EXAM STASH

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – CHARACTER REVISION

SCROOGE – STAVE 4

CHARLES DICKENS

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



GREED | LOSS | COMPASSION | REDEMPTION

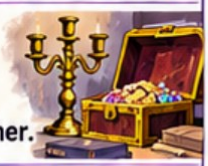
The possible future shows the consequences of a life without affection. Scrooge must interpret the silent spirit's visions and move from fear of punishment towards an explicit commitment to change.

THE JOURNEY: STAVE 4

1. **Public reactions:** a man's death attracts indifference or profit.



2. **The stolen possessions:** material wealth survives without respect for its owner.



3. **Cratchit home:** grief for Tiny Tim contrasts with the unloved death.



4. **Grave:** Scrooge recognises his name and pleads that the future can change.



5 KEY QUOTATIONS

	Quotation	Speaker/Location	Method	Analysis
1	*'I fear you more than any spectre I have seen'*	Scrooge, Stave 4	Comparative language; direct address	The unknown future terrifies him. Yet he agrees to follow, so fear coexists with a willingness to learn.
2	*'a happier man'*	Scrooge, Stave 4	Comparative aspiration	He hopes to live differently from his past self. This begins to define the lesson in terms of changed living, not merely avoiding death.
3	*'Are these the shadows of the things that Will be'*	Scrooge, Stave 4	Question; modal uncertainty	He asks whether the scenes are fixed or conditional. The distinction creates room for moral choice rather than inevitable doom.
4	*'I am not the man I was'*	Scrooge, Stave 4	Contrast across time; declaration	He separates his intended future self from the past. The claim still needs to be tested in action when he wakes.
5	*'I will honour Christmas in my heart'*	Scrooge, Stave 4	Future commitment; inward metaphor	He promises an enduring principle, not a single festive gesture. Remembering past, present and future should become a continuing way of living.

THE BIG IDEA

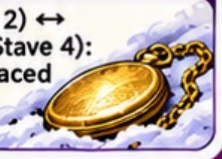
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KEY CONNECTIONS

- The silent spirit makes Scrooge ask questions and interpret consequences instead of receiving easy explanations.
- The Cratchits' grief reveals the value of a loved life, contrasting with the indifference surrounding Scrooge's possible death.
- The grave joins the moral and material lesson: accumulated possessions cannot purchase affection after death.

PAIRED EVIDENCE LINK

'a golden one' (Stave 2) ↔ the neglected grave (Stave 4): the devotion that displaced love cannot secure a loving legacy.

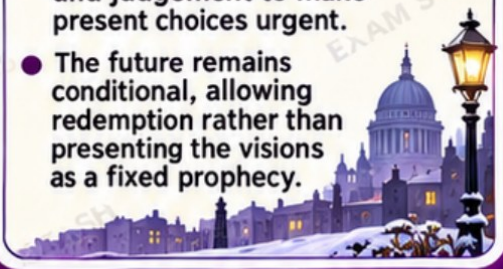


INTERPRETATION: DEVELOPMENT

- **Basic:** fear of the future makes Scrooge promise to reform.
- **Further:** Dickens contrasts two responses to death to redefine a life's value.
- **Advanced:** fear starts the lesson, but the promised change reaches beyond self-preservation into how he will treat others.

CONTEXT (RELEVANT)

- The ghost story uses death and judgement to make present choices urgent.
- The future remains conditional, allowing redemption rather than presenting the visions as a fixed prophecy.



RECALL TASKS

1. Why does the spirit's silence matter?
2. What must the final stave prove about Scrooge's promises?

WRITING TASK

How does Dickens use the possible future to change Scrooge in Stave 4?

