

# PiXL Independence

## English Literature – Student Booklet

KS4

### A Christmas Carol

#### Contents:

- I. Multiple Choice Questions – 10 credits per set
- II. Short Answer Questions – 10 credits per question
- III. Context Quiz – 20 credits
- IV. Wider Reading – 20 credits for each summary completed
- V. Academic Reading – 50 credits for each 300-word response completed
- VI. Exam Style Questions – 80 credits plus 20 bonus credits for marking your own essay

## I. Multiple Choice Questions

Answer these questions - you could choose to do each quiz separately, or multiple at one time.

*10 credits for each set of 10 questions answered.*

### Quiz 1 - Context:

1. When was Dickens born?
  - a. 1912
  - b. 1812
  - c. 1813
  - d. 1814
  
2. Who was queen during this time?
  - a. Elizabeth I
  - b. Elizabeth II
  - c. Victoria
  - d. Mary
  
3. How old was Dickens when his father was imprisoned?
  - a. 10
  - b. 11
  - c. 12
  - d. 13
  
4. Where did he work?
  - a. A blacking factory
  - b. The workhouse
  - c. An orphanage
  - d. As a chimney sweep
  
5. How old was Dickens when he completed his first novel?
  - a. 24
  - b. 25
  - c. 26
  - d. 27

6. What was his first novel called?
- a. Hard Times
  - b. A Christmas Carol
  - c. Pickwick Papers
  - d. Great Expectations
7. When was *A Christmas Carol* written?
- a. 1843
  - b. 1833
  - c. 1844
  - d. 1830
8. What was the major religion of the time?
- a. Buddhism
  - b. Hinduism
  - c. Islam
  - d. Christianity
9. Which revolution took place which greatly influenced Dickens?
- a. The French Revolution
  - b. The Industrial Revolution
  - c. The American Revolution
  - d. The Reformation
10. What was Dickens an advocate for?
- a. Education for the poor
  - b. Education for the rich
  - c. Education for girls
  - d. No education

## Quiz 2 - Who said that?

1. "God bless, everyone!"
  - a. Scrooge
  - b. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - c. Tiny Tim
  - d. Fred
  
2. "I am sorry for [Scrooge]. I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims? Himself always."
  - a. Scrooge's nephew
  - b. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - c. Ghost of Christmas Past
  - d. Narrator
  
3. "And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!"
  - a. Scrooge
  - b. Mrs Crachit
  - c. Narrator
  - d. Scrooge's nephew
  
4. "Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!"
  - a. Mrs Crachit
  - b. Narrator
  - c. Scrooge's nephew
  - d. Jacob Marley
  
5. "What! Would you so soon put out, with worldly hands, the light I give?"
  - a. Narrator
  - b. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - c. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
  - d. Ghost of Christmas Past

6. "Bah Humbug"
  - a. Scrooge
  - b. Fred
  - c. Belle
  - d. Tiny Tim
  
7. "No space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused."
  - a. Ghost of Christmas Past
  - b. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
  - c. Ghost of Christmas Present
  - d. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  
8. "Now a comely Matron sitting next to her suitor."
  - a. Fred
  - b. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - c. Belle
  - d. Narrator
  
9. "Scrooge's offences carry their own punishment! Who suffers? Himself!"
  - a. Fred
  - b. Belle
  - c. Narrator
  - d. Bob Crachit
  
10. "To a poor one most. Because it needs it the most"
  - a. Ghost of Christmas Past
  - b. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
  - c. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - d. Ghost of Christmas Present

### Quiz 3 - Who am I?

1. Who is described as 'dead as a door-nail'?
  - a. Scrooge
  - b. Tiny Tim
  - c. Bob Cratchit
  - d. Jacob Marley
  
2. Who is described as 'cold-hearted, self-deluded, ill-mannered'?
  - a. Ghost of Christmas past
  - b. Ghost of Christmas present
  - c. Scrooge
  - d. Jacob Marley
  
3. Who raises a toast to Scrooge on Christmas day?
  - a. Ghost of Christmas present
  - b. Bob Cratchit
  - c. Fred
  - d. Scrooge
  
4. Who refuses to let Scrooge ruin their Christmas spirit?
  - a. Fred
  - b. Belle
  - c. Fan
  - d. Mrs Cratchit
  
5. After Belle broke off Scrooge's engagement to her what did she do?
  - a. Died
  - b. Became a spinster
  - c. Married another man
  - d. Left for France
  
6. Who is the eldest Cratchit child?
  - a. Martha
  - b. Fred
  - c. Peter
  - d. Tim

7. What type of character is the Ghost of Christmas past?
  - a. Father Christmas
  - b. Young and old
  - c. Angry
  - d. Dark and gloomy
  
8. What type of character is the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?
  - a. Happy and loud
  - b. Silent and dark
  - c. Candle
  - d. Father Christmas
  
