A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 13

Practice assessment: planning

The Cratchit family and the struggles of the poor

- Plan a response using the frame
- Select quotations from the extract and the novel
- Choose a clear big idea

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. What are the five parts of the essay frame?
2. What does PEACL stand for?
3. How many minutes to plan?
4. How many bullets must you cover in the question?
5. Name one way to move to the whole novel.

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. What are the five parts of the essay frame? **Intro · P1 · P2 · P3/P4 · Conclusion**
2. What does PEACL stand for? **Point · Evidence · Analysis · Context · Link**
3. How many minutes to plan? **About 5**
4. How many bullets must you cover in the question? **Two: extract and whole novel**
5. Name one way to move to the whole novel. **A pivot sentence**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE EXAM QUESTION

Read it like an examiner

Starting with this extract (Stave 3), explore how Dickens uses the Cratchit family to show the struggles of the poor.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents the Cratchit family in this extract
- how Dickens uses the Cratchit family to show the struggles of the poor in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

APPROACH

How to tackle the exam

1. Read where the extract is from. **Place it** in the novella: what comes before and after?
2. Read the question. Choose your **big idea**.
3. Read the extract. Highlight **at least three** useful quotations. Annotate language and structure briefly.
4. Note **two or three** moments from elsewhere in the novella.
5. Write a **short introduction** that outlines your big idea.
6. Finish with a **one or two sentence conclusion**.

Timing: **5** minutes plan · **35** minutes write · **5** minutes check.

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 1 OF 2

The Cratchit family

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

Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.

“Mr. Scrooge!” said Bob; “I’ll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!”

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 2 OF 2

The Cratchit family

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.

TASK 1 · PLAN

Build your plan

Big idea	Extract: 3+ quotations	Novel: 2+ moments	Context and Dickens’s message
	“feathered phenomenon” · “not a handsome family” · “happy, grateful”	Tiny Tim and the “vacant seat” · Bob’s wage · Stave 5	Poor Law · pawnbroker’s · duty of the rich

Copy this grid into your book or a shared document. Post your **big idea** in the chat.

RESOURCE

Quotation bank from the whole novella

“I see a vacant seat […] in the poor chimney-corner”
Stave 3 · Tiny Tim

“Bob had but fifteen ‘Bob’ a-week”
Stave 3 · wages

“looked like one coal”
Stave 1 · Bob’s fire

“This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want.”
Stave 3 · society’s neglect

“My little, little child.”
Stave 4 · Bob’s grief

“to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die”
Stave 5 · the family saved

TASK 2 · CHOOSE

Pick your big idea

Option 1

The Cratchits show that **poverty is not a moral failing**, so the rich have a duty to help.

Option 2

The Cratchits show that **love and joy** survive hardship, but cannot protect against ill-health.

Option 3

The Cratchits are a **symbol** of the deserving poor, designed to change Scrooge’s heart.

Which is the strongest? Which can you prove with the **most** quotations? Type 1, 2 or 3 and say why.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

Check your plan 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

PLANNING TIME

Finish your plan now

Use the rest of the lesson to complete your plan. You will write the full response next lesson, timed.

Post your plan or your introduction in the chat for feedback.

EXIT TICKET

3-2-1

1. **3** quotations you will use
2. **2** moments from elsewhere in the novella
3. **1** thing you will do to reach a higher level

Type your 3-2-1 in the chat.