1. How does the description of the weather (pathetic fallacy) influence our views of Scrooge as a character?
2. Dickens uses the simile, ‘solitary as an oyster’ to describe Scrooge. Why is the word ‘solitary’ effective? Why compare Scrooge to an ‘oyster’ in particular?
3. ‘Scrooge kept the coal box in his own room.’ What does this quotation tell us about Scrooge’s character? See if you can think of TWO points.
4. **How is Fred the antithesis of Scrooge? Why does Dickens include Fred and make him a foil character? Explain your ideas.**

***This question is asking you to identify HOW Scrooge and Fred are different. Focus on the language used to describe them both.***

1. If Scrooge represents greed, apathy (lack of interest/concern) and the rich, what does Fred represent?
2. **Scrooge speaks in a mix of exclamative sentences (statements) and imperatives (commands). What does this add to his character? What do we, as readers, think of him because of this?**
3. **Do you think Scrooge is a tyrant? Explain your answer. If you are not sure what ‘tyrant’ means, look it up in a dictionary!**
4. *‘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?’*

**Dickens’ capitalisation of these abstract nouns (a noun denoting an idea or quality rather than a concrete object) hints of personification. Why personify these qualities?**

1. Why does the clerk smile ‘faintly’ when Scrooge threatens to deduct Christmas Day’s wages from him?
2. Scrooge’s dinner is described as ‘melancholy.’ Why does Dickens use this word to describe his dinner? What is he telling us about Scrooge’s character?
3. Bob is described as working in a ‘cell’. What is the significance of this language choice?
4. What is the purpose of Bob Cratchit? How is he presented differently to Scrooge? Why?