

# GCSE English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel

## Key Terms

Capitalist	The idea that the government do not own any businesses and business owner's main interest is personal profit.	Other Key Terms			
Socialist	The government put structures in place to support the poor. This is partially funded by taxes on the rich.			Stereotype	An image or idea that is widely associated with a person or thing.
Prejudiced	Forming opinions that are not based on factual evidence.			Conscience	A person's sense of right and wrong, viewed as acting as a guide to one's behaviour.
Social Responsibility	A community or person taking care of others in society.			Miserly	A person that hoards money and spends as little as possible.
Devices		Contemporary	Following modern ideas or living or occurring at the same time.		
Analepsis	Flashback to a past time /event.	Redemption	Being saved from sin, error or evil, changing your ways.		
Prolepsis	Flash-forward to a future time/event.	Ignorance	Lack of information or knowledge.		
Symbolism	Representing themes and ideas with symbols and images.	Morality	Defining what is right and wrong.		
Juxtaposition	Contrasting ideas.	Egotistical	Self-centred.		
Empathy	The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.	Repentant	Feeling regret or remorse		
Apathy	Lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.	Collective	A group that share or are motivated by a common interest or issue.		
Foil	A character who contrasts with another character.	Avarice	Extreme greed for wealth or material gain.		
Omniscient	Knowing everything.	Solitary	Secluded or alone.		
Structure	How a narrative and its events are organised.	Compassion	Showing concern and sympathy for others.		
Allegory	A story that has a hidden meaning to teach a moral lesson.	Benevolent	Being kind.		
Motif	A recurring idea or theme.	Humble	Someone that doesn't boast or brag about their successes.		



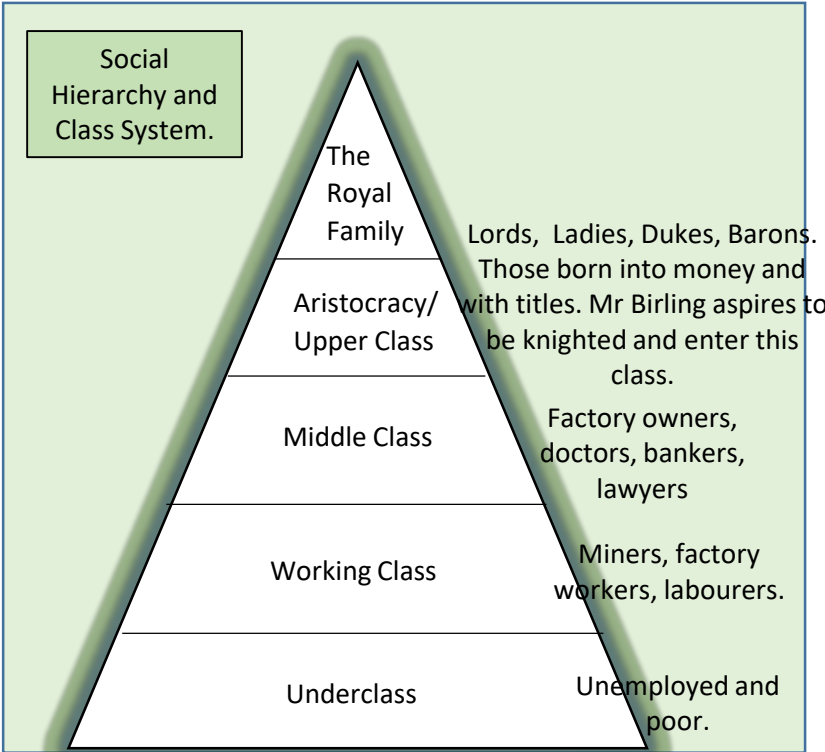
### Seven Deadly Sins

Seven deadly sins, also called seven capital sins or seven cardinal sins, in Roman Catholic theology, are the seven vices that spur other sins and further immoral behaviour. The seven deadly sins can be thought of as dispositions toward sin and separation from God. Lust, for example, could result in adultery, which is a mortal sin, or could lead to somewhat less intentional immoral thoughts that would be classified as venial sins.

Lust: intense desire (typically sexual)  
 Gluttony: excessive indulgence (typically food or drink)  
 Sloth: apathy, laziness, idleness  
 Envy: resentful, jealous of what others have  
 Greed: selfish excessive desire for more (usually money)  
 Pride: excessive arrogance, conceit, lack of humility  
 Wrath: strong or vengeful anger, lack of self-control

- ### Big Questions:
1. What was life like in Victorian Britain?
  2. What is Scrooge's function?
  3. How is symbolism used in the novella?
  4. Why is the novella set during the Christmas period?
  5. How might an audience of the period and a contemporary audience respond to the novella?
  6. How is the theme of family presented?
  7. Why did Dickens use supernatural conventions?
  8. Should we be socially responsible for each other?
  9. How is the idea of transformation explored?
  10. What prompted Dickens to write 'A Christmas Carol'?

