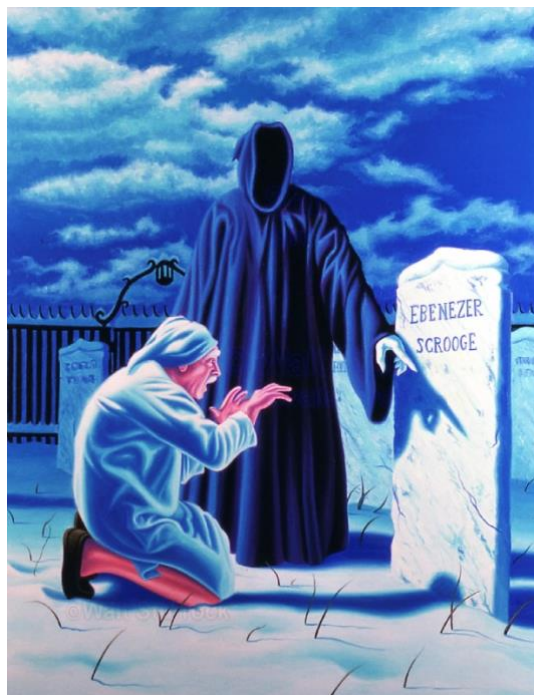


# A Christmas Carol

***English Lit. Paper 1: Revision and exam Q booklet***





***A Christmas Carol: a timeline of major plot events***

# Ebenezer Scrooge

- Miserable
- Tight-fisted
- Redeemed by the end

Scrooge is the main character of Dickens' novella and is first presented as a **miserly**, unpleasant man. He rejects all offerings of Christmas cheer and celebration as 'Humbug!'

On Christmas Eve he is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns that he will be visited by three ghosts. Each of the ghosts shows him a scene that strikes fear and regret into his heart and eventually he softens.

By the end of the story, Scrooge is a changed man, sharing his wealth and generosity with everyone.

	How is Scrooge like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Cold-hearted	According to Dickens's description, <b>Scrooge is cold through and through.</b>	<i>No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him.</i>	Dickens uses pathetic fallacy to represent Scrooge's nature. <b>The weather is a metaphor for Scrooge's behaviour as he cannot be made either warmer or colder by it.</b>
Miserly	<b>Scrooge is stingy with his money</b> and will not even allow his clerk Bob Cratchit to have a decent fire to warm him on Christmas Eve.	<i>...as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part.</i>	<b>The indirect speech shows that Scrooge is threatening and in charge.</b> He will not give permission for Cratchit to take more coal.
Ill-mannered	<b>His nephew visits to wish him a 'Merry Christmas'</b> and Scrooge is rude to him in response.	<i>"Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."</i>	<b>Scrooge's response is comical, but unpleasant.</b> He cannot accept the generosity that is offered him and instead turns images of Christmas into images of violence.
Self-deluded	<b>When he sees Marley's ghost, Scrooge tries to deny its existence</b> by attributing the vision to something he has eaten.	<i>"You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese..."</i>	Although Scrooge is afraid of the ghost, he tries to maintain his authority even over his own senses.

# Bob Cratchit

- Humble
- Hardworking
- Family man

Bob Cratchit is Scrooge's clerk and works in unpleasant conditions without complaint. He obeys Scrooge's rules and is timid about asking to go home to his family early on Christmas Eve.

When the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit the Cratchits on Christmas Day, he sees Bob Cratchit carrying his sickly son Tiny Tim, and later raising a toast to Scrooge for providing the feast.

The *Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come* shows the Cratchits in a future where Tiny Tim has died and here we see how sensitive Bob Cratchit is. His love for his son is shown through his grief.

In the end, when Scrooge changes his ways for the better, Bob Cratchit is delighted. He welcomes Scrooge's new-found generosity and friendship.

