



A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MARLEY: MODEL ANSWER

Adapted from Zenab's essay.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MARLEY: GREED: QUESTION

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is confronted by his old business partner Jacob Marley's ghost

"It is required of every man," the Ghost returned, "that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world—oh, woe is me!—and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!"

Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain and wrung its shadowy hands.

"You are fettered," said Scrooge, trembling. "Tell me why?"

"I wear the chain I forged in life," replied the Ghost. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to *you*?"

Scrooge trembled more and more.

"Or would you know," pursued the Ghost, "the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!"

Scrooge glanced about him on the floor, in the expectation of finding himself surrounded by some fifty or sixty fathoms of iron cable: but he could see nothing.

"Jacob," he said, imploringly. "Old Jacob Marley, tell me more. Speak comfort to me, Jacob!"

"I have none to give," the Ghost replied. "It comes from other regions, Ebenezer Scrooge, and is conveyed by other ministers, to other kinds of men. Nor can I tell you what I would. A very little more is all permitted to me. I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere. My spirit never walked beyond our counting-house—mark me!—in life my spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me!"

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens explore the theme of greed.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents greed in this extract.
- how Dickens greed in the rest of the novel.

[30 marks]

400 – 450 words minimum





A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MARLEY: GREED: ANSWER OUTLINE

ESSAY OUTLINE

Introduction

Hook	A mind dominated by greed views the world from a self-centred perspective, approaching every interaction with the thought of, 'what will I gain from this?'
Building sentences	Greed only thinks about itself; seeing itself as the centre of the universe. It wants to acquire things from the world and hoard them; it wants to use the things that it acquires to protect and elevate itself
Thesis statement	But does that work? What effect does greed have on a person and what is the cause of it? In A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens explores these questions and, perhaps, the answer is best demonstrated through the character of Jacob Marley

Body paragraph 1

Topic sentence	The extract begins with Marley's ghost warning Scrooge that 'it is required of every man' to be a part of society and 'walk ... among his fellowmen'.
Supporting sentences	However, Marley is not only warning Scrooge about what will happen if he continues to live a greedy and selfish life, but, through him, Dickens is introducing the lesson that Scrooge must learn by the end of the story or else his spirit will be 'doomed to wander through the world' in 'chains', just like Marley's ghost. Additionally, Marley explains that he had already 'forged' the chains that Scrooge now sees on him, through the greed he lived by during his life. Marley states that the chain 'was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago', which illustrates that he was already wrapped in chains before he had died, even though he could not see them. He warns Scrooge that if he does not change his ways, he too will experience the damning consequences of his sinful behaviour in the afterlife.
Concluding sentence(s)	This scene appears to give us the biggest insight into the fate of the greedy mind. Marley spent his whole life acquiring material wealth,





	but in the end what did he really acquire: burdens, represented by the chains he wears as a ghost. He carries the burden of regret having wasted his life in a fruitless mission; so, essentially, Dickens implies that greed leads to regret, but how does this happen?
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Body paragraph 2

Topic sentence	Greed is fuelled by insatiable desire which creates a gap in empathy and compassion between upper and lower classes. <i>In fact, studies have found that higher-class individuals actually had a more difficult time recognising emotions in others.</i> It appears the lower class develops more perceptive social skills than the upper, including the ability to better recognise emotional details in others, making empathic connections, and it is these empathic connections with those of a lower wealth status is the lesson Scrooge must learn throughout his journey in the story.
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Supporting sentences	To that end, A Christmas Carol was written during the Industrial revolution where money from the industry made the rich richer and the gap between rich and poor widened . The novella tries to present to the reader that society needed to collectively try to tackle the issue of poverty before it spiralled out of control. One of the ways Dickens conveys this is by appealing to his audiences christian beliefs . Marley’s Ghost can be seen as a physical representation of the Christian belief system of heaven and hell and the importance of repentance and redemption. The suffering Marley is facing is revealed by Dickens to be a <i>direct consequence</i> of his attitude towards people during his life. The fact Marley has clearly caused his own suffering would perhaps cause the reader to view his character <i>unsympathetically</i> . This lack of sympathy is furthered by the <i>animalistic imagery</i> used by Dickens to describe the chain which is <i>“long, and wound about him like a tail”</i> .
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Concluding sentence(s)	The only thing that lasts after that are the effects of actions or in other words, the only things that last after our deaths are the things we give to the world not the things we get. Therefore, the greedy mind, which spends it's life taking and never giving, realises it has been on an empty chase the whole time; therefore, in the end, the greedy mind is left with a life of misery and nothing of value to last beyond it. But what is the cause of greed?
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Body paragraph 3 (OPTIONAL)

