EXAM STASH

CHARACTER REVISION

JACOB MARLEY

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



GUILT | WEALTH | REDEMPTION

WHO ARE THEY?

Jacob Marley is Scrooge's former business partner, now a restless spirit condemned to warn Scrooge about his fate.

THE BIG IDEA

Marley shows what recognition looks like when it arrives too late. His warning gives Scrooge the opportunity he no longer has.

CHARACTER JOURNEY

1.  Accumulates wealth.
2.  Dies in isolation.
3.  Recognises failure.
4.  Warns his partner.

PAIRED KEY QUOTATIONS

A SELF-MADE BURDEN

'I wear the chain I forged in life'
Marley, Stave 1

'Mankind was my business'
Marley, Stave 1

Writer's method: The chain makes repeated choices physically visible. The redefinition of business challenges the belief that commercial success fulfils human duty.

SHARED PAST, DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES

'a good man of business'
Scrooge about Marley, Stave 1

'a chance and hope of escaping my fate'
Marley to Scrooge, Stave 1

Writer's method: Scrooge's compliment exposes the narrow values they shared. Marley's later offer turns their resemblance into a warning: the same past need not produce the same future.

CONNECTIONS TO THEMES AND OTHER CHARACTERS

- **Greed:** A result of a life focused on wealth over people.
- **Redemption:** He cannot be saved, but his warning gives Scrooge a chance to change.
- **Scrooge:** Their shared values highlight the danger of making the same choices.

DEVELOP YOUR IDEAS

BASIC POINT
Marley is a warning about the consequences of a selfish, materialistic life.

MORE NUANCED INTERPRETATION
His regret is sincere but cannot undo his life. His role is to make Scrooge's remaining time morally urgent.

RECALL

How does the chain connect personal choice to lasting consequences?