	How is Cratchit like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Obedient	Bob takes orders from his bad-tempered boss, Ebenezer Scrooge without complaining.	<i>[he] tried to warm himself at the candle</i>	His efforts to warm himself at the candle are pitiful. He would prefer to do this than challenge Scrooge.
Generous	He proposes a toast to Scrooge even on Christmas Day.	<i>"I'll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!"</i>	Scrooge is too miserly to offer his clerk a decent wage, but Cratchit is generous enough to be grateful to his boss.
Sensitive	He cries openly for his son when he is 'dead'.	<i>"My little, little child!" cried Bob. "My little child!"</i>	The repetition of 'little' adds to the sad effect of Bob's cry. We feel sympathy for him at this point.
Fearful	He is afraid of Scrooge's reaction when he arrives late to work after Christmas Day.	<i>"It's only once a year, sir," pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank.</i>	Bob 'pleaded' which shows he is worried about being punished by Scrooge.

# Fred

- Cheerful
- Generous
- Kind-hearted

	How is Fred like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Positive	Even when Scrooge puts down all his talk of Christmas festivities, <b>Fred persists with his good cheer.</b>	<i>"I'll keep my Christmas humour to the last. So A Merry Christmas, uncle!"</i>	<b>We learn about Fred's positive nature from his dialogue.</b> Everything he says focuses on the positive aspects of Christmas.
Persistent	<b>Fred refuses to let Scrooge's miserly attitude dampen his sprits.</b>	<i>"I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him."</i>	He shows his care for his uncle by pledging to continue visiting Scrooge regardless. <b>His concern is revealed by his persistence and pity.</b>
Enthusiastic	When Scrooge finally turns up for Christmas dinner, Fred welcomes him in.	<i>"Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off."</i>	<b>Fred's enthusiasm is evident in his hearty welcome,</b> shaking his uncle's hand with force.

# The Ghost of Christmas Past

- Young and old
- Commanding
- Streaming with light

The Ghost of Christmas Past is the first spirit to visit Scrooge after the ghost of Marley. It arrives as the clock chimes one. It is an **ephemeral** spirit that appears to be both old and young at the same time with light streaming from the top of its head.

It takes Scrooge to scenes from his own past, showing him visions of his own childhood, of his young adulthood and of happier times. The final scene he presents is one that Scrooge cannot bear to witness: his lost love, Belle, with her family.

Scrooge turns on the ghost and demands to be shown no more. He attempts to extinguish the ghost's light with its own cap, wrestling it to the ground. However, the light that shines from the ghost cannot be put out.

	How is the Ghost like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Ephemeral	This ghost is shifting in appearance, seeming to be there and not be there at the same time.	<i>...what was light one instant, at another time was dark, so the figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness.</i>	The ghost is surreal and strange. It flickers like a candle and seems to reflect the fact that Scrooge's past behaviour can be redeemed.
Gentle	The ghost is not solid and is also calm and gentle in the way it communicates with Scrooge.	<i>The Spirit gazed upon him mildly. Its gentle touch, though it had been light and instantaneous, appeared still present to the old man's sense of feeling.</i>	The words 'mildly' and 'gentle' give us the overall sense that the ghost is well-meaning.
Quiet	The ghost does not speak much, but answers Scrooge's questions with brief replies.	<i>"Your welfare!" said the Ghost.</i>	When Scrooge asks the ghost what its business is that evening, the response is short and to the point. This ghost does not waste words!
Firm	Although the spirit is ephemeral and gentle, it is also commanding.	<i>It put out its strong hand as it spoke, and clasped him gently by the arm. "Rise! and walk with me!"</i>	The imperatives (verbs in command form) 'Rise' and 'walk' show that the ghost is to be obeyed. It has control here.

# The Ghost of Christmas Present

- Jolly
- Welcoming
- Prophetic

The Ghost of Christmas Present is a huge and vibrant character who appears as the bell, once again, strikes one. It appears in Scrooge's room, surrounded by a feast. The generous nature of this ghost is reflected in the abundant vision of food.

Scrooge is more humble in the presence of this second spirit and is willing to learn any lessons the ghost will show.