9. Who becomes like a second father to Tiny Tim?
  - a. Marley
  - b. Ghost of Christmas present
  - c. Scrooge
  - d. Father Christmas
  
10. Who is Scrooge's Clerk?
  - a. Tiny Tim
  - b. Marley
  - c. Bob Cratchit
  - d. Belle

#### Quiz 4 - Stave 1:

1. How is Scrooge described at the start of the novella?
  - a. As solitary as a lobster
  - b. As solitary as a ghost
  - c. As solitary as an oyster
  - d. As solitary as a clam
  
2. Who invites Scrooge to Christmas dinner?
  - a. Bob Cratchit
  - b. Fred
  - c. Belle
  - d. Ghost of Christmas present
  
3. What does the sign outside the counting house say?
  - a. Scrooge Counting House
  - b. Marley Counting House
  - c. Counting House
  - d. Scrooge and Marley
  
4. How many years ago did Jacob Marley die?
  - a. 10 years
  - b. 1 year
  - c. 7 years
  - d. 5 years
  
5. Who does Scrooge refuse to help?
  - a. The Charity Workers
  - b. Bob Cratchit
  - c. His sister
  - d. His nephew
  
6. Where did Scrooge see Marley's ghost appear?
  - a. The window
  - b. The fireplace
  - c. The doorknob
  - d. The mirror



7. Why does Jacob Marley's ghost visit Scrooge?
- a. To warn him of his fate if he continues to act in this cruel manner
  - b. To tell him he misses him
  - c. To kill him
  - d. To ask for his help
8. What did Scrooge do after Marley's ghost left?
- a. Ran out of the house
  - b. Cried
  - c. Went to sleep
  - d. Called Bob Cratchit
9. What was wrapped around Marley's ghost?
- a. A plain chain
  - b. A chain made of cash-boxes and padlocks
  - c. A chain made of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and steel purses
  - d. A chain made of keys, padlocks and steel purses
10. What time did Marley say the spirits would come and visit Scrooge?
- a. 12 o'clock
  - b. 9 o'clock
  - c. 1 o'clock
  - d. 10 o'clock

### Quiz 5 - Stave 2:

1. What was strange about time at the start of Stave 2?
  - a. It moved slowly
  - b. It moved very quickly
  - c. It became still
  - d. There was no time
  
2. In what type of voice does the Ghost of Christmas Past speak?
  - a. Deep and dark
  - b. Soft and gentle
  - c. Angry and stern
  - d. Laughing and happy
  
3. What was strange about the Ghost of Christmas Past?
  - a. It looked like a child
  - b. Its long and muscular arms
  - c. The bright, glowing crown on its head
  - d. Its voice
  
4. What did the Ghost of Christmas Past hold in its hand?
  - a. A bell
  - b. A clock
  - c. A branch of fresh green holly
  - d. A candle
  
5. Why was Scrooge scared when the ghost asked him to walk?
  - a. He was afraid of the ghost
  - b. He thought he would fall
  - c. He didn't want to wake up
  - d. He thought it was a nightmare
  
6. Where does the Ghost of Christmas Past first take Scrooge?
  - a. To his school
  - b. To Belle's house
  - c. To his home
  - d. To Scrooge and Marley's counting house

7. Who does Scrooge meet that makes him feel sad?
- a. His nephew
  - b. His daughter
  - c. His sister
  - d. His mother
8. What did Mr Fezziwig do on Christmas?
- a. He made Scrooge work on Christmas
  - b. He had a big party and celebration
  - c. He had a quiet gathering with only his family
  - d. He went on holiday
9. When Scrooge sees himself as a young clerk, who does he think of?
- a. Fred
  - b. Tiny Tim
  - c. Bob Cratchit
  - d. Jacob Marley
10. Why did Belle leave Scrooge?
- a. He became greedy and selfish
  - b. He had an affair
  - c. She was in love with someone else
  - d. Her family did not like Scrooge

### Quiz 6 - Stave 3:

1. How did the spirit appear?
  - a. With a loud bell ringing at the foot of Scrooge's bed
  - b. He was waiting in the other room
  - c. Bursting through the window
  - d. Silently appeared at the foot of Scrooge's bed
  
2. How did Scrooge feel about meeting the second spirit?
  - a. He was excited to see the second spirit
  - b. He was nervous and scared and wanted to hide away
  - c. He was waiting for the spirit to confront him
  - d. He was angry and annoyed and wanted to fight the spirit
  
3. What colour was the second spirit's robe?
  - a. Red
  - b. White
  - c. Black
  - d. Green
  
4. Whose house does the spirit first take Scrooge to see?
  - a. Bob Cratchit's
  - b. Belle's
  - c. Fan's
  - d. Jacob Marley's
  
5. What are the names of the starving children who travel with the spirit under his robe?
  - a. Jacob and Scrooge
  - b. Ignorance and Need
  - c. Ignorance and Greed
  - d. Ignorance and Want
  
