

OR

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 1 and then answer the questions that follow.

In this extract, Scrooge is meeting Jacob Marley's ghost.

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

"I don't," said Scrooge.

"What evidence would you have of my reality beyond the evidence of your senses?"

"I don't know," said Scrooge.

"Why do you doubt your senses?"

"Because," said Scrooge, "a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of butter, or a piece of stale cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!"

Scrooge was not much in the habit of cracking jokes, nor did he use his heart, by any means waggish then. The truth is, that he tried to find a means of distracting his own attention, and keeping down his terror. The spectre's words disturbed the very marrow in his bones.

To sit, staring at those fixed glazed eyes, in silence for a moment, would play, Scrooge felt, the very deuce with him. There was something very odd, too, in the spectre's being provided with an infernal atmosphere of his own. He did not feel it himself, but this was clearly the case; for though the Ghost sat perfectly still, his hair, and skirts, and tassels, were still agitated as by the hot vapour from an oven.

"You see this toothpick?"

Turning quickly to the charge, for the reason just assigned; and wishing, for a second, to divert the vision's stony gaze from himself.

"I do," replied the Ghost.

"You are not looking at it," said Scrooge.

"But I see it," said the Ghost.

"Well!" returned Scrooge, "I have seen many things in my time, and be for the rest of my days persecuted by a legion of goblins, all of my own creation. Humbug, I tell you! humbug!"

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as deluded?

- How does Dickens present Scrooge in this extract
- How does Dickens present Scrooge as deluded in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

# *A Christmas Carol*

## 14 AQA-style questions on characters

<i>Stave</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Scrooge - deluded
1	Jacob Marley
1	Scrooge - cruel and callous
2	Scrooge - deserving of sympathy
2	Mr Fezziwig
2	Scrooge - as an employer
2	Scrooge - greedy
2	Belle
2	Scrooge - arousing strong feelings in others
3	Fred
3	Tiny Tim
3	The Ghosts
5	Scrooge - capable of redemption
5	Bob Cratchit

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**OR**

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"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.  
"Why do you doubt your senses?"  
"Because," said Scrooge, "a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!"  
Scrooge was not much in the habit of cracking jokes, nor did he feel, in his heart, by any means waggish then. The truth is, that he tried to be smart, as a means of distracting his own attention, and keeping down his terror; for the spectre's voice disturbed the very marrow in his bones.  
To sit, staring at those fixed glazed eyes, in silence for a moment, would play, Scrooge felt, the very deuce with him. 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.  
"You see this toothpick?" said Scrooge, returning quickly to the charge, for the reason just assigned; and wishing, though it were only for a second, to divert the vision's stony gaze from himself.  
"I do," replied the Ghost.  
"You are not looking at it," said Scrooge.  
"But I see it," said the Ghost, "notwithstanding."  
"Well!" returned Scrooge, "I have but to swallow this, and be for the rest of my days persecuted by a legion of goblins, all of my own creation. Humbug, I tell you! humbug!"

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as deluded?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as deluded in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

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

In this extract, Scrooge is meeting Jacob Marley's ghost.

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?"  
"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!"  
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?"  
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!"  
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!"  
"I have none to give," the Ghost replied. "It comes from other regions, Ebenezer Scrooge, and is conveyed by other ministers, to other kinds of men. Nor can I tell you what I would. A very little more is all permitted to me. I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere. My spirit never walked beyond our counting-house—mark me!—in life my spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me!"

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the character of Jacob Marley?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Jacob Marley in this extract
- How Dickens presents Jacob Marley in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

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

In this extract, Scrooge has been approached by two gentlemen who are seeking charitable contributions.

“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!”

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as cruel and callous?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as cruel and callous in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to revisit his school days.