It shows Scrooge visions of the world on Christmas Day, including heart-warming scenes of celebration at the homes of Bob Cratchit and Scrooge's nephew, Fred.

Before it leaves Scrooge, the Ghost shows him two 'yellow, meagre' children who are hiding under its cloak. These are called Ignorance and Want and are a warning to Scrooge to change his ways.

	How is the Ghost like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Jolly	Dickens describes the ghost as <b>open and cheerful</b> - in actions and appearance.	<i>Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air.</i>	<b>The adjectives that Dickens uses are positive</b> and present a solid big and 'joyful' character, in contrast to the indistinct spirit of Christmas Past.
Welcoming	The Ghost invites Scrooge to join him in a welcoming manner.	<i>"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost. "Come in! and know me better, man!"</i>	<b>The word 'exclaimed' makes the Ghost seem excited to see Scrooge.</b> His invitation to 'know me better' is generous and open-hearted.
Honest	<b>When Scrooge asks whether Tiny Tim will live</b> , the Ghost answers with the words Scrooge had previously spoken to the portly gentlemen who were collecting for charity.	<i>"If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."</i>	The Ghost of Christmas Present uses Scrooge's own words against him. <b>In his honest response, that Tiny Tim is likely to die, he holds a mirror up to Scrooge and his behaviour.</b>
Prophetic	<b>The Ghost predicts that Mankind</b> , Scrooge included, <b>will suffer</b> unless the lessons of generosity and tolerance are learned.	<i>"Most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased."</i>	<b>He presents two children called 'Ignorance' and 'Want'</b> hiding under his cloak. He warns that 'Doom' awaits Scrooge unless a change is made.

# The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

- Silent
- Dark
- Ominous

The final Ghost is frightening and eerie. It doesn't say a word to Scrooge, but glides along and points out scenes to him.

The spirit first shows Scrooge a funeral scene, with businessmen wondering about the money that the dead man has left. The Ghost then takes him through dark alleyways to a scene of three people picking through the belongings of the deceased. Scrooge recognises that his own death could be met this way.

Next, the Ghost takes him to the Cratchit household where Scrooge is upset to learn that Tiny Tim has died.

Finally, the Ghost shows him a tombstone engraved with the name: Ebenezer Scrooge. Clutching at the spirit's robes, Scrooge pledges to change his ways if he can avoid this solitary death. The Ghost disappears and leaves Scrooge clutching at his bed curtains.

	How is The Ghost like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Silent	<b>This last ghost does not speak at all.</b> It is the most haunting in appearance.	<i>...a solemn Phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground, towards him.</i>	<b>Dickens shows a 'solemn' and spooky spirit</b> in the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.
Frightening	The ghost fills Scrooge with terror.	<i>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.</i>	The presence of this ghost makes Scrooge afraid. <b>His trembling legs and inability to stand firm show how he is worried</b> about the future that the ghost will show him.
Demanding	<b>The ghost points wherever he wants Scrooge to look</b> and does not move until he obeyed.	<i>Still the Ghost pointed with an unmoved finger to the head.</i>	The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come silently demands that Scrooge pays attention. <b>The spirit's silence is unrelenting.</b>



# Tiny Tim

- Kind
- Disabled
- Thoughtful

Tiny Tim is one of Bob Cratchit's sons. He walks with a crutch and has 'his limbs supported by an iron frame'. Despite his physical difficulties, he is a positive and generous child. He thinks of others and is well-loved by his family.

Scrooge is affected by the child and when he is shown the Cratchit family Christmas by the Ghost of Christmas Present, he worries whether Tiny Tim will live. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows a possible future in which Scrooge's fears are realised and Tiny Tim has died.

At the end of the novella, after Scrooge changes his character, we learn that he becomes like a second father to Tiny Tim.

