



Subject: Year 10 English Literature GCSE Autumn Term 1



A Christmas Carol - novella

You are studying:

Paper 1: English Literature AQA/Paper 1 is 1 hour 45 minutes duration and consists of one essay response on Macbeth and one essay response on A Christmas Carol. Each essay is based on a printed extract. The A Christmas Carol response is marked out of 30 marks with no available SPaG mark.

For further information, past papers and examiners reports, visit: [AQA](#) (past papers) or [AQA Information and reports](#).

Autumn 1 – 8 hours a fortnight – mostly one teacher, occasional shared groups

Key topics include:

Unit

- ✓ **Complete class reading and annotation of the novella A Christmas Carol**
- ✓ **Activities linked to understanding character, theme and structure in relation to context and plot**
- ✓ **How to identify writer's meaning through language, character, event and perspective**
- ✓ **How to approach exam questions through exemplars, modelling, planning and reflection**

Assessment:

Mini-analysis half way through working – GPA feedback

Exam question on A Christmas Carol Literature Paper 1 – teacher feedback

Specialist key terms for this unit:

Structural Terms: Novella, Narrative, Cyclical structure, Exposition, Climax, Resolution, Flashback, Foreshadowing, Symbolism, Allegory, Motif.

Characterisation Terms: Protagonist, Antagonist, Character development, Transformation, Redemption, Archetype, Miser, Philanthropist, Vulnerability, Compassion, Isolation, Alienation, Parsimonious, Avaricious, Benevolent, Industrious.

Literary Devices: Metaphor, Simile, Pathetic Fallacy, Imagery, Juxtaposition, Contrast, Repetition, Semantic Field, Emotive Language, Hyperbole, Irony.

High-level Vocabulary: Didactic, Allegorical, Redemptive, Cautionary, Morality, Hubris, Repentance, Benevolence, Philanthropy, Exploitation, Dehumanisation, Marginalisation, Social reform, Moral awakening, Collective responsibility.

Subject reading/further support:
CGP guidebook/workbook for A Christmas Carol
BBC Bitesize – A Christmas Carol
Mr Bruff and Mr Salles videos on A Christmas Carol on YouTube
MASSOLIT YouTube Channel

Key theorists/theories:

[Karl Marx](#)

[Marxist Alienation Theory](#)

[New Historicism](#)

[Utilitarianism](#)

Suggested enrichment/wider reading activities:

Visit The Charles Dickens Museum in London, London Museum Docklands in Limehouse, or The Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs. Additionally, there are walking tours of London available.

Read Extracts from Dickens' journalism on poverty, Information about the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, Thomas Malthus' ideas about population and poverty (which Dickens challenges through Scrooge's early views).

Watch different versions of the novella turned into film with a 'critical eye' – adaptations tend to change fundamental ideas from the text, so ensure you have a critical approach to what 'should' and 'shouldn't' be in a