

# Class of 2024: Unit 1

## GCSE English Literature:

### *A Christmas Carol*

### *Context Booklet*



Name:
Class:
Teacher:

# 1/ VICTORIAN PRISONS

The following extract is from *Sketches by Boz*, written by Charles Dickens. It describes a visit to Newgate prison, an infamous prison in London. It was published in 1836.

5	A little farther on, a squalid-looking woman in a <b>slovenly</b> , thick- bordered cap, with her arms muffled in a large red shawl, the fringed ends of which straggled nearly to the bottom of a dirty white apron, was communicating some instructions to her visitor—her daughter evidently. The girl was thinly clad, and shaking with the cold.	slovenly: (adj) scruffy, untidy
10	The girl belonged to a class—unhappily but too extensive—the very existence of which, should make men’s hearts bleed. Barely past her childhood, it required but a glance to discover that she was one of those children, born and bred in neglect and vice, who have never known what childhood is: who have never been taught to love and court a parent’s smile, or to dread a parent’s frown.	endearments: (n) affection
15	The thousand nameless <b>endearments</b> of childhood, its gaiety and its innocence, are alike unknown to them. They have entered at once upon the stern realities and miseries of life, and to their better nature it is almost hopeless to appeal in after-times, by any of the references which will awaken, if it be only for a moment, some good feeling in ordinary bosoms, however corrupt they may have become. Talk to THEM of parental <b>solicitude</b> , the happy days of childhood, and the merry games of infancy! Tell them of hunger and the streets, beggary and stripes, the gin-shop, the station-house, and the pawnbroker’s, and they will understand you.	solicitude: (n) concern
20	Two or three women were standing at different parts of the grating, conversing with their friends, but a very large proportion of the prisoners appeared to have no friends at all, beyond such of their old companions as might happen to be within the walls. So, passing hastily down the yard, and pausing only for an instant to notice the little incidents we have just recorded, we were conducted	
25	up a clean and well-lighted flight of stone stairs to one of the wards. There are several in this part of the building, but a description of one is a description of the whole.	
30	It was a spacious, bare, whitewashed apartment, lighted, of course, by windows looking into the interior of the prison, but far more light and airy than one could reasonably expect to find in such a situation. There was a large fire with a deal table before it, round which ten or a dozen women were seated on wooden forms at dinner. Along both sides of the room ran a shelf; below it, at regular intervals, a row of large hooks were fixed in the wall, on each of which was hung	
35	the sleeping mat of a prisoner: her rug and blanket being folded up, and placed on the shelf above. At night, these mats are placed on the floor, each beneath the hook on which it hangs during the day; and the ward is thus made to answer the purposes both of a day-room and sleeping apartment. [...]	
40	Prior to the recorder's report being made, all the prisoners under sentence of death are removed from the day-room at five o'clock in the afternoon, and locked up in these cells, where they are allowed a candle until ten o'clock; and here they remain until seven next morning. When the <b>warrant</b> for a prisoner's execution arrives, he is removed to the cells and confined in one of them until he leaves it for the scaffold. He is at liberty to walk in the yard; but, both in his walks and in his cell, he is constantly attended by a <b>turnkey</b> who never leaves	warrant: (n) document
45	him on any pretence.	turnkey: guard
50	We entered the first cell. It was a stone dungeon, eight feet long by six wide, with a bench at the upper end, under which were a common rug, a bible, and prayer-book. An iron candlestick was fixed into the wall at the side; and a small high window in the back admitted as much air and light as could struggle in between a double row of heavy, crossed iron bars. It contained no other furniture of any description.	

**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about Victorian prisons. Use the space below to record key facts.



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**TASK 2:** Read the article on page 2. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 3:** Using lines 38-51, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



a. The prisoners are removed from the room at five o'clock in the morning. F

b. The prisoners are allowed a candle until ten o'clock.

c. The prisoners are allowed to go for walks in the yard on their own.

d. The cells are eight feet long and six feet wide.

e. The prisoners are not allowed anything to read in their cells.

f. There is not a lot of air or light in the room.

g. There are heavy iron bars on the window.

h. There is no furniture in the room.

**TASK 4:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



Prisons and their facilities	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
Prisoners	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
Parenting	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his article? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



## 2/ VICTORIAN WORKHOUSES

The following extract is from *Household Worlds*, titled 'A Walk in a Workhouse', written by Charles Dickens. It describes a visit to a workhouse, the inmates and their surroundings. It was published in 1850.

