A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 18

Final assessment: planning

Scrooge’s fears in the whole novella

- Plan a response to the final question
- Trace Scrooge’s fears from Stave 1 to Stave 5
- Choose a clear big idea

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. What does Scrooge fear most in Stave 1?
2. What does “shrouded” suggest?
3. Which spirit is silent?
4. What technique is “slowly, gravely, silently”?
5. What is dread?

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 does Scrooge fear most in Stave 1? **Poverty / being beyond “sordid reproach”**
2. What does “shrouded” suggest? **A burial cloth / death**
3. Which spirit is silent? **Yet to Come**
4. What technique is “slowly, gravely, silently”? **Tripling**
5. What is dread? **Great fear or anxiety**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE EXAM QUESTION

Read it like an examiner

Starting with this extract (Stave 4), explore how Dickens presents Scrooge’s fears.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents what Scrooge is frightened of in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s fears 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 4 · PART 1 OF 3

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

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 onward 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.”

EXTRACT · STAVE 4 · PART 2 OF 3

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

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.

EXTRACT · STAVE 4 · PART 3 OF 3

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

“Ghost of the Future,” he exclaimed, “I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?” It gave him no reply. The hand was pointed straight before them.

“Lead on,” said Scrooge. “Lead on. The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit.”

TASK 1 · PLAN

Build your plan

Big idea	Extract: 3+ quotations	Novel: 2+ moments	Context and Dickens’s message
	“shrouded” · “solemn dread” · “legs trembled” · “I fear you more…”	Stave 1: Marley · Stave 2: Belle · Stave 4: the grave · Stave 5	Victorian belief in judgement · Dickens’s warning

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

RESOURCE

Quotation bank from the whole novella

“a strange, inexplicable dread”
Stave 1 · Marley approaches

“double-locked himself in, which was not his custom”
Stave 1 · fear of ghosts

“You fear the world too much”
Stave 2 · Belle on his fear of poverty

“Am I that man who lay upon the bed?”
Stave 4 · fear of dying unmourned

“I am not the man I was.”
Stave 4 · the promise to change

“as light as a feather”
Stave 5 · the fear lifted

TASK 2 · CHOOSE

Pick your big idea

Option 1

Scrooge’s fears **develop**: from fear of poverty to fear of death and loneliness.

Option 2

Fear is the **catalyst** for his redemption.

Option 3

Dickens uses fear to **warn** readers about the consequences of selfishness.

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.