6. The Ghost of Christmas Present sits upon a throne of ....?
  - a. Gold
  - b. Presents
  - c. Swords
  - d. Food

7. What is Mrs Cratchit preparing when Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present arrive?
- a. A chicken
  - b. A duck
  - c. A goose
  - d. A turkey
8. Whose other house does the Ghost of Christmas Present take Scrooge to?
- a. Belle's
  - b. Fan's
  - c. Scrooge's
  - d. Fred's
9. Where else does the Ghost of Christmas Present take Scrooge?
- a. A hospital
  - b. A prison
  - c. A school
  - d. A ship
10. How many brothers does the Ghost of Christmas Present tell Scrooge he has?
- a. More than 100
  - b. More than 1200
  - c. More than 1800
  - d. More than 2000

### Quiz 7 - Stave 4:

1. What does Scrooge do when the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come appears?
  - a. Cries
  - b. Kneels
  - c. Runs away
  - d. Laughs
  
2. What is the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come wearing?
  - a. A deep black garment
  - b. A woolly coat
  - c. A fluffy jumper
  - d. A long, navy cloak
  
3. What is the first place the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge?
  - a. The stock exchange
  - b. Pawnbroker's
  - c. The Cratchit's house
  - d. Belle's house
  
4. What are the vagabonds doing when Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come visits the pawnshop?
  - a. Celebrating Christmas
  - b. Bad mouthing Scrooge
  - c. Selling stolen goods
  - d. Stealing from the shop
  
5. How does Scrooge feel when he goes into the bedroom?
  - a. Paralysed
  - b. Happy
  - c. Disgusted
  - d. Indifferent
  
6. How did the family feel hearing of the death of this man?
  - a. Excited
  - b. Sad
  - c. Depressed
  - d. Relieved

7. What has happened to Tiny Tim?
- a. He can walk
  - b. He has died
  - c. He has left home
  - d. He has been adopted
8. What is written on the gravestone in the graveyard?
- a. Ebenezer Scrooge
  - b. Fred
  - c. Jacob Marley
  - d. Scrooge
9. What type of voice does the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come have?
- a. A grumpy voice
  - b. A sad voice
  - c. He was silent
  - d. A happy voice
10. What does Scrooge beg the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come to undo?
- a. Honouring Christmas
  - b. His nightmarish vision
  - c. Crying for mercy
  - d. Moralising the lesson of past, present and future

### Quiz 8 - Stave 5:

1. What is the title of Stave 5?
  - a. The Start of it
  - b. The Middle of it
  - c. The End of it
  - d. The Beginning of it
  
2. What does Scrooge fold over his arm?
  - a. His bed clothes
  - b. His bed curtains
  - c. His robes
  - d. His teddy
  
3. How does Scrooge feel about realising he's alive?
  - a. Sad
  - b. Excited
  - c. Joyful
  - d. Depressed
  
4. What is the weather like?
  - a. Bright
  - b. Foggy
  - c. Misty
  - d. Dark
  
5. What does Scrooge ask the boy to buy?
  - a. A chicken
  - b. A goose
  - c. A ham
  - d. A turkey
  
6. Where does Scrooge ask him to take it?
  - a. Kilburn
  - b. Camden Town
  - c. Southall
  - d. Central London



7. What does Scrooge give to the man who came to the office yesterday?

- a. Tickets to a theatre show
- b. A piece of turkey
- c. A huge donation
- d. An invitation to dinner

8. Whose house does Scrooge go to?

- a. Belle's
- b. Bob Cratchit's
- c. Fred's
- d. Fan's

9. How late was Bob Cratchit on Boxing Day?

- a. 12.5 minutes
- b. 10 minutes
- c. 17 minutes
- d. 18.5 minutes

10. Who does Scrooge become close to?

- a. Fred
- b. Bob Cratchit
- c. Tiny Tim
- d. The Charity Workers

### Quiz 9 - Who said that?

1. "Mr Scrooge. I'd give him a piece of my mind. An odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man."
  - a. Mrs Crachit
  - b. Bob Crachit
  - c. Belle
  - d. Fred
  
2. "Therefore I shall raise your salary."
  - a. Fred
  - b. Jacob Marley
  - c. Belle
  - d. Scrooge
  
3. "Strange to have forgotten it for so many years."
  - a. Ghost of Christmas Present
  - b. Ghost of Christmas Past
  - c. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - d. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
  
4. "Yo ho Ebenezer! Dick! No more work tonight!"
  - a. Fred
  - b. Bob Crachit
  - c. Belle
  - d. Fezziwig
  
5. "I'll send it to Bob Crachit!"
  - a. Scrooge
  - b. Belle
  - c. Fred
  - d. Fezziwig
  
6. "Mankind was my business."
  - a. Ghost of Christmas Past
  - b. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
  - c. Ghost of Jacob Marley
  - d. Ghost of Christmas Present