Topic sentence	
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Supporting sentences	
Concluding sentence(s)	
<i>Conclusion</i>	
Restated thesis	In conclusion, we could look at "A Christmas Carol" not as expressing the idea that capitalism is bad, or that Dickens is calling for a socialist revolution (which some of his other works may be doing), as much as saying that capitalism needs to be improved and employers have the responsibility to do that. Instead, it seems as though he is offering a beacon of what a capitalist can actually achieve: he does this firstly through Fezziwig, Scrooge's old employer; while he is just as successful a businessman as Scrooge, he is also a complete contrast. For one thing, he is far more benevolent and treats his employees graciously.
Summary of controlling concept	Through his words and actions, perhaps we may argue that Dickens is offering us the quintessential 'good capitalist'. For example, Dickens writes, "He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:" So, perhaps, Dickens is offering a kind of ultimatum to capitalists: one can be hard, cruel, unloved and disrespect their employees, like Marley and Scrooge, or one can be "rich, fat and jovial" like Fezziwig
Author's purpose	Scrooge eventually learns this lesson that Marley's ghost introduced to him in the final stave; he raised Bob's salary, 'was better than his word ... became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.' However, the key to Scrooge's redemption is, perhaps, his realisation that humanity is one big family, because 'to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father.'
Final thought (what idea/message can we learn?)	Therefore, perhaps, this is the lesson of the story, that capitalists can fulfill their purpose if they learn to see the less wealthy not as a 'surplus population', but as family that they need to reconnect to, because only then will they open their hand and gain true happiness, just as Scrooge does.

MAKE SURE YOUR ESSAY CONTAINS ALL OF THESE QUALITIES

Tick these off when you have added them to your essay





- Methods - author's techniques
- Context
- Effects of the author's methods on the audience/reader
- Link to another part of the text - talk about the meaning of the connection
- Symbolism
- Themes
- Author's purpose





A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MARLEY: GREED: 100% MODEL ANSWER

A 2010 study found that higher-class individuals actually have a more difficult time recognising emotions in others. The study suggests that the lower class develops more perceptive social skills than the upper, including the ability to better recognise emotional details in others, and making empathic connections. One of the study's researchers concluded: "Upper-class people, in spite of all their advantages, suffer empathy deficits . . . and there are enormous consequences." Other studies have also demonstrated that those who can least afford to give to charity on average give up to twice the amount of those in the top 20 percent of earners. This information reflects Dickens' idea that greed only thinks about itself; seeing itself as the centre of the universe. It wants to acquire things from the world and hoard them; it wants to use the things that it acquires to protect and elevate itself. But does that work? What effect does greed have on a person and what is the cause of it? In *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens explores these questions and, perhaps, the answer is best demonstrated through the character of Jacob Marley.

