

A CHRISTMAS CAROL KO

Vocabulary	Definition	Terminology	Definition
Parsimonious	Someone who is greedy with their money	Motif	a theme, subject or idea that runs throughout the novel
Capitalism	When you believe the society and particularly the economy should be privately owned to work to the benefit of the individual	Foil	When one character is the complete opposite to another to highlight certain characteristics.
Sabbatarianism	The widespread practice of spending Sunday going to church and resting.	Pathetic fallacy	Linking of nature and weather to human emotions and moods
Philanthropy	A desire to promote the welfare of others, especially by generous donations to good causes	Allegory	A story that holds a deeper, moral or political meaning
Misanthropy	An active dislike of humankind	Symbolism	the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities
Altruism	The act of being kind and giving to others	Foreshadowing	a hint or suggestion of what might happen later in the story
Ephemeral	Something which is temporary such as the ghosts	Juxtaposition	placing contrasting ideas close together in a text
Penitence	The action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong	Lists	When many things are listed for emphasis
Ominous	The worried feeling that something bad is about to happen	Metaphor	When something is compared to something else
Parable	A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson	Adjectives	A word which describes a noun
		Simile	A comparison of two things using 'like' or 'as'
		Third person narrator	The person telling the story.

SKILLS (AO1, AO2 & AO3)

Analysis using PEAZ:

Point: A clear analytical point which shows insight and clearly answers the question
Evidence: Support with a short quote(s) or example from the text.
Analysis: Make explicit where the quote is from then explain the meaning and effect of the quote(s) you use – both explicit and implicit. Aim for two interpretations per quote.
Zoom in on Language: Zoom in on a specific language choice (use subject terminology) and explore its connotations and effect on the audience. Consider whether a Victorian reader would react differently to a contemporary audience.
Refer to the writer: Evaluate Dickens's motive and how it supports his intended purpose for the play

EXAM REQUIREMENTS - English Literature - Component 2, section B

ESSAY on A Christmas Carol- 45 minutes

**** You must mention context and how it influences the novella****

WHOLE PLAY ESSAY on Christmas Carol – 40 mins - 45 marks

Prioritise your ideas in chronological order.

Intro – using words of the question give an overview that shows insight.

PEAZ 1 - choose a moment from the play to explore with quotes & context

PEAZ 2- choose a 2nd moment from the play to explore with quotes & context

PEAZ 3 - choose a moment from the play to explore with quotes & context

PEAZ 4 – choose a moment to explore with quotes and context

Conclude – Short summary of key insights linked to the question and writer. 2-3 sentences max.

Themes

Redemption	All events in this novella are following the transformation of Scrooge's miserable character at the start to his kind and generous character at the end. In order to escape the horrible fate of Marley, Scrooge must change and atone for his sins against mankind and redeem himself. Scrooge's redemption is foreshadowed by Dickens throughout the novella through small hints such as Scrooge's father's redemption and the transformation of Scrooge's room in Stave three.
Greed	The theme of greed is shown through a few characters in the novella - predominantly we see Scrooge's greed regarding money and wealth as he refuses to part with a single penny for any cause. We also see it through Scrooge's past that greed corrupted Scrooge and led to the end of his relationship with Belle, leaving him to lead an isolated life. We also see the consequences of greed personified in Marley and his heavy chain. Moreover, the poor people who rob Scrooge's house after his death in Stave Four shows how greed leads to immoral and corrupt behaviour across all classes.
Family	The importance of family is central to the story. Dickens shows many examples of loving and supportive families through the Cratchits, Fred, Fan and even Belle's family when she is older. Scrooge must look upon all of these characters and recognise that true happiness does not stem from love of money, but rather love of your fellow man. The Cratchits, in particular, show that they are supportive in spite of serious adversity such as a lack of money or the loss of a child.
Social Responsibility	Dickens wanted his readers to recognise that their actions have consequences on others - particularly the poor. Jacob Marley serves as a symbol for what happens when social responsibility is ignored and even abused. Scrooge soon learns that he has a responsibility to be kind to others as a friend, uncle, employer and as a member of society. As an employer, Scrooge must learn to treat his employees with kindness and dignity, just as Fizziwig treated him. He learns he needs to accept Fred's invitations and be a loving and generous uncle to the family he has left. Through Tiny Tim, we see how Scrooge's actions could mean the difference between life and death for those who are in desperate need.

