemption
- Poverty
- Charity
- Greed
- Wealth
- Isolation
- Supernatural
- Guilt

What will the exam look like?

You’ll be given an extract from the novella and asked to use it to answer the question. You will have to address all three assessment objectives in your response.

The question might be something like this:

‘How does Dickens present greed through Scrooge in this extract?’

OR...How does Dickens present the theme of redemption in this extract?

Example response:

Scrooge is shown to be a man who puts money above all else in life. He lives in Marley’s “chambers,” and lets out most of the rooms “as offices.” A home has connotations of safety, warmth, relaxation and comfort. It is typically where people return to after a hard day’s work. However, Scrooge’s “home,” is a place of business suggesting that it’s devoid of the typical things a home gives its occupant. **Furthermore**, his home is described as being surrounded by a bleak, dark atmosphere. The narrator informs us that “the Weather” sits in “mournful meditation,” on the threshold of the property. The use of **pathetic fallacy** here, emphasises the melancholic, negative attitude that Scrooge possesses and the way in which he is not metaphorically living at all, despite his wealth. His life purely revolves around work and financial gain, with no social aspect to it. The weather is described as being “mournful,” implying it is grieving the loss of life that the home he resides in has failed to possess, and the impact that it could have had on the surrounding areas/community. It could therefore be implied that in order for a person to be happy and ‘live’ they need companionship and that the pursuit of just wealth, will only bring sadness and gloom, not only to your life but it will also affect those around you, as the weather is affected by Scrooge. **During the Victorian era**, many wealthy Victorians cared little for the plight of the poor and it was commonly believed that wealth equated to happiness and made you a better person. As a result, many suffered in work houses and factories across the country. The owners of such places often focused on personal wealth and gain instead of humanity, just as Scrooge does in Stave 1. **Dickens believed** that these selfish, ignorant people were having a greater impact on society than they realised. Generations of children lost their childhood innocence as a result of child labour and destitution. Dickens wanted to bring about social reform and alert readers that actions have consequences and that they should choose their actions wisely as they can have a greater impact on the world than they realise.



What should you be doing at home over Christmas?

Find out as much as you can about 19th century England- including Thomas Malthus, the Industrial Revolution, workhouses, poverty, the Christmas spirit and Charles Dickens!

Create a poster/Fact File with the most important/relevant information and give this to Ms. Khanum in 206 after the holidays!

Best posters/contextual notes will be used as display in every English classroom!

Family fun:

A Christmas Carol was a novella read out loud as a family, over Christmas. Perhaps you can spend time reading the novella together over Christmas too...

Whilst reading, start thinking about Scrooge and the type of character he appears to be. Think about why Dickens decided to call the novella ‘A Christmas Carol’ and set it at Christmas time.