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1. **Introduce the novel and establish the focus of your essay**

* *The novel was published in 1843, a time of great social inequality and poverty. Through the Cratchit family, Dickens highlights the struggles of the poor whilst emphasising their dignity and resilience…*
* The reason why Dickens felt it was important to highlight the struggles of the poor

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1. **Explore how Dickens presents the Cratchits’ gratitude despite their poverty**

* *In the extract, Dickens presents the Cratchits as a resourceful and loving family…*
* Bob’s pride in the Christmas pudding: *‘Oh, a wonderful pudding!’*
* The family’s unity and contentment: *‘Nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding’*
* The lack of material wealth contrasted with emotional richness: ‘*a custard-cup without a handle’*

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1. **Explore how the Cratchits highlight the struggles of the poor in Victorian society**

* *The struggles of the Cratchits reflect the harsh realities of poverty in Victorian England…*
* Tiny Tim’s illness as a symbol of vulnerability: *‘Bob held his withered little hand in his’*
* The Cratchit family’s hope despite their hardship: *‘A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears’*

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1. **Make a link with Bob’s poor working conditions at Scrooge’s office**

* *An important moment in the novel that also highlights the struggles of the poor is in Stave One through the focus on Bob’s poor working conditions…*
* The conditions that Bob stoically endures: *‘The clerk's fire was so very much smaller’*
* How Bob is a representative of the exploited working class
* Why Dickens wanted to highlight the challenges faced by the working class

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1. **Make a link with Scrooge’s transformation at the end of the novel**

* *Scrooge’s generosity to the Cratchits at the end of the novel conveys Dickens’s hope that those with wealth and power would take greater responsibility for improving the lives of the poor.*
* Scrooge’s generosity to the Cratchit family and the importance of it: *‘Tiny Tim, who did not die’*
* Scrooge’s transformation as a call to action: *‘Scrooge was better than his word’*
* Tiny Tim’s final line as an expression of the universal value of kindness: *‘God bless us every one!’*