Scrooge's former self grew larger at the words, and the room became a little darker and more dirty. The panels shrunk, the windows cracked; fragments of plaster fell out of the ceiling, and the naked laths were shown instead; but how all this was brought about, Scrooge knew no more than you do. He only knew that it was quite correct; that everything had happened so; that there he was, alone again, when all the other boys had gone home for the jolly holidays. He was not reading now, but walking up and down despairingly. Scrooge looked at the Ghost, and with a mournful shaking of his head, glanced anxiously towards the door. It opened; and a little girl, much younger than the boy, came darting in, and putting her arms about his neck, and often kissing him, addressed him as her "Dear, dear brother."

"I have come to bring you home, dear brother!" said the child, clapping her tiny hands, and bending down to laugh. "To bring you home, home, home!"

"Home, little Fan?" returned the boy.

"Yes!" said the child, brimful of glee. "Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you. And you're to be a man!" said the child, opening her eyes, "and are never to come back here; but first, we're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world."

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as deserving of sympathy?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as deserving of sympathy in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to revisit his first employer.

At sight of an old gentleman in a Welsh wig, sitting behind such a high desk, that if he had been two inches taller he must have knocked his head against the ceiling, Scrooge cried in great excitement:

“Why, it’s old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it’s Fezziwig alive again!”

Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

“Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!”

Scrooge’s former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, accompanied by his fellow-prentice.

“Dick Wilkins, to be sure!” said Scrooge to the Ghost. “Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick! Dear, dear!”

“Yo ho, my boys!” said Fezziwig. “No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let’s have the shutters up,” cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, “before a man can say Jack Robinson!”

You wouldn’t believe how those two fellows went at it! They charged into the street with the shutters—one, two, three—had ’em up in their places—four, five, six—barred ’em and pinned ’em—seven, eight, nine—and came back before you could have got to twelve, panting like race-horses.

“Hilli-ho!” cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. “Clear away, my lads, and let’s have lots of room here! Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer!”

Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn’t have cleared away, or couldn’t have cleared away, with old Fezziwig looking on. It was done in a minute. Every movable was packed off, as if it were dismissed from public life for evermore; the floor was swept and watered, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room, as you would desire to see upon a winter’s night.

In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it, and tuned like fifty stomach-aches. In came Mrs. Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable. In came the six young followers whose hearts they broke. In came all the young men and women employed in the business.

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Mr Fezziwig?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Mr Fezziwig in this extract
- The importance of Mr Fezziwig in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to listen to the two apprentices discussing Mr Fezziwig.

The Spirit signed to him to listen to the two apprentices, who were pouring out their hearts in praise of Fezziwig: and when he had done so, said,  
“Why! Is it not? He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?”  
“It isn’t that,” said Scrooge, heated by the remark, and speaking unconsciously like his former, not his latter, self. “It isn’t that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count ’em up: what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.”  
He felt the Spirit’s glance, and stopped.  
“What is the matter?” asked the Ghost.  
“Nothing particular,” said Scrooge.  
“Something, I think?” the Ghost insisted.  
“No,” said Scrooge, “No. I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now.

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as an employer?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as an employer in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**



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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to listen a conversation between his younger self and Belle.

For again Scrooge saw himself. He was older now; a man in the prime of life. His face had not the harsh and rigid lines of later years; but it had begun to wear the signs of care and avarice. There was an eager, greedy, restless motion in the eye, which showed the passion that had taken root, and where the shadow of the growing tree would fall.

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.

"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."

"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!"

"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?"

"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."

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as greedy?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as greedy in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to listen a conversation between his younger self and Belle.

“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.

“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.”

“Have I ever sought release?”

“In words. No. Never.”

“In what, then?”

“In a changed nature; in an altered spirit; in another atmosphere of life; another Hope as its great end. In everything that made my love of any worth or value in your sight. If this had never been between us,” said the girl, looking mildly, but with steadiness, upon him; “tell me, would you seek me out and try to win me now? Ah, no!”

He seemed to yield to the justice of this supposition, in spite of himself. But he said with a struggle, “You think not.”