7. "What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough!"
- Belle
  - Bob Crachit
  - Fezziwig
  - Fred
8. "I see a vacant seat. The Child will die"
- Ghost of Christmas Present
  - Ghost of Christmas Past
  - Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
  - Ghost of Jacob Marley
9. "I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you"
- Fred
  - Mrs Crachit
  - Belle
  - Mrs Dilber
10. "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 they teach."
- Scrooge
  - Fred
  - Tiny Tim
  - Fezziwig

## Quiz 10 - Themes and symbols

1. What theme is covered by Scrooge's change?
  - a. Transformation
  - b. Greed
  - c. Isolation
  - d. Compassion
  
2. At the start of the play it is clear that Scrooge represents...
  - a. Transformation
  - b. Greed
  - c. Isolation
  - d. Compassion
  
3. What is the main message of the novella?
  - a. That we can change
  - b. That we should be more charitable
  - c. That our actions have consequences
  - d. That we should look after ourselves
  
4. Scrooge's status as an outsider shows the importance of...
  - a. Family
  - b. Money
  - c. Yourself
  - d. Time
  
5. What motif is often repeated?
  - a. Mistletoe
  - b. Fire
  - c. Cold
  - d. Fog
  
6. The character of Tiny Tim represents the theme of...
  - a. Transformation
  - b. Greed
  - c. Isolation
  - d. Compassion

7. By the end of the novella Scrooge receives...
- a. Death
  - b. Redemption
  - c. Forgiveness
  - d. More money
8. Scrooge's lack of care at the start of the novella is indicative of...
- a. Social change
  - b. Social injustice
  - c. Transformation
  - d. Compassion
9. What is the significance of Christmas?
- a. Time of taking
  - b. Time of giving
  - c. Time to buy presents
  - d. Time to spend as a family
10. Which theme is Dickens trying to make society take note of?
- a. Transformation
  - b. Isolation
  - c. Responsibility
  - d. Compassion

## II. Short Answer Questions

Answer the questions with a short sentence response.

*10 credits per answer.*

1. When was the novella written?
2. What was Scrooge's character like at the beginning of the novella?
3. What do we learn about Bob Cratchit at the beginning of the novella?
4. In Stave 1 what is the weather like? What effect is created?
5. In Stave 1, why does Scrooge prefer to be in the dark and cold?
6. In Stave 1, who is the first ghost that Scrooge meets?
7. What is the purpose of repeating that Marley is dead?
8. Why do you think we are introduced to the character of Fred at the beginning of the novella?
9. What is the significance of the symbolism of fire and light?
10. How is tension built when Marley's ghost is about to appear?
11. Why do the ghosts suffer most at Christmas time?
12. What is the significance of the chains Marley wears?
13. How does time move in Stave 2?
14. Describe the first of the three Christmas spirits.
15. Find a quotation to show Scrooge is afraid of the light.
16. To what extent does the reader feel sympathy for Scrooge at this point in the novella?
17. Explain how Scrooge's schooling is linked to context.
18. Find a quotation to show Scrooge really loved his sister.
19. In Stave 2, how does Scrooge feel when he sees Fezziwig? What does this suggest?

20. In Stave 2, how does Scrooge feel about his treatment of Bob Cratchit when he sees himself as a young apprentice?
21. Who is the girl that Scrooge was seen with later in the vision? Why is she significant?
22. What has Scrooge replaced love with?
23. How do the visions of his past affect Scrooge?
24. In Stave 3, why does Scrooge not want to sleep at the start?
25. Describe what the second of the three spirits looks like.
26. Find a quotation that shows the second spirit is jolly.
27. Why did everyone seem happy?
28. In Stave 3, when Scrooge questions the spirit about observing rest on Sundays, who is Dickens really criticising?
29. Who does Scrooge think about when he's considering his lack of generosity? Why?
30. In Stave 3, choose two quotations that show the Cratchits are poor.
31. What do you learn about Bob Cratchit's relationships with his children in Stave 3?
32. Describe Tiny Tim.
33. How do the family feel about their meal? What does this imply?
34. Which of the Cratchit family seems to have the most influence on Scrooge?
35. Why does the Cratchit toast have "no heartiness"?
36. Where else does the spirit take Scrooge?
37. What understanding does Fred have of Scrooge's character?
38. Explain the purpose of the two children, Ignorance and Want.
39. Describe what Ignorance and Want look like.
40. What is the second spirit's message/purpose?

