**Read the following extract from Stave 4 of A Christmas Carol and then answer the question that follows.**

***In this extract, the ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge a vision of the city.***

They left the busy scene, and went into an obscure part of the town, where Scrooge had never penetrated before, although he recognised its situation, and its bad repute. The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched; the people half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly. Alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offenses of smell, and dirt, and life, upon the straggling streets; and the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth, and misery.

Far in this den of infamous resort, there was a low-browed, beetling shop, below a pent-house roof, where iron, old rags, bottles, bones, and greasy offal, were brought. Upon the floor within, were piled up heaps of rusty keys, nails, chains, hinges, files, scales, weights, and refuse iron of all kinds. Secrets that few would like to scrutinise were bred and hidden in mountains of unseemly rags, masses of corrupted fat, and sepulchres of bones. Sitting in among the wares he dealt in, by a charcoal stove, made of old bricks, was a grey-haired rascal, nearly seventy years of age; who had screened himself from the cold air without, by a frowsy curtaining of miscellaneous tatters, hung upon a line; and smoked his pipe in all luxury of calm retirement.

**Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the city setting in A Christmas Carol.**

**Write about:**

* **How Dickens presents the city setting in this extract**
* **How Dickens presents the city setting in the novel as a whole.**

You should write about the author’s techniques and how they are used to create the scene. Consider the impressions that are created and what mood and tone these set for the events that are to come in Stave 4.

You should also refer to how the city is presented earlier in the novel – think about when Scrooge is walking home from the office on Christmas eve – find and explain some quotes from Stave 1 – are they in contrast with this? Or, do they create a similar mood and tone – explain why.

Look at stave 3 and find some other quotations that describe the city. Explain the techniques used and their effects. Explore whether they are similar or different to the ideas presented in the extract.