EXAM STASH

GCSE ENGLISH REVISION

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



MEMORY | GENEROSITY | CHANGE

WHO ARE THEY?

A supernatural guide who shows Scrooge key moments from his past. The spirit appears childlike and aged, with a changing form and light.

THE BIG IDEA

The first spirit makes remembering an active moral experience. It shows Scrooge both wounds and alternatives to the life he chose.

CHARACTER JOURNEY

1. *Appears as changing light*
2. *Reveals loneliness*
3. *Recalls generosity*
4. *Exposes lost love*

PAIRED KEY QUOTATIONS

1 REVELATION MEETS RESISTANCE

'a bright clear jet of light'	**Speaker:** Narrator **Location:** Stave 2	**Writer's method and effect:** Light makes memory illuminating and difficult to suppress. Scrooge's attempt to extinguish it dramatises resistance to truths he is beginning to recognise.
'could not hide the light'	**Speaker:** Narrator as Scrooge presses down the cap **Location:** Stave 2	

2 CARE AND PAINFUL REFORM

'Your welfare!'	**Speaker:** Ghost **Location:** Stave 2	**Writer's method and effect:** The spirit's correction insists that helping Scrooge may require discomfort. The visit is not nostalgic entertainment: recollection must change his understanding of himself.
'Your reclamation, then'	**Speaker:** Ghost **Location:** Stave 2	

CONNECTIONS TO THEMES AND OTHER CHARACTERS

- **Memory:** shows how recalling the past can lead to moral change.
- **Generosity:** highlights the value of kindness through Fezziwig.
- **Lost love:** brings Belle's rejection back to show the cost of Scrooge's choices.
- **Scrooge:** challenges his defences and makes him confront the person he became.

DEVELOP YOUR IDEAS

Basic point: The spirit shows Scrooge what he has lost.

More nuanced interpretation: The childlike and aged appearance suggests the the strange nearness and distance of memory. The scenes belong to Scrooge's past, not the spirit's personal development.

RECALL

? *Why must Scrooge remember Fezziwig's kindness as well as his own loneliness?*

? *How does the Ghost of Christmas Past move Scrooge from resistance towards change?*