41. In Stave 4, how does Scrooge feel about the third spirit? Choose one supporting quotation.
42. How did people feel about Scrooge's death? Why?
43. Find one quotation to show that Scrooge treated his servants badly.
44. How did Scrooge die?
45. How does Scrooge feel knowing that this is his fate if he continues living as he has done?
46. What has happened to Tiny Tim in Stave 4?
47. How has this affected the Cratchit family?
48. To what extent do you think seeing the future affected Scrooge?
49. What promises does Scrooge make at the end of Stave 4?
50. In Stave 5, find one quotation to show how Scrooge feels at being alive.
51. Who is the first person Scrooge meets in Stave 5?
52. What is Scrooge's plan?
53. Where does Scrooge have Christmas dinner? Why?
54. In Stave 5, which word is repeated? What is the effect?
55. Find a quotation which shows Scrooge truly has changed.
56. How does Bob Cratchit feel when Scrooge is 'angry'? What does this suggest?
57. Who did Scrooge become close to in the coming years?
58. To what extent were people willing to forgive Scrooge? Why?
59. What is the moral message of 'A Christmas Carol'?
60. How does Dickens create a circular structure in Stave 5?



### III. Context Quiz

Answer the questions that explore the context of the novella. You will need to draw on your contextual knowledge and wider reading to support you in completing this.

*20 credits for completing this quiz.*

1. How has Dickens' own life influenced the novella?
2. What were the poor laws in 1815? How were these changed in 1834?
3. What is Malthus' theory of population? How is this linked to the novella?
4. What did Victorians think about spiritualism and the supernatural?
5. Why might it have been important that people from all social classes were reading Dickens' work?
6. What was life like in the workhouses?
7. Which family lived in Camden Town- what was it like in Victorian England?
8. When did Dickens complete his first novel? What was it called?
9. What form does 'A Christmas Carol' take? What is the effect?
10. What was Dickens an advocate of?

#### IV. Wider Reading and Summary

Read each of the articles that address key themes, context and ideas within 'A Christmas Carol'. Once you have completed your reading of each, summarise the key learning points into a ten-point summary.

*For each summary that you complete you will gain 20 credits.*

1. Charles Dickens context  
<https://www.bl.uk/people/charles-dickens>
2. Oliver Twist and the workhouse  
<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/oliver-twist-and-the-workhouse>
3. The origins of 'A Christmas Carol'  
<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-origins-of-a-christmas-carol>
4. Charles Dickens' letter on Ragged Schools  
[http://www.infed.org/archives/e-texts/dickens\\_ragged\\_schools.htm](http://www.infed.org/archives/e-texts/dickens_ragged_schools.htm)
5. All change in the Victorian Age  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/speed\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/speed_01.shtml)
6. Crime and the Victorians  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/crime\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/crime_01.shtml)
7. Themes in 'A Christmas Carol'  
<https://www.litcharts.com/lit/a-christmas-carol/themes>
8. Material culture pg 66-83  
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=LU3LiqAQA0kC&oi=fnd&pg=PA66&dq=%27a+christmas+carol%27+%27symbolism&ots=VTE8DaSLy-&sig=wjWEkvxtNFWobZbfbLSS9m8JSyU#v=onepage&q&f=false>

9. Ghost stories: why the Victorians were so spookily good at them  
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/dec/23/ghost-stories-victorians-spookily-good>
  
10. Malthusian theory: explained with its criticism  
<http://www.economicdiscussion.net/articles/malthusian-theory-of-population-explained-with-its-criticism/1521>

## V. Academic Reading and Tasks

Read each of the academic texts below and write a 300-word response to the 'Task Question' for each academic article.

*For each 300-word response that you complete you get 50 credits.*

1. A Christmas Carol and its adaptations... pg 11-22, Fred Guida  
Publisher: McFarland and Company  
[https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=JpvP1yPvsZoC&oi=fnd&pg=PR9&dq=supernatural+in+a+christmas+carol&ots=0\\_nkra5l8\\_&sig=XXSGk7SbCfhX7kySVm1-nStEPfA#v=onepage&q=supernatural%20in%20a%20christmas%20carol&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=JpvP1yPvsZoC&oi=fnd&pg=PR9&dq=supernatural+in+a+christmas+carol&ots=0_nkra5l8_&sig=XXSGk7SbCfhX7kySVm1-nStEPfA#v=onepage&q=supernatural%20in%20a%20christmas%20carol&f=false)  
**TASK QUESTION:** Explore the impact of Dickens' career and his lasting influence.
2. The Victorian Supernatural, Roger Luckhurst  
<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-victorian-supernatural>  
**TASK QUESTION:** How were science and religion intertwined in the Victorian era?
3. The Malthus Factor: Poverty, Politics and Population in Capitalist Development, Eric B. Ross  
<http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk/resource/malthus-factor>  
**TASK QUESTION:** How does Malthus' theory still apply or influence thinking today?
4. Fantastic fiction: a critical reader... Pg 56-58, David Sander  
Publisher: Praeger  
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=-AR9FEgly9wC&oi=fnd&pg=PA56&dq=genre+in+a+christmas+carol&ots=AeDDwli0TY&sig=uCttvyEaf-UN0eeZFvoU8xwXZsg#v=onepage&q&f=false>  
**TASK QUESTION:** What links can you make between fairy tales and Dickens' work?
5. Study and Revise for A Christmas Carol, Chapter 2, Sue Bennett and Dave Stockwin  
Publisher: Hodder Education  
[https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=B5qmCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT51&dq=themes+a+christmas+carol&hl=en&sa=X&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=B5qmCwAAQBAJ&pg=PT51&dq=themes+a+christmas+carol&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)  
**TASK QUESTION:** To what extent does the contextual background in England at the time affect the story of 'A Christmas Carol'?