“I would gladly think otherwise if I could,” she answered, “Heaven knows! When I have learned a Truth like this, I know how strong and irresistible it must be. But if you were free to-day, to-morrow, yesterday, can even I believe that you would choose a dowerless girl—you who, in your very confidence with her, weigh everything by Gain: or, choosing her, if for a moment you were false enough to your one guiding principle to do so, do I not know that your repentance and regret would surely follow? I do; and I release you. With a full heart, for the love of him you once were.”

He was about to speak; but with her head turned from him, she resumed.

“You may—the memory of what is past half makes me hope you will—have pain in this. A very, very brief time, and you will dismiss the recollection of it, gladly, as an unprofitable dream, from which it happened well that you awoke. May you be happy in the life you have chosen!”

“Belle is a minor but quite significant character in the novella”.

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion.

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Belle in this extract
- How Dickens presents the significance of Belle in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Present has taken Scrooge to the home of the Cratchit family.

Scrooge bent before the Ghost's rebuke, and trembling cast his eyes upon the ground. But he raised them speedily, on hearing his own name.

"Mr. Scrooge!" said Bob; "I'll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!"

"The Founder of the Feast indeed!" cried Mrs. Cratchit, reddening. "I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he'd have a good appetite for it."

"My dear," said Bob, "the children! Christmas Day."

"It should be Christmas Day, I am sure," said she, "on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is, Robert! Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow!"

"My dear," was Bob's mild answer, "Christmas Day."

"I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's," said Mrs. Cratchit, "not for his. Long life to him! A merry Christmas and a happy new year! He'll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt!"

The children drank the toast after her. It was the first of their proceedings which had no heartiness. Tiny Tim drank it last of all, but he didn't care twopence for it. Scrooge was the Ogre of the family. The mention of his name cast a dark shadow on the party, which was not dispelled for full five minutes. After it had passed away, they were ten times merrier than before, from the mere relief of Scrooge the Baleful being done with.

"Scrooge is a character who arouses strong feelings in others."

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion.

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as arousing strong feelings in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to visit the home of his nephew Fred.

“Oh, I have!” said Scrooge’s nephew. “I am sorry for him; I couldn’t be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims! Himself, always. Here, he takes it into his head to dislike us, and he won’t come and dine with us. What’s the consequence? He don’t lose much of a dinner.”

“Indeed, I think he loses a very good dinner,” interrupted Scrooge’s niece. Everybody else said the same, and they must be allowed to have been competent judges, because they had just had dinner; and, with the dessert upon the table, were clustered round the fire, by lamplight.

“I was only going to say,” said Scrooge’s nephew, “that the consequence of his taking a dislike to us, and not making merry with us, is, as I think, that he loses some pleasant moments, which could do him no harm. I am sure he loses pleasanter companions than he can find in his own thoughts, either in his mouldy old office, or his dusty chambers. I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him. He may rail at Christmas till he dies, but he can’t help thinking better of it—I defy him—if he finds me going there, in good temper, year after year, and saying Uncle Scrooge, how are you? If it only puts him in the vein to leave his poor clerk fifty pounds, that’s something; and I think I shook him yesterday.”

It was their turn to laugh now at the notion of his shaking Scrooge. But being thoroughly good-natured, and not much caring what they laughed at, so that they laughed at any rate, he encouraged them in their merriment, and passed the bottle joyously.

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Fred as a compassionate character?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Fred in this extract
- How Dickens presents Fred as compassionate in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Present has taken Scrooge to the home of the Cratchit family.

So Martha hid herself, and in came little Bob, the father, with at least three feet of comforter exclusive of the fringe, hanging down before him; and his threadbare clothes darned up and brushed, to look seasonable; and Tiny Tim upon his shoulder. Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame!

“Why, where’s our Martha?” cried Bob Cratchit, looking round.

“Not coming,” said Mrs. Cratchit.

