**Starting with the extract, write about how Dickens presents Scrooge as a reformed character.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **Scrooge in the extract**
* **Scrooge in the novella as a whole**

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 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!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about Scrooge’s reformation.**  In the extract, Dickens presents the … as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, … is presented as…. | Arguably, in the extract, Dickens presents Scrooge as a fully reformed character; however, elsewhere … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ | Dickens describes Scrooge as … |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique was used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining what effect the technique has on the reader. | Dickens’ thoughtful choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate)**   * The rest of the novella * A key theme from within the novella * Social and historical contextual factors * Dickens’ message | In Stave 1, Dickens uses similes very differently in his presentation of Scrooge. To elaborate, … … … |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Ultimately, Dickens … … |

**Starting with the extract, write about how Dickens presents the Cratchit family.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **The Cratchit family in the extract**
* **The Cratchit family in the novella as a whole**

Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course -- and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah!

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last. Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows. But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs Cratchit left the room alone -- too nervous to bear witnesses -- to take the pudding up and bring it in.

Suppose it should not be done enough? Suppose it should break in turning out? Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back-yard, and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose -- a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid? All sorts of horrors were supposed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about the Cratchit family.**  In the extract, Dickens presents the Cratchits as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, family is presented as…. | Throughout the novella, Dickens presents the Cratchits as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ | Dickens … … … |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique was used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining what effect the technique has on the reader. | Dickens’ employment of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * The rest of the novella * A key theme from within the novella * Social and historical contextual factors * Dickens’ message | Through his presentation of the Cratchit family, perhaps Dickens is … … … |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | In summary, Dickens … … … |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents ideas about children and childhood.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **Children and childhood in the extract**
* **Children and childhood in the novella as a whole**

“Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask,” said Scrooge, looking intently at the Spirit’s robe, “but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?”

“It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it,” was the Spirit’s sorrowful reply. “Look here.”

From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

“Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!” exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and 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 bide the end!”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about children.**  In the extract, Dickens presents children as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, childhood is presented as….  Throughout the novel, children are presented as... | In the extract Dickens presents |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique was used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining what effect the technique has on the reader. | Dickens’ choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate)**   * The rest of the novella * A key theme from within the novella * Social and historical contextual factors * Dickens’ message | Dickens’ presentation of children perhaps reflects his social concerns regarding … … … |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents ideas about working life, here and elsewhere in the novella.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **ideas about working life in the extract**
* **working life in the novella as a whole**

His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self. He corroborated everything, remembered everything, enjoyed everything, and underwent the strangest agitation. It was not until now, when the bright faces of his former self and Dick were turned from them, that he remembered the Ghost, and became conscious that it was looking full upon him, while the light upon its head burnt very clear.

"A small matter," said the Ghost, "to make these silly folks so full of gratitude."

"Small!" echoed Scrooge.

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 them 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 in 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! That's all."

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about working life.**  In the extract, Dickens presents working life as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, working life is presented as….  Throughout the novella, working life is presented as... | In the extract Dickens presents working life as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique is used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining the intended effect of the technique on the reader. | Dickens’ choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * the rest of the novella * a key theme from within the novella * relevant social and historical contexts * Dickens’ message |  |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents ideas about poverty, here and elsewhere in the novella.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **ideas about working life in the extract**
* **ideas about poverty in the novella as a whole**

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. Bob Cratchit told them how he had a situation in his eye for Master Peter, which would bring in, if obtained, full five-and-sixpence weekly. The two young Cratchits laughed tremendously at the idea of Peter's being a man of business; and Peter himself looked thoughtfully at the fire from between his collars, as if he were deliberating what particular investments he should favour when he came into the receipt of that bewildering income. Martha, who was a poor apprentice at a milliner's, then told them what kind of work she had to do, and how many hours she worked at a stretch, and how she meant to lie abed to-morrow morning for a good long rest; to-morrow being a holiday she passed at home. Also how she had seen a countess and a lord some days before, and how the lord was much about as tall as Peter; at which Peter pulled up his collars so high that you couldn't have seen his head if you had been there. All this time the chestnuts and the jug went round and round; and by-and-bye they had a song, about a lost child travelling in the snow, from Tiny Tim, who had a plaintive little voice, and sang it very well indeed.