6. The Victorian Supernatural, Chapter 2, Nicola Bown, Carolyn Burdett, Pamela Thurschwell  
Publisher: CUP  
[https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=zKQV\\_718ROkC&oi=fnd&pg=PA44&dq=ghosts+a+christmas+carol&ots=SV42mmR3AC&sig=feCymryck97ua\\_2affaThwC24jl#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=zKQV_718ROkC&oi=fnd&pg=PA44&dq=ghosts+a+christmas+carol&ots=SV42mmR3AC&sig=feCymryck97ua_2affaThwC24jl#v=onepage&q&f=false)  
**TASK QUESTION:** To what extent did Dickens' interest in ghosts influenced 'A Christmas Carol'?
  
7. Contemporary Dickens... Pg 53-75, Eileen Gillooly and Deirdre David  
Publisher: Ohio State University Press  
[https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/1811/35850/1/Gillooly\\_final4print.pdf](https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/1811/35850/1/Gillooly_final4print.pdf)  
**TASK QUESTION:** How does Dickens advocate his own beliefs and criticise Victorian society through characterisation in 'A Christmas Carol'?
  
8. Dickens and the politics of the family, Pg 68-77, Catherine Waters  
Publisher: CUP  
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=-UvyhKLHUIwC&pg=PA75&dq=the+representation+of+childhood+in+a+christmas+carol&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi9gtbR1tLWAhXEJFAKHcwgBE8Q6AEITDAH#v=onepage&q&f=false>  
**TASK QUESTION:** What do you learn about a typical Victorian Christmas?

## **VI. Exam Style Questions**

Using the knowledge that you have accumulated, use this to inform your writing of these essays – Reading you have done for the wider reading tasks should be included in these essays.

Once completed download the mark scheme and see if you can grade your essay.

*80 credits for each essay completed.*

*20 bonus credits for marking your own essay using the mark scheme.*

You should spend around 45 minutes on each question.

The marks are awarded out of 40.

Remember to include AO1, AO2 and AO3.

You should use the extract and your knowledge of the whole novella to answer each question.

1. Write about Scrooge and the way he changes throughout the novella.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

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, 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 dogdays; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

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.

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 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.

2. Write about how Scrooge presents the theme of charity.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

There's another fellow,' muttered Scrooge; who overheard him: 'my clerk, with fifteen shillings a week, and a wife and family, talking about a merry Christmas. I'll retire to Bedlam.'

This lunatic, in letting Scrooge's nephew out, had let two other people in. They were portly gentlemen, pleasant to behold, and now stood, with their hats off, in Scrooge's office. They had books and papers in their hands, and bowed to him.

'Scrooge and Marley's, I believe,' said one of the gentlemen, referring to his list. 'Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge, or Mr. Marley?'

'Mr. Marley has been dead these seven years,' Scrooge replied. 'He died seven years ago, this very night.'

'We have no doubt his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner,' said the gentleman, presenting his credentials.

It certainly was; for they had been two kindred spirits. At the ominous word 'liberality,' Scrooge frowned, and shook his head, and handed the credentials back.

'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.'

'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.'

'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.'

'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.

'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.'

'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.

'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 returned his labours with an improved opinion of himself, and in a more facetious temper than was usual with him.

3. Explore the way that Dickens presents the character of Bob Cratchit.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

She hurried out to meet him; and little Bob in his comforter—he had need of it, poor fellow—came in. His tea was ready for him on the hob, and they all tried who should help him to it most. Then the two young Cratchits got upon his knees and laid, each child a little cheek, against his face, as if they said, “Don’t mind it, father. Don’t be grieved!”

Bob was very cheerful with them, and spoke pleasantly to all the family. He looked at the work upon the table, and praised the industry and speed of Mrs. Cratchit and the girls. They would be done long before Sunday, he said.

“Sunday! You went to-day, then, Robert?” said his wife.

“Yes, my dear,” returned Bob. “I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you’ll see it often. I promised him that I would walk there on a Sunday. My little, little child!” cried Bob. “My little child!” He broke down all at once. He couldn’t help it. If he could have helped it, he and his child would have been farther apart perhaps than they were.

