***A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens**

Essay 1

**Read the extract from Stave One and then answer the question that follows**

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| --- |
| Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dogdays; and didn’t thaw it one degree at Christmas.  External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn’t know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often ‘came down’ handsomely, and Scrooge never did.  Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, ‘My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?’ No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o’clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men’s dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, ‘No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!’  But what did Scrooge care? It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call ‘nuts’ to Scrooge. |

**How does Dickens present the character of Ebenezer Scrooge?**

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**Introduction**

Begin by stating your overall view on how Scrooge is presented

* *Scrooge, as his name suggests, is presented in the extract as…*
* *Unlike other characters in the novel, he is…*
* *Dickens purposefully exaggerates Scrooge’s appearance and attitudes to emphasise…*

**Paragraph 1**

‘Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire’

* + *At the extract begins, Scrooge is described as ‘hard and sharp’ to show…*
  + *The image of ‘flint’ is particularly evocative because it is thought of as something…*
  + *Dickens highlights the absence of ‘generous fire’ within Scrooge to make it clear that…*
  + **Finish by writing about how the ‘solitary as an oyster’ image develops the presentation of Scrooge**

**Paragraph 2**

‘The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait’

* + *As the extract progresses, Dickens continues to focus on the temperature by describing…*
  + *The words that he uses create the impression of…*
  + *The ‘cold within’ Scrooge refers to…*
  + *These characteristics define him to such an extent that…*
  + **Finish by writing about how the first two lines of the second paragraph develop the presentation of Scrooge**

**Paragraph 3**

‘Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, ‘My dear Scrooge, how are you?’’

* *It is particularly revealing that people in the street do not…*
* *As such, Scrooge is presented as…*
* *However, towards the end of the extract, Dickens makes it clear that…*
* *This shows…*
  + **Finish by writing about how Dickens uses humor to develop the presentation of Scrooge**

**Conclusion**

End by returning to the statements you made in your introduction

* *In conclusion, Scrooge is defined as a character who is…*
* *It is notable that Dickens was writing at a time when…*
* *As such, he encourages the reader to…*