Stave

Key Moments

1	Scrooge sits in his counting house on a cold Christmas Eve, miserable and cursing everything to do with Christmas; we see he is cruel to his employee Bob Cratchit, his nephew Fred and the charity workers too. At home, he is visited by Jacob Marley who warns him of the need to change his ways otherwise he will endure the same punishment and Marley warns Scrooge about the 3 ghosts coming.
2	Scrooge is taken by the Ghost of Christmas Past, a childlike ghost with a brightly glowing head, back in time to revisit his sad, lonely boarding school days left on his own at Christmas, then a time when his sister Fan came to collect him and he was overjoyed. He is also shown a Christmas Eve when he was the apprentice of Fezziwig, a happy, caring boss. He is also shown the scene where his fiancée, Belle left him, and Belle has a new husband and daughter of her own.
3	Scrooge is next taken by the Ghost of Christmas Present, a majestic giant wearing a green fur robe, through London to see Christmas as it will happen that year. He watches the Cratchit family prepare a miniature feast in their meagre home. He sees Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit's crippled son, and wants to help. He sees Fred's Christmas party, and also countless people around the globe all celebrating Christmas with families. The Ghost ages towards the end of the day, and reveals two starved children, Ignorance and Want, a warning to mankind of not caring for others in society.
4	The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come leads Scrooge through a series of mysterious scenes relating to an unnamed man's recent death. Scrooge sees businessmen discussing the food at the funeral, some uncaring, poor characters trading his belongings, and a poor couple expressing relief because their debt may be transferred to someone more merciful. Finally, the Ghost guides Scrooge to an abandoned old gravestone bearing the name of Ebenezer Scrooge. He begs and pleads with the silent spirit to change his fate, promising to change his ways.
5	Overwhelmed with the chance to redeem himself, Scrooge rushes out on to the street to share his newfound Christmas spirit with everyone he sees. He sends a giant Christmas turkey to the Cratchits, and raises Bob's salary. He attends Fred's Christmas party, and gives a generous sum to the charity collectors. He holds true to his promise and honours Christmas with all his heart, treating Tiny Tim as if he were his own child, providing for the poor, and treating fellow human beings with kindness, generosity and warmth.