- ### Key Themes
- *Loneliness and Isolation*
  - *Redemption and Social Responsibility*
  - *Family and the Home*
  - *Supernatural*
  - *Christmas and Religion*
  - *Poverty and Social Injustice*



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The **novella** revolves around Ebenezer Scrooge, written in 1843, in the Victorian period. The novella is an **allegorical tale** that aims to teach about the **selfishness** of **Capitalism** and the importance of **social responsibility**. The novella is a **Gothic, Christmas** tale that uses the supernatural to **redeem** the main protagonist. Dickens uses Scrooge to teach the rich about the importance of helping those less fortunate and the need for **social justice**.

## Charles Dickens

Dickens' writing criticises economic, social and moral issues in the Victorian era. He showed compassion and empathy towards the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Dickens' deep social commitment and awareness came from his own traumatic childhood, where his father was imprisoned for debt. He was forced to work in a shoe-blackening factory at 12 years old.

## Social Class

The class system made it so that the lower classes struggled. The upper classes had a limited sense of social responsibility-many were ignorant of the plight of the poor.

## Capitalism

Capitalism is an economic system in which people who own the means of production (factories, land, shops, tools, machines, shipping companies etc.) are able to make a lot of money by producing what people want and need.

## Industrial Revolution

During the Victorian era, Britain became one of the world's primary economic powers. After the invention of steam power, many people moved from rural areas to the cities in search of higher paid jobs. These people were known as the working classes. The increase in machinery meant less men to do the work which increased poverty and crime in cities. Working with machinery was dangerous and life threatening for workers as well, including children.

## Victorian Society 1837-1901



## Christmas

Before Queen Victoria's reign started in 1837, nobody in Britain had heard of Santa Claus or Christmas crackers. No Christmas cards were sent and most people did not have holidays from work. The marriage of Victoria to German-born, Albert, wealth and technologies generated by the Industrial Revolution changed the face of Christmas forever.

By the end of the century the celebration of Christmas had become the biggest annual holiday for all of society.

Victorians transformed the idea of Christmas by focusing on the importance of the family; feasting, decorating, gift giving and parlour games became the staple of a Victorian family Christmas.

## Thomas Malthus

Thomas Malthus wrote 'An essay on the Principle of Population', in 1798, that stated that population growth would grow faster than food supplies. This overpopulation meant that poverty was inevitable and the poor would die of famine. Malthus thought society shouldn't intervene as it would be better for the poor to starve and as such 'decrease the surplus population'.

Dickens rejected these ideas believing that there was an abundance of food but the rich needed to be more generous. Dickens thought the poor shouldn't suffer because the rich were selfish. This rejection of Malthusian ideas is central to the story of Scrooge's redemption.

## Poor Law

The original Poor Law was created in 1601 (it was known as the Elizabethan Poor Law) and remained unaltered until 1843. The Poor Law was set in place to support the poorest in society. It expected every Parish to support the needy through the taxation of wealthier citizens. However, in the 1830's spending on the Poor Law rocketed to £7 million. The Royal Commission declared that too much money was spent on the poor relief, this led to the Poor Law Amendment Act.

In 1834, The Poor Law Amendment Act stated that those unwilling to work should not be so generously supported. The workhouses were seen as the alternative provision for the poor to gain work. The workhouses were made deliberately harsh and were no better than prisons. Despite the horrific conditions of the workhouses they were seen as a success as they dramatically reduced spending on the poor.

## Timeline

<b>1812</b> Charles Dickens is born, 1 of 8 children	<b>1814</b> Dickens' 6 month old brother, Alfred, dies.	<b>1821</b> Dickens starts school	<b>1824</b> John Dickens arrested	<b>1826</b> Dickens is force to leave school again.	<b>1827</b> Dickens is a Junior Law Clerk.	<b>1834</b> The Poor Law Reform. Huge population increases.	<b>1836</b> Dickens publishes his first serial stories titled 'The Pickwick Papers'	<b>1842</b> Dickens develops the 'Ragged Schools' to educate poor children.	<b>1843</b> Writes 'A Christmas Carol'	<b>1846</b> Urania Cottage A home for 'Fallen Women' - Dickens supported this and found appropriate residents.	<b>1870</b> Charles Dickens dies
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## Characters

Ebenezer Scrooge  
Bob Cratchit  
Fred  
Jacob Marley  
Ghost of Christmas Past  
Ghost of Christmas Present  
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come  
Fezziwig  
Little Fan  
Tiny Tim  
Ignorance and Want  
The Cratchits- Mrs Cratchit, Peter, Martha, Belinda and two younger children

## Sample exam questions

- How does Dickens show the transformation of Scrooge's character?
- How does Dickens present charity and Christmas spirit?
- How does Dickens use the supernatural to create intrigue and excitement?
- How does Dickens present Scrooge's attitude towards the poor?
- How does Dickens present the importance of family?

**30 Marks**