The extract begins with Marley's ghost warning Scrooge that 'it is required of every man' to be a part of society and 'walk ... among his fellowmen'. However, Marley is not only warning Scrooge about what will happen if he continues to live a greedy and selfish life, but, through him, Dickens is introducing the lesson that Scrooge must learn by the end of the story or else his spirit will be 'doomed to wander through the world' in 'chains', just like Marley's ghost. Additionally, Marley explains that he had already 'forged' the chains that Scrooge now sees on him, through the greed he lived by during his life. Marley states that the chain 'was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago', which suggests that he was already wrapped in chains before he had died, even though he could not see them because he 'forged' them 'link by link' in life. He warns Scrooge that if he does not change his ways, he too will experience the damning consequences of his sinful behaviour in the afterlife. This scene appears to give us the biggest insight into the fate of the greedy mind. Marley spent his whole life acquiring material wealth, but in the end what did he really acquire: burdens, represented by the chains he wears as a ghost. He carries the burden of regret having wasted his life in a fruitless mission; so, essentially, Dickens implies that greed leads to regret, but how does this happen?

Through Marley and Scrooge, Dickens illustrates how our insatiable desires fuel greed, and the consequence is a gap in empathy and compassion between upper and lower classes. Through his experiences of child poverty and his observations of the suffering of the poor, Dickens appears to recognise these problems, and he, perhaps, demonstrates how those with more economic power can help to solve this gap in empathic concern; he creates a redemption plot structure through which Scrooge must learn to let go of his greed by establishing empathic connections with those of a lower wealth status, or else be 'doomed to wander through the world' as a ghost in chains. Thus, Dickens constructs the plot in such a way that Scrooge must learn to embrace empathic human connections with the less fortunate. For example, Dickens takes Scrooge back to his past in stave two with the Ghost of Christmas Past to help him understand the causes of his selfishness; in the stave three, he learns the value of family by observing the Cratchit family, while also being presented with an opportunity to save Tiny Tim's life; then, in stave four, he is presented, once more, with the consequences if he does not learn to be more empathetic – he is doomed to die a lonely death with nobody remembering or caring for him, just like Marley. Another way Dickens conveys this message of kindness and empathy is by appealing to his audience's Christian beliefs. Marley's Ghost can be seen as a physical representation of the Christian belief system of heaven and hell and the importance of repentance and redemption. The suffering Marley is facing is revealed by Dickens to be a direct consequence of his attitude towards people during his life. The fact Marley has clearly caused his own suffering would perhaps cause the reader to view his character unsympathetically. This lack of sympathy is furthered by the animalistic imagery used by Dickens to describe the chain which is "long, and wound about him like a tail". Marley's plight suggests the only thing that lasts after when we are gone are the effects of our actions or in other words, the only things that last after our deaths are the things we give to the world not the things we get. Therefore, Dickens appears to be implying that the greedy mind, which spends its life taking and never giving, will eventually realise it has been on an empty chase the whole time; in the end, the greedy mind is left with a life of misery and nothing of value to last beyond it.





In conclusion, we could look at "A Christmas Carol" not as expressing the idea that capitalism is bad, or that Dickens is calling for a socialist revolution (which some of his other works may be doing), as much as saying that capitalism needs to be improved and employers have the responsibility to do that. Instead, it seems as though he is offering a beacon of what a capitalist can actually achieve: he does this firstly through Fezziwig, Scrooge's old employer; while he is just as successful a businessman as Scrooge, he is also a complete contrast. For one thing, he is far more benevolent and treats his employees graciously. Through his words and actions, perhaps we may argue that Dickens is offering us the quintessential 'good capitalist'. For example, Dickens writes, "He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:" So, perhaps, Dickens is offering a kind of ultimatum to capitalists: one can be hard, cruel, unloved and disrespect their employees, like Marley and Scrooge, or one can be "rich, fat and jovial" like Fezziwig. In the concluding stave, Scrooge finally learns the lesson that Marley's ghost implored him to learn in the first stave; he raised Bob's salary, 'was better than his word ... became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.' However, the key to Scrooge's redemption is, perhaps, his realisation that humanity is one big family, because 'to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father.' Therefore, perhaps, this is the lesson of the story, that capitalists can fulfil their purpose if they learn to see the less wealthy not as a 'surplus population', but as family that they need to reconnect to, because only then will they open their hand and learn to gain true happiness, just as Scrooge does.