Characters	Characteristics	Quotes	Context 19th Century London:
Scrooge	Protagonist –An old parsimonious man who discovers the message of Christmas. Before: <i>miserly, malevolent, misanthropist</i> After: <i>philanthropist, penitent, benevolent and redeemed.</i>	Before: ‘Hard and sharp as flint [...] as solitary as an oyster’ (Stave 1) Scrooge is a cold-hearted and mean man who isolates himself from others. However, oyster simile also foreshadows the ending as the pearl inside the oyster shows that there is something pure and good left deep inside of him. ‘Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?’ (Stave 1) Scrooge uses these horrible institutions as a reason not to donate to the charity workers, and they echo what many Victorian readers would have thought, he is ignorant or worse, does not care that they are vile places. ‘If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population’ (Stave 1) Scrooge’s words here exemplify his heartless attitude towards helping the poor- these words are also repeated to Scrooge when he sees Tiny Tim and Scrooge learns the poor are not a ‘mass’ problem, but they are individuals in need of help. After: ‘I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach’ (Stave 4) Scrooge shows he has truly changed at this point by accepting the lessons of the spirits and learning the true morals and values of Christmas which he will use to redeem himself if given a second chance. ‘He did it all and became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew.’ (Stave 5) Scrooge succeeds in changing his ways and transforms into a generous philanthropist who embodies all the values and morals he was taught by the spirits to the benefit of mankind.	Industrial Revolution lead to a huge population increase in London in Victorian Britain. Overcrowding. Large supply of labour meant employers could pay low wages. ¼ of population living in poverty. No welfare state to provide benefits for poor. Charity was vital.
Bob Cratchit & Cratchit family	Scrooge’s long suffering clerk. His family survive on very little but are close, supportive and happy: <i>emblematic, impoverished and debilitated & vulnerable</i>	‘The clerk’s fire was so very much smaller that it looked like only one coal’ (Stave 1) Bob suffers under Scrooge and is not even allowed a decent fire to keep warm, but he continues to work diligently. ‘Tiny Tim hoped the people saw him in the church because he was a cripple, and remember upon Christmas day, who made lame beggars walk and blind men see’ (Stave 3) Tiny Tim shows he is quite thoughtful and serves as a symbol to being giving towards those who are less fortunate. His sweet and vulnerable character help Scrooge to see that he has a duty and moral responsibility to help the poor. ‘Mrs Cratchit made the gravy hissing hot...Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple sauce’ (Stave 3) We see that the Cratchits each have a job to do when getting the house ready for Christmas dinner; they work together and support each other. ‘Mr Scrooge. I’d give him a piece of my mind. An odious, stingy, hard , unfeeling man’ (Stave 3) Mrs Cratchit expresses her anger at how Scrooge treats Bob and how Bob’s poor salary means that they are more impoverished than they might otherwise be.	There was a huge divide between the rich and the poor. The Poor Law 1834- it reduced financial help available to the poor. All unemployed people had to enter a workhouse
Jacob Marley	Scrooge’s former business partner, now deceased. He appears as a ghost: <i>remorseful, repentant and tortured</i>	The same face; the very same’ (Stave 1) Marley had to be recognisable to Scrooge to make Scrooge listen to the warning he foretold and to make Scrooge take this chance at redemption seriously. ‘I wear the chain I forged in life...The chain was made up of cash boxes...ledgers...heavy purses’ (Stave 1) The chain is a symbol of Marley’s sin of greed. ‘I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger’. (Stave 1) Marley is in eternal purgatory and is forced to always keep moving. ‘Mankind was my business’ (Stave 1) Marley realises what he should have focused on was people and not monetary gain.	Workhouses were horrible places where the work was physically demanding, long hours and families split up.
The Ghost of Christmas Past	The ghost that arrives first and symbolises the truth in Scrooge’s memories: <i>ephemeral, contradictory,</i>	‘It was a strange figure- like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man.’ (Stave 2) The spirit is very contradictory and symbolises how our past informs our future. ‘Would you so soon put out the light I give?’ (Stave 2) Scrooge shies away from the bright light coming from the ghost showing how he is not ready to look upon the lessons of the past yet. ‘A solitary child, neglected by his friends is left there still – Scrooge sobbed’ (Stave 2) The first time we see real emotion from Scrooge and we feel sorry for the abandoned and unloved child he once was. ‘I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now. That’s all.’ (Stave 2) We see that Scrooge is starting to change as he wishes to acknowledge and even praise Bob for his hard work.	Context Dickens life and influences