4. Explore the theme of the supernatural in the novella.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

Now, being prepared for almost anything, he was not by any means prepared for nothing; and, consequently, when the Bell struck One, and no shape appeared, he was taken with a violent fit of trembling. Five minutes, ten minutes, a quarter of an hour went by, yet nothing came. All this time, he lay upon his bed, the very core and centre of a blaze of ruddy light, which streamed upon it when the clock proclaimed the hour; and which, being only light, was more alarming than a dozen ghosts, as he was powerless to make out what it meant, or would be at; and was sometimes apprehensive that he might be at that very moment an interesting case of spontaneous combustion, without having the consolation of knowing it. At last, however, he began to think -- as you or I would have thought at first; for it is always the person not in the predicament who knows what ought to have been done in it, and would unquestionably have done it too -- at last, I say, he began to think that the source and secret of this ghostly light might be in the adjoining room, from whence, on further tracing it, it seemed to shine. This idea taking full possession of his mind, he got up softly and shuffled in his slippers to the door.

The moment Scrooge's hand was on the lock, a strange voice called him by his name, and bade him enter. He obeyed.

It was his own room. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green, that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened. The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there; and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney, as that dull petrification of a hearth had never known in Scrooge's time, or Marley's, or for many and many a winter season gone. Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, red-hot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam. In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see, who bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge, as he came peeping round the door.

'Come in!' exclaimed the Ghost. 'Come in! and know me better, man!'

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit's eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

'I am the Ghost of Christmas Present,' said the Spirit. 'Look upon me!'

Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.

'You have never seen the like of me before?' exclaimed the Spirit.

'Never,' Scrooge made answer to it.

5. Write about the theme of childhood and how it is portrayed throughout the novella.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

'You recollect the way?' inquired the Spirit.

'Remember it!' cried Scrooge with fervour; 'I could walk it blindfold.'

'Strange to have forgotten it for so many years!' observed the Ghost. 'Let us go on.'

They walked along the road, Scrooge recognising every gate, and post, and tree; until a little market-town appeared in the distance, with its bridge, its church, and winding river. Some shaggy ponies now were seen trotting towards them with boys upon their backs, who called to other boys in country gigs and carts, driven by farmers. All these boys were in great spirits, and shouted to each other, until the broad fields were so full of merry music, that the crisp air laughed to hear it.

'These are but shadows of the things that have been,' said the Ghost. 'They have no consciousness of us.'

The jocund travellers came on; and as they came, Scrooge knew and named them every one. Why was he rejoiced beyond all bounds to see them? Why did his cold eye glisten, and his heart leap up as they went past? Why was he filled with gladness when he heard them give each other Merry Christmas, as they parted at cross-roads and bye-ways, for their several homes? What was merry Christmas to Scrooge? Out upon merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?

'The school is not quite deserted,' said the Ghost. 'A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.'

Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

They left the high-road, by a well-remembered lane, and soon approached a mansion of dull red brick, with a little weathercock-surmounted cupola, on the roof, and a bell hanging in it. It was a large house, but one of broken fortunes; for the spacious offices were little used, their walls were damp and mossy, their windows broken, and their gates decayed. Fowls clucked and strutted in the stables; and the coach-houses and sheds were over-run with grass. Nor was it more retentive of its ancient state, within; for entering the dreary hall, and glancing through the open doors of many rooms, they found them poorly furnished, cold, and vast. There was

an earthy savour in the air, a chilly bareness in the place, which associated itself somehow with too much getting up by candle-light, and not too much to eat.

They went, the Ghost and Scrooge, across the hall, to a door at the back of the house. It opened before them, and disclosed a long, bare, melancholy room, made barer still by lines of plain deal forms and desks. At one of these a lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire; and Scrooge sat down upon a form, and wept to see his poor forgotten self as he used to be.

Not a latent echo in the house, not a squeak and scuffle from the mice behind the panelling, not a drip from the half-thawed water-spout in the dull yard behind, not a sigh among the leafless boughs of one despondent poplar, not the idle swinging of an empty store-house door, no, not a clicking in the fire, but fell upon the heart of Scrooge with a softening influence, and gave a freer passage to his tears.

6. Write about the theme of poverty and how it is portrayed throughout the novella.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

They were a boy and a 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. 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.

'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 abide 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 there no workhouses?'"

7. Write about how Dickens creates tension when Scrooge meets each of the ghosts.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

The cellar-door flew open with a booming sound, and then he heard the noise much louder, on the floors below; then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door.

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

His colour changed though, when, without a pause, it came on through the heavy door, and passed into the room before his eyes. Upon its coming in, the dying flame leaped up, as though it cried 'I know him; Marley's Ghost!' and fell again.

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent; so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before; he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

'How now!' said Scrooge, caustic and cold as ever. 'What do you want with me?'

'Much!' -- Marley's voice, no doubt about it.

'Who are you?'

'Ask me who I was.'

'Who were you then?' said Scrooge, raising his voice. 'You're particular, for a shade.' He was going to say 'to a shade,' but substituted this, as more appropriate.



'In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley.'

'Can you -- can you sit down?' asked Scrooge, looking doubtfully at him.

'I can.'

'Do it, then.'

Scrooge asked the question, because he didn't know whether a ghost so transparent might find himself in a condition to take a chair; and felt that in the event of its being impossible, it might involve the necessity of an embarrassing explanation. But the ghost sat down on the opposite side of the fireplace, as if he were quite used to it.