	How is Tiny Tim like this?	Evidence	Analysis
Kind	After Bob Cratchit raises a toast at the Christmas dinner table, <b>Tiny Tim echoes the toast and includes everyone.</b>	<i>"God bless us every one!"</i>	We learn that Tiny Tim is kind and able to offer an equal love to all mankind.
Thoughtful	Tiny Tim <b>rises above his own suffering</b> and hopes that people who see him will think of Jesus.	<i>He hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.</i>	Dickens suggests that the child is exceptionally thoughtful for his age. <b>This highlights how ungenerous Scrooge, an adult, can be.</b>
Patient	In the scene that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows of the Cratchits, Bob remembers his son as a patient child.	<i>...we recollect how patient and how mild he was.</i>	<b>Tiny Tim is remembered fondly by his family for his good qualities.</b>

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.	5
"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.	10
"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!" He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.	15
"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?" "I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."	20
"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough." Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."	25
"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew. "What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"	30

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present attitudes to Christmas in the novella?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents attitudes to Christmas in this episode
- How Dickens presents attitudes to Christmas in the novella as a whole.

[30 marks]

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"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"	20
"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.	
"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."	25
"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."	
"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"	
"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!"	30
The clerk in the tank involuntarily applauded: becoming immediately sensible of the impropriety, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever.	35
	40

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge's nephew, Fred?

Write about:

- The way Dickens presents Fred and his relationship with Scrooge in this extract
- How Fred is important to the novel as a whole

When the clock struck eleven, this domestic ball broke up. Mr and Mrs Fezziwig took their stations, one on either side of the door, and shaking hands with every person individually as he or she went out, wished him or her a Merry Christmas. When everybody had retired but the two prentices, they did the same to them; and thus the cheerful voices died away, and the lads were left to their beds; which were under a counter in the back-shop.	5
During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits. 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.	10
"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,	15
"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."	20
He felt the Spirit's glance, and stopped.	25
"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."	

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present ideas about working life in his novel?

Write about:

- How Dickens presents Fezziwig as an employer in this extract
- How Dickens presents working life elsewhere in the novel.

"Spirit," said Scrooge, with an interest he had never felt before, "tell me if Tiny Tim will live."	
"I see a vacant seat," replied the Ghost, "in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die."	
"No, no," said Scrooge. "Oh, no, kind Spirit. Say he will be spared."	
"If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, none other of my race," returned the Ghost, "will find him here. What then? If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."	5
Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words quoted by the Spirit, and was overcome with penitence and grief.	
"Man," said the Ghost, "if man you be in heart, not adamant, forbear that wicked cant until you have discovered What the surplus is, and Where it is. Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child. Oh God! To hear the Insect on the leaf pronouncing on the too much life among his hungry brothers in the dust."	10
Scrooge bent before the Ghost's rebuke, and trembling cast his eyes upon the ground. But he raised them speedily, on hearing his own name.	15
"Mr Scrooge!" said Bob; "I'll give you Mr Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!"	
"The Founder of the Feast indeed!" cried Mrs Cratchit, reddening. "I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he'd have a good appetite for it."	
"My dear," said Bob, "the children. Christmas Day."	20
"It should be Christmas Day, I am sure," said she, "on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr Scrooge. You know he is, Robert. Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow."	
"My dear," was Bob's mild answer, "Christmas Day."	
"I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's," said Mrs Cratchit, "not for his. Long life to him. A merry Christmas and a happy new year! -- he'll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt!"	25
The children drank the toast after her. It was the first of their proceedings which had no heartiness. Tiny Tim drank it last of all, but he didn't care twopence for it. 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.	30
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.	35
	40
	45

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens presents ideas about poverty?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents ideas about poverty in this extract

- how Dickens presents ideas about poverty in the novel as a whole. [30 marks]

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.	5
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.	10
"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.	15
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.	20
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.	
"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?"	25
It gave him no reply. The hand was pointed straight before them.	

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the spirits in his novel.

Write about:

- How Dickens presents the spirit in this extract
- Which of the three spirits you think has the most powerful effect on Scrooge