The Ghost of Christmas Present	The ghost that resembles a jolly giant and teaches Scrooge about generosity and the Christmas Spirit: <i>joyful, prophetic, sincere</i>	‘A jolly giant who bore a glowing torch with a cheery voice and a joyful air’ (Stave 3) This ghost is the Christmas spirit personified; he is happy and infects those around him with warmth and generosity. ‘It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle bordered with white fur.’ (Stave 3) This ghost is reminiscent of Father Christmas to show he symbolises the Christmas spirit in giving to others. ‘I see a vacant seat. The child will die’ (Stave 3) The spirit is prophetic and shows Scrooge that without intervention, Tiny Tim will die. ‘Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be the sight of heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man’s child.’ (Stave 3) The ghost shows Scrooge how he is not deserving of the life he leads when others like Tony Tim suffer. ‘They are Man’s. This boy is ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware for I see that written which is Doom.’ (Stave 3) The two impoverished children which cling to this ghost represent society’s problems and how if they continue to go ignored by mankind, they will lead to the downfall of society.	Dickens used conventions from the Gothic genre – death, spirits, supernatural, ghost stories were popular at Christmas time. Dickens’s father ran up huge debts, and got sent to a debtors’ prison.
The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come	The ghost who resembles the grim reaper: <i>ominous, portentous, disquieting</i>	‘It was shrouded in a deep black garment...left nothing visible except one outstretched hand.’ (Stave 4) This ghost is mysterious and ominous in its presence and resembles the grim reaper - a figure which Victorian readers would associate with death. ‘Ghost of the Future. As I know your purpose it to do me good, I am prepared to bear you company with a thankful heart.’ (Stave 4) Scrooge is ready for his final lesson. ‘I am sure we shall none of us forget Tiny Tim.’ (Stave 4) In contrast to Scrooge, we see how hard the death of Tiny Tim hits the Cratchit family. ‘He read upon the stone of the neglected grave his own name, Ebenezer Scrooge.’ (Stave 4) Scrooge finally realises the horrifying consequences of his actions.	Dickens then taken out of school and sent to a Blacking factory at age 12.Terrible conditions. Cruel employers. Low pay.
Belle	Scrooge’s one time fiancée who left him due to his obsession with money: <i>dignified, matron</i>	‘Another idol has displaced me...a golden one’ (Stave 1) Belle recognizes that Scrooge’s affections for her have changed as he has become more obsessed with money. ‘I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you.’ (Stave 1) Greed has corrupted Scrooge over the years. ‘Our contract is an old one.’ (Stave 1) Belle speaks in monetary terms about their relationship because that is how Scrooge views it now. ‘May you be happy in the life you have chosen’ (Stave 1) Belle shows she is kind and dignified in her actions ‘Now a comely matron sitting opposite her daughter.’ (Stave 1) We see Belle happy in her later years and she represents the loving family Scrooge might have had.	Dickens was against Sabbatarianism as it deprived the poor of enjoyment on their one day of rest. Everywhere was closed too so they could not get a warm meal.
Fred	Scrooge’s nephew. Fan’s son: <i>genial, affable, beneficent and antithesis</i>	What reason have you to be morose? You’re rich enough.’ (Stave 1) Fred argues with Scrooge about the value of Christmas and questions how much happiness money brings. ‘I have always thought of Christmas as a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time.’ (Stave 1) Fred echoes Dickens’s voice here about the importance of the Christmas spirit as a time for being generous and kind to others. ‘Scrooge’s offences carry their own punishment. Who suffers? Himself!’ (Stave 1) Fred recognises that Scrooge will pay a high price for isolating himself from everyone.	Dickens believed lack of education was the route of poverty and so to help tackle this issue in society he later worked in Ragged schools.
Minor Characters	Fezziwig –Scrooge’s old boss: <i>altruistic</i> Fan – Scrooge’s sister: <i>sprited</i> Mrs Dilber, The Landress and Joe: <i>savage</i>	FEZZIWIG –‘He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome. The happiness he gives is...as if it cost a fortune.’ (Stave 1) Fezziwig represents what a good employer should be and shows Scrooge how he should give back to his employees. FAN – ‘I have come to bring you home dear brother, home, home, home!’ (Stave 1) Through Fan, we learn that Scrooge was once dearly loved and it must have been extremely painful for him when she died. We also learn that Scrooge’s father kept Scrooge away from the family and this helps to partially explain why Scrooge behaves the way he does. LAUNDRESS- ‘He’d have had somebody to look after him when he was struck by death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself’ (Stave 4) We see that Scrooge died alone with no one to comfort him- a horrible death which anyone would wish to avoid.	Many of our Xmas traditions come from Dickens’s descriptions in the novella e.g. turkey at Christmas, celebrating with family and most of all being generous at Christmas.