'You don't believe in me,' observed the Ghost.

'I don't.' said Scrooge.

'What evidence would you have of my reality beyond that of your senses?'

'I don't know,' said Scrooge.

8. Write about how Dickens presents Scrooge as an outsider.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

Foggier yet, and colder! Piercing, searching, biting cold. If the good Saint Dunstan had but nipped the Evil Spirit's nose with a touch of such weather as that, instead of using his familiar weapons, then indeed he would have roared to lusty purpose. The owner of one scant young nose, gnawed and mumbled by the hungry cold as bones are gnawed by dogs, stooped down at Scrooge's keyhole to regale him with a Christmas carol: but at the first sound of

`God bless you, merry gentleman!  
May nothing you dismay!'

Scrooge seized the ruler with such energy of action, that the singer fled in terror, leaving the keyhole to the fog and even more congenial frost.

At length the hour of shutting up the counting-house arrived. With an ill-will Scrooge dismounted from his stool, and tacitly admitted the fact to the expectant clerk in the Tank, who instantly snuffed his candle out, and put on his hat.

`You'll want all day to-morrow, I suppose?' said Scrooge.

`If quite convenient, sir.'

`It's not convenient,' said Scrooge, `and it's not fair. If I was to stop half-a-crown for it, you'd think yourself ill-used, I'll be bound?'

The clerk smiled faintly.

`And yet,' said Scrooge, `you don't think me ill-used, when I pay a day's wages for no work.'

The clerk observed that it was only once a year.

`A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!' said Scrooge, buttoning his great-coat to the chin. `But I suppose you must have the whole day. Be here all the earlier next morning.'

The clerk promised that he would; and Scrooge walked out with a growl. The office was closed in a twinkling, and the clerk, with the long ends of his white comforter dangling below his waist (for he boasted no great-coat), went down a slide on Cornhill, at the end of a lane of

boys, twenty times, in honour of its being Christmas Eve, and then ran home to Camden Town as hard as he could pelt, to play at blindman's-buff.

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's-book, went home to bed. He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and frost so hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.

9. Write about how Dickens presents the importance of Christmas time in the novella.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

‘A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!’ cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge’s nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

‘Bah!’ said Scrooge, ‘Humbug!’

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge’s, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again. ‘Christmas a humbug, uncle!’ said Scrooge’s nephew. ‘You don’t mean that, I am sure?’

‘I do,’ said Scrooge. ‘Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.’

‘Come, then,’ returned the nephew gaily. ‘What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You’re rich enough.’

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said ‘Bah!’ again; and followed it up with ‘Humbug.’

‘Don’t be cross, uncle!’ said the nephew.

‘What else can I be,’ returned the uncle, ‘when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What’s Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in ‘em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will,’ said Scrooge indignantly, ‘every idiot who goes about with “Merry Christmas” on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!’

‘Uncle!’ pleaded the nephew.

‘Nephew!’ returned the uncle sternly, ‘keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine.’

‘Keep it!’ repeated Scrooge’s nephew. ‘But you don’t keep it.’

'Let me leave it alone, then,' said Scrooge. 'Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!'

'There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say,' returned the nephew. 'Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round -- apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that -- as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!'

10. Write about how Dickens presents the themes of redemption and forgiveness in the novella.

In your response you should:

- Refer to the extract and novella as a whole.
- Show your understanding of characters and events in the novella.
- Refer to the contexts of the novella.

'Spirit!' he cried, tight clutching at its robe, 'hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope!'

For the first time the hand appeared to shake.

'Good Spirit,' he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it: 'Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!'

The kind hand trembled.

'I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!'

In his agony, he caught the spectral hand. It sought to free itself, but he was strong in his entreaty, and detained it. The Spirit, stronger yet, repulsed him.

Holding up his hands in a last prayer to have his fate aye reversed, he saw an alteration in the Phantom's hood and dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwindled down into a bedpost.

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!

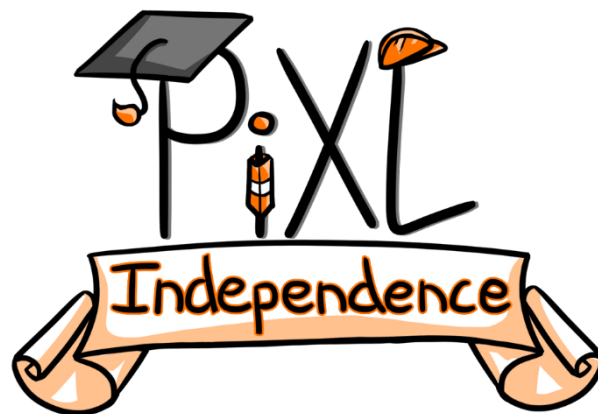
'I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future.' Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed. 'The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, old Jacob, on my knees!'

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, '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.

'I don't know what to do!' cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoon 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!'



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