Starting with the extract below from Stave 1, explore how Dickens presents attitudes surrounding social responsibility.

"Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude," returned the gentleman, "a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink and means of warmth.  We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices.  What shall I put you down for?"
"Nothing!" Scrooge replied.
"You wish to be anonymous?"
"I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge.  "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer.  I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry.  I help to support the establishments I have mentioned -- they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there."
"Many can't go there; and many would rather die."
"If they would rather die," said Scrooge, "they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.
"But you might know it," observed the gentleman.
"It's not my business," Scrooge returned.  "It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's.  Mine occupies me constantly.  Good afternoon, gentlemen!"

You should consider:

* Scrooge’s attitude towards social responsibility
* The charity gentleman’s attitude towards social responsibility
* How and why Dickens creates this juxtaposition of attitudes

**Task 1:** Annotate the above extract by highlighting key words/phrases and noting down how attitudes surrounding social responsibility are presented. Don’t forget to identify language and structural features.

**Task 2:** The question asks you to ‘explore’ which means that you can (and should) consider how Dickens’ presentation of attitudes surrounding responsibility may have more than one purpose or effect. Go back to the quotes you’ve already annotated. Can you offer an alternative or additional interpretation for any of them?

**Task 3:** Identify 3 quotations from elsewhere in Stave 1 that also present attitudes surrounding social responsibility.

**Task 4:** Why does Dickens choose to introduce the theme of social responsibility at this point in the novella and through these characters? Consider your understanding of the entire plot.

**Task 5: Starting with the extract from Stave 1, what social responsibility is and exlain how Dickens presents examples of it and attitudes to it in the novella as a whole. You should collect quotes from other staves (use the extracts we have studied) to support your answer.**