

A Christmas Carol Essay Questions.

1. Show how Dickens presents the hardships of life in 19th century London in *A Christmas Carol*.
2. How does Dickens present Scrooge's changing character in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. What is Dickens' moral message to the reader in *A Christmas Carol*?
4. Explain how and why Scrooge changes at different points in *A Christmas Carol*.
5. What impressions do you get of life in 19th century London from your reading of *A Christmas Carol*?

Think about:

- the lives of the characters;
- the way different characters speak and behave;
- the way London is described in the novel;
- anything else you think important.

6. To what extent is *A Christmas Carol* an effective title for this novella, in your opinion?
7. What do you think of Scrooge and the way he is presented in the novella?
8. What do you think of Bob Cratchit and the way he is presented in the novella?
9. *A Christmas Carol* has been described as "a tale of moral redemption." Show how Charles Dickens presents this idea in *A Christmas Carol*.
10. How does Dickens present the Cratchit family in *A Christmas Carol*?
11. How does Dickens present the theme of isolation in *A Christmas Carol*?
12. How does Dickens show that the celebration of Christmas is important in *A Christmas Carol*?
13. How does Dickens present hardship and suffering in *A Christmas Carol*?
14. Explain how and why responsibility is important in *A Christmas Carol*.
15. How does Dickens present cruelty in *A Christmas Carol*?
16. What does *A Christmas Carol* teach us about money and those who possess it?
17. How far do you agree that *A Christmas Carol* is a 'didactic story', that is, one with a strong moral message? Discuss what the different morals of the story might be.
18. For which character do you have the most sympathy for in *A Christmas Carol* and why? Show how Charles Dickens' presentation of your chosen character creates sympathy for them.
19. What do you believe to be Dickens' main message or messages in *A Christmas Carol*?
20. Explain why generosity is important in *A Christmas Carol*.
21. What role does social criticism play in *A Christmas Carol*? To what extent is the story a social commentary?
22. "*A Christmas Carol* shows goodness and love defeating self-interest." How does Charles Dickens present this in his novel?
23. Write about how Dickens shows that the rich have a responsibility towards the poor.
24. Write about the importance of family in *A Christmas Carol*.
25. Which of the three spirits has the most powerful impact on Scrooge, in your opinion? Give reasons for what you say.

26. How is the character of Fred, Scrooge's nephew, important to the novel as a whole? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, cultural and historical context.
27. Show how Charles Dickens criticises aspects of Victorian society in *A Christmas Carol*.
28. How are children important to the novel as a whole? Remember to support your answer with reference to *A Christmas Carol* and to comment on its social, cultural and historical context.
29. How does Charles Dickens present the character of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and to comment on its social, cultural and historical context.
30. What do you think about Scrooge and the way he treats others at different times in the novel? In your answer you should refer to events in the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.
31. Write about some of the children in *A Christmas Carol* and why they are important. Think about:
- Scrooge's childhood
 - the children Scrooge sees on his travels with the Spirits
 - the children in the Cratchit family
 - any other children you think are important
- In your answer you should refer to events in the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.
32. '*A Christmas Carol* is about responsibility.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and comment on its social, cultural and historical context.
33. How does Dickens use the character of Bob Cratchit to highlight some aspects of Victorian society?
34. 'It isn't one Spirit that changes Scrooge, it is all of them.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and comment on its social, cultural and historical context.
35. '*A Christmas Carol* is set in the Victorian world, but its message is timeless.' How far do you agree? Remember to support your answer with reference to the novel and comment on its social, cultural and historical context.
36. Write about some of the times in *A Christmas Carol* which affect Scrooge and help him to change. In your answer you should refer to events in the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.
37. What do you think is the most important message in *A Christmas Carol*? In your answer you should refer to events and characters in the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.
38. Which of the Spirits do you think helps Scrooge to change the most? In your answer you should refer to events and characters in the novel and its social, cultural and historical context.