“Not coming!” said Bob, with a sudden declension in his high spirits; for he had been Tim’s blood horse all the way from church, and had come home rampant. “Not coming upon Christmas Day!”

Martha didn’t like to see him disappointed, if it were only in joke; so she came out prematurely from behind the closet door, and ran into his arms, while the two young Cratchits hustled Tiny Tim, and bore him off into the wash-house, that he might hear the pudding singing in the copper.

“And how did little Tim behave?” asked Mrs. Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity, and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart’s content.

“As good as gold,” said Bob, “and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”

Bob’s voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the character of Tiny Tim?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Tiny Tim in this extract
- How Dickens presents Tiny Tim in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the second of the three ghosts has appeared before Scrooge.

“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.

“The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come are very memorable characters.”

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion.

Write about:

- How Dickens presents the Ghost in this extract
- How Dickens presents the Ghosts in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 5 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, it is Christmas morning.

“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!”

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!”

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!”

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge as capable of redemption?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract
- How Dickens presents Scrooge as capable of redemption in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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**OR**

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 5 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Bob Cratchit is returning to work on the morning after Christmas Day.

But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there. If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon.

And he did it; yes, he did! The clock struck nine. No Bob. A quarter past. No Bob. He was full eighteen minutes and a half behind his time. Scrooge sat with his door wide open, that he might see him come into the Tank.

His hat was off, before he opened the door; his comforter too. He was on his stool in a jiffy; driving away with his pen, as if he were trying to overtake nine o'clock.

"Hallo!" growled Scrooge, in his accustomed voice, as near as he could feign it. "What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?"

"I am very sorry, sir," said Bob. "I am behind my time."

"You are?" repeated Scrooge. "Yes. I think you are. Step this way, sir, if you please."

"It's only once a year, sir," pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank. "It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir."

"Now, I'll tell you what, my friend," said Scrooge, "I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore," he continued, leaping from his stool, and giving Bob such a dig in the waistcoat that he staggered back into the Tank again; "and therefore I am about to raise your salary!"

Bob trembled, and got a little nearer to the ruler. He had a momentary idea of knocking Scrooge down with it, holding him, and calling to the people in the court for help and a strait-waistcoat.

"A merry Christmas, Bob!" said Scrooge, with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back. "A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you, for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob! Make up the fires, and buy another coal-scuttle before you dot another i, Bob Cratchit!"

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the character of Bob Cratchit?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Bob Cratchit in this extract
- How Dickens presents Bob Cratchit in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**



OR

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read the following extract from Stave 2 and then answer the questions that follow.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past has taken Scrooge to his childhood home.

Scrooge's former self grew larger at the words, and the room became more dirty. The panels shrunk, the windows cracked; fragments of plaster fell out and the naked laths were shown instead; but how all this was to be explained, Scrooge knew no more than you do. He only knew that it was quite correct, and that he had happened so; that there he was, alone again, when all the other boys had gone home for the jolly holidays. He was not reading now, but walking up and down dejectedly, and looking at the Ghost, and with a mournful shaking of his head, he said, "I have been here before, and I have been here since." It opened; and a little girl, much younger than the boy, came running up, clasping her arms about his neck, and often kissing him, addressing him as "Dear Father." "I have come to bring you home, dear brother!" said the child, clapping her tiny hands, and bending down to laugh. "To bring you home to home, dear Father?" "Home, little Fan?" returned the boy. "Yes!" said the child, brimful of glee. "Home to your father and all. He is so much kinder than he used to be, that home to him is like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed, that I had to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said Yes, you should, if you could only reach to bring you. And you're to be a man!" said the child, opening her eyes, and looking at the Ghost. "I will come back here; but first, we're to be together all the Christmas time, and have the most merry time in all the world."

1. How does this extract show that Dickens presents Scrooge as deserving of sympathy?

2. How does Dickens present Scrooge in this extract?

3. How does Dickens present Scrooge as deserving of sympathy in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]