A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 9

The essay frame

A clear structure for the Paper 1 Section B response

- Know exactly how to organise a 30-mark answer
- Use a paragraph frame for analysis and context
- Plan an introduction and conclusion

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. Which AO is context?
2. How many marks is Section B?
3. How long should you spend on it?
4. Who says “Another idol has displaced me”?
5. What is a foil?

Type each answer in the chat on “send”, or write them in your book. Score out of 5.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Did you get them?

1. Which AO is context? **AO3**
2. How many marks is Section B? **30**
3. How long should you spend on it? **About 45 minutes**
4. Who says “Another idol has displaced me”? **Belle**
5. What is a foil? **A character who contrasts with another**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE QUESTION

Know what you are being asked

1 · The extract

“Starting with this extract…” tells you where to begin. Read where it comes from.

2 · The focus

A character, theme or idea: **how Dickens presents…** or **explore how…**

3 · Two bullets

One about the **extract**. One about the **novel as a whole**.

Your answer needs both. A response only on the extract cannot reach the top levels.

THE FRAME

Six parts, 45 minutes

Introduction

3 sentences

Big idea · place the extract · context

Paragraph 1

Extract: start

Point · quote · analysis · context · link

Paragraph 2

Extract: later / turning point

Zoom in on a change or contrast

Paragraph 3

Novel: another stave

Pivot from the extract to the whole text

Paragraph 4

Novel: the end

Show development or outcome

Conclusion

2 sentences

Answer the question · Dickens's message

Plan · 5 min

Big idea · 3 extract quotes · 2 novel moments · context

Write · 35 min

Roughly 5–6 minutes per paragraph

Check · 5 min

Spelling, quotations, links to the question

INTRODUCTION

Three sentences, three jobs

1 · Big idea — Answers the question directly with a clear argument.

2 · The extract — Places the extract: what comes before and after, and why it matters.

3 · Context — One purposeful comment on Dickens's world and intentions.

Example (question: how does Dickens present Scrooge?)

Dickens presents Scrooge as a lonely, greedy man whose coldness is both his fault and the product of a society that valued money above people. In this extract from the opening of Stave 1, the narrator introduces him before he speaks, so we judge him first. Writing in 1843, when the Poor Law punished poverty, Dickens uses Scrooge to warn readers what greed does to a person.

PARAGRAPHS

The PEACL frame

	Stage	What to do	Sentence starters
P	Point	Answer the question in one clear sentence	“Dickens presents… as…” · “Dickens uses… to show…”
E	Evidence	A short, exact, embedded quotation	“…when the narrator describes him as “…””
A	Analysis	Word → technique → effect on the reader → layers	“The verb ‘…’ suggests…” · “Not only… but also…”
C	Context	Dickens’s purpose and the Victorian world	“Dickens perhaps does this because…” · “Victorian readers would…”
L	Link	Return to the question	“This reinforces…” · “Therefore…”

ANALYSIS

Climb the analysis ladder

1 · Word

Pick one powerful word: a verb, adjective or noun.

2 · Technique

Name it: simile, list, personification, pathetic fallacy, symbol…

3 · Effect

What does the **reader** think or feel?

4 · Layers

More than one meaning: “literally… but also metaphorically…”

Sentence frame: **The (word class) “…” suggests… Furthermore, this could imply…, which encourages the reader to…**

COMPARE

Weak and strong

Weak

Scrooge is mean. It says he is “hard and sharp as flint”. This shows he is mean.

Strong

Dickens presents Scrooge as emotionally unyielding through the simile “hard and sharp as flint”. Flint produces a spark when struck, but Scrooge is “hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire”, implying that kindness cannot be drawn from him. The harsh adjectives also suggest he can wound others, encouraging readers to dislike him before he speaks.

What did the strong version add? Type two things in the chat.

WHOLE NOVEL

Pivot from the extract to the novel

Pivot sentences

“This idea is developed later when…”
“Dickens returns to this in Stave…”
“In contrast, earlier in the novella…”

Choose well

Pick moments from **different staves**: an early one, a later one, and the ending.

Keep it short

You only need **one** brief, precise quotation per moment.

CONCLUSION

Two sentences

1 · Answer

Return to the question: “Overall, Dickens presents… as…”

2 · Message

Dickens’s purpose and effect on the reader: “Through…, Dickens persuades…”

Overall, Dickens presents Scrooge as a man hardened by greed and isolation. Through his transformation, he persuades readers that compassion is a choice and that nobody is beyond change.

CHECKLIST

Check any answer against this list

- Opened with an introduction that gives your **big idea**
- Placed the extract in the novella (what comes before and after)
- Started each paragraph with a clear **topic sentence**
- Used a range of quotations from the extract **and** the wider novella
- Commented on single words and literary devices
- Explained the effect on the reader (“The reader is encouraged to…”)
- Considered layers of meaning (“not only… but also…”)
- Commented on Dickens’s intentions and the Victorian context
- Linked back to the question and used its language throughout

TASK · PLAN

Plan a response in 5 minutes

Question: **Starting with the Scrooge extract (Stave 1), explore how Dickens presents Scrooge.**

Big idea	Extract: 3 quotes	Novel: 2 moments	Context

Use your Lesson 3 notes. Post your **big idea** and one extract quotation in the chat.

EXIT TICKET

3-2-1

1. **3** parts of an essay introduction
2. **2** stages of PEACL
3. **1** target for your next paragraph

Type your 3-2-1 in the chat.