

A Christmas Carol Essay – Revision Planning

The final assessed piece for Year 10 will be an essay on 'A Christmas Carol' which will be completed in lesson (during Throwback Thursday) on **Thursday 2nd July**.

Previously, pupils have completed an essay where they knew the title and were able to plan it in advance. For this essay, pupils will not know the title but will be given three areas of focus for their revision (which will ensure that they will be able to complete the essay). This allows pupils to see the importance of revision and have an opportunity to rehearse the process of preparing for formal assessments.

Pupils revision should focus on the following areas:

- How the poor/poverty is presented
- The importance of family and friendships (relationships)
- The dangers of ignorance and greed (how our actions have consequences whether we realise it or not) – the importance of a socially responsible and generous society

In order to prepare for the assessment, pupils should make sure that they:

- Know the plot of 'A Christmas Carol' in detail
- Can identify the characters involved in each of the areas given
- Know key events that they can write about for each of the areas given
- Learn quotes that they could use for each of the areas given
- Know what Dickens' message or intent was when presenting the areas given

For Example:

If they are revising poverty they may look at Stave One and think about:

- How Bob Cratchit is used to represent the poor. We see how he is treated and undervalued by Scrooge especially as he works in 'a dismal little cell' which alludes to Bob almost working in prison-like conditions/being trapped by poverty.
- The Charity Collectors ask for money to help the poor especially as a show of generosity at Christmas to show that there are some wealthy elements of society that have a sense of social responsibility (lack ignorance) and are using their wealth and power to help those in need.
- Dickens constructs Scrooge to represent greedy Capitalists in society who are ignorant to the suffering of those around them (even suffering they cause) to show how greed and ignorance have a negative impact on society (especially the most vulnerable within it).
- Dickens uses Scrooge to represent the ideas of Malthusian theory in a way which is intended to make the reader feel horrified by the cold and callous attitude of Scrooge (and those like him) and realise the need for change.

Key Revision Materials

- Copies of the text
- Key quotes booklet
- Throwback Thursday revision work

