EXAM STASH

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

EBENEZER SCROOGE

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



REDEMPTION | POVERTY | COMPASSION

WHO ARE THEY?

A wealthy, solitary businessman who begins the novella harsh and self-centred, but changes after the visits from the three spirits.

THE BIG IDEA

Dickens makes redemption visible through changed relationships and practical care. Feeling differently matters because Scrooge begins to behave differently.

CHARACTER JOURNEY

1. Rejects others
2. Revisits losses
3. Learns empathy
4. Acts generously

PAIRED KEY QUOTATIONS

Isolation becomes belonging

‘solitary as an oyster’ — Narrator, Stave 1

↔

‘a second father’ — Narrator about Scrooge and Tiny Tim, Stave 5

Method: The opening simile encloses Scrooge; the family metaphor gives him a continuing relationship and responsibility.

Reveals: A possible pearl is an interpretation of the oyster, not a stated guarantee of reform.

Statistics become a person’s livelihood

‘decrease the surplus population’ — Scrooge, Stave 1

↔

‘I’ll raise your salary’ — Scrooge to Bob, Stave 5

Method: Impersonal economic language reduces human lives to a burden. The final direct promise uses money to support a named employee.

Reveals: This answers the earlier refusal in everyday conduct.

CONNECTIONS TO THEMES AND OTHER CHARACTERS

- **Redemption:** Scrooge shows change through kindness and practical action.
- **Poverty:** His attitude shifts from dismissal to support, especially for Bob and Tiny Tim.
- **Other characters:** The spirits challenge him, Bob shows loyalty, and Tiny Tim embodies those he chooses to care for.

DEVELOP YOUR IDEAS

Point — Scrooge changes from a selfish, resentful man into someone who cares for others.

Nuance — The ending describes sustained change. A festive gift alone would be weaker evidence than continued support for Bob and Tiny Tim.

RECALL

? Which actions prove that Scrooge’s new feelings become lasting care?

? How do Dickens’s choices, such as simile and economic language, shape our view of Scrooge?