There was nothing of high mark in this. They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were scanty; and Peter might have known, and very likely did, the inside of a pawnbroker's. But, they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time; and when they faded, and looked happier yet in the bright sprinklings of the Spirit's torch at parting, Scrooge had his eye upon them, and especially on Tiny Tim, until the last.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about poverty.**  In the extract, Dickens presents poverty as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, poverty is presented as….  Throughout the novella, poverty is presented as... | In the extract Dickens presents poverty as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique is used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining the intended effect of the technique on the reader. | Dickens’ choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * the rest of the novella * a key theme from within the novella * relevant social and historical contexts * Dickens’ message |  |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents the spirits, here and elsewhere in the novella.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **the spirit in the extract**
* **ideas about the spirits in the novella as a whole**

The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached. When it came, Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery. It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand. But for this it would have been difficult to detach its figure from the night, and separate it from the darkness by which it was surrounded.

He felt that it was tall and stately when it came beside him, and that its mysterious presence filled him with a solemn dread. He knew no more, for the Spirit neither spoke nor moved.

"I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?" said Scrooge.

The Spirit answered not, but pointed downward with its hand.

"You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us," Scrooge pursued. "Is that so, Spirit?"

The upper portion of the garment was contracted for an instant in its folds, as if the Spirit had inclined its head. That was the only answer he received.

Although well used to ghostly company by this time, Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him, and he found that he could hardly stand when he prepared to follow it. The Spirit pauses a moment, as observing his condition, and giving him time to recover.

But Scrooge was all the worse for this. It thrilled him with a vague uncertain horror, to know that behind the dusky shroud there were ghostly eyes intently fixed upon him, while he, though he stretched his own to the utmost, could see nothing but a spectral hand and one great heap of black.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain the function of the spirits in the novella.**  In the extract, Dickens presents the spirit as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, the spirits are presented as….  Throughout the novella, the spirits are presented as... | In the extract Dickens presents the spirit as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique is used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining the intended effect of the technique on the reader. | Dickens’ choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * the rest of the novella * a key theme from within the novella * relevant social and historical contexts * Dickens’ message |  |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents the character of Fred, here and elsewhere in the novella.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **the presentation of Fred in this extract**
* **the presentation of Fred in the novella as a whole**

"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.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

"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!"

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain the function of Fred in the novella.**  In the extract, Dickens presents Fred as…; elsewhere in the novella, Fred is presented as….  Throughout the novella, Dickens’ characterisation of Fred is to …... | In the extract Dickens presents Fred as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique is used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining the intended effect of the technique on the reader. | Dickens’ choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * the rest of the novella * a key theme from within the novella * relevant social and historical contexts * Dickens’ message |  |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents ideas about greed, here and elsewhere in the novella.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **ideas about greed in this extract**
* **ideas about greed in the novella as a whole**

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.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about greed.**  In the extract, Dickens presents greed as…; however, elsewhere in the novella, greed is presented as….  Throughout the novella, greed is presented as... | In the extract Dickens presents greed as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique is used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining the intended effect of the technique on the reader. | Dickens’ choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * the rest of the novella * a key theme from within the novella * relevant social and historical contexts * Dickens’ message | Through his depiction of Scrooge’s miserly nature, perhaps Dickens is drawing the readers’ attention to … … … |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |

**Starting with the extract, explore how Dickens presents ideas about damnation, here and elsewhere in the novella.**

**Remember to write about:**

* **ideas about damnation in this extract**
* **ideas about damnation in the novella as a whole**

“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!”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain what Dickens shows us about damnation.**  In the extract, Dickens presents damnation as…; elsewhere in the novella, …  Throughout the novella, damnation is presented as... | In the extract Dickens presents greed as … … … |
| **Provide some evidence in the form of a quotation.**  Make sure you embed your evidence. Avoid using phrases like ‘a quote to show this is…’ |  |
| **Zoom into a quotation from the extract.**  You must pick a quotation that has something worth zooming into. Explain why the word or technique is used by Dickens, exploring connotations or examining the intended effect of the technique on the reader. | Dickens’ thoughtful choice of … … … |
| **Zoom out to one or more of the following (as appropriate):**   * the rest of the novella * a key theme from within the novella * relevant social and historical contexts * Dickens’ message | Through his depiction of Jacob Marley’s spirit, perhaps Dickens is … … … |
| **Conclude:**  Link back to your opening point and reiterate why you agree or disagree, based on what you have just explored. | Overall, |