5	In one place, the Newgate of the Workhouse, a company of boys and youths were locked up in a yard alone; their day-room being a kind of <b>kennel</b> where the casual poor used formerly to be littered down at night. <b>Divers</b> of them had been there some long time. "Are they never going away?" was the natural enquiry. "Most of them are crippled, in some form or other," said the wardsman, "and not fit for anything." They slunk about, like dispirited wolves or hyenas; and made a pounce at their food when it was served out, much as those animals do. The big-headed man shuffling his feet along the pavement, in the sunlight outside, was a more agreeable object every way.	kennel: (n) a street gutter divers: (adj) several, many
10	<b>Groves</b> of babies in arms; groves of mothers and other sick women in bed; groves of lunatics; jungles of men in stone-paved down-stairs day-rooms, waiting for their dinners; longer and longer groves of old people, in up-stairs Infirmary wards, wearing out life, God knows how — this was the scenery through which the walk lay, for two hours. In some of these latter chambers	grove: (n) a group of trees
15	there were pictures stuck against the wall, and a neat display of crockery and pewter on a kind of sideboard; now and then it was a treat to see a plant or two; in almost every ward there was a cat.	
20	In all of these Long Walks of aged and infirm, some old people were bedridden, and had been for a long time; some were sitting on their beds half naked; some dying in their beds; some out of bed, and sitting at a table near the fire. A <b>sullen</b> or <b>lethargic indifference</b> to what was asked, a blunted sensibility to everything but warmth and food, a moody absence of complaint as being of no use, a dogged silence and resentful desire to be left alone again, I thought were generally apparent. On our walking into the midst of one of these dreary	sullen: (adj) sulky, depressed lethargic: (adj) inactive, lifeless, sluggish, slow indifference: (adj) lacking interest, unconcerned
25	perspectives of old men, nearly the following little dialogue took place, the nurse not being immediately at hand: — "Enough to eat?" No answer. Another old man, in bed, turns himself and coughs. "How are you to-day? To the last old man.	
30	"We are very old, sir," in a mild, distinct voice. "We can't expect to be well, most of us." "Enough to eat?" "We have very little bread, sir. It's an exceedingly small quantity of bread."	
35	Another old man, hitherto invisible, rises out of his bedclothes, as out of a grave, and looks on. "You have tea at night?" The questioner is still addressing the old man. "Yes, sir, we have tea at night." "And you save what bread you can from the morning, to eat with it?" "Yes, sir — if we can save any."	
40	"And you want more to eat with it?" "Yes, sir." With a very anxious face. The questioner, in the kindness of his heart, appears a little <b>discomposed</b> , and changes the subject. "What has become of the old man who used to lie in that bed in the corner?"	discomposed: (adj) disturbed or agitated
45	The nurse don't remember what old man is referred to. There has been such a many old men. The well-spoken old man is doubtful. The <b>spectral</b> old man who has come to life in bed says, "Billy Stevens." Another old man who has previously had his head in the fireplace pipes out: — "Charley Walters."	spectral: (adj) ghostly
50	Something like a feeble interest is awakened. "He's dead," says the piping old man.	

**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about Victorian workhouses. Use the space below to record key facts.



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**TASK 2:** Read the source on page 4. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 3:** Using lines 1-17, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



a. A group of boys were locked in a yard with their parents.

b. Lots of the boys in the workhouse are injured.

c. The boys were desperate for food.

d. There are no women in the workhouse.

e. The rooms in the workhouses have carpets

f. The writer walks around for less than an hour.

g. There are plants in the workhouse.

h. There are multiple cats in the workhouse.

**TASK 4:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



Workhouse  
appearance

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

Workhouse  
inmates

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

Workhouse diet  
and food

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his article? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



### 3/ THE POOR AND DESTITUTE

The following extract is from *Ragged London in 1861*, written by John Hollingshead. It describes some of the poorest areas of London in the 1860s, a sight that would also be common in the 1840s.

5	<p>Tripp's Buildings is an example of a court whose inhabitants struggle to be clean and decent, even in the face of bad building arrangements. The houses have no outlet, no air-hole at the back, and are, therefore, unhealthy and illegal. They have each two rooms, one over the other, the size of which may be about seven feet broad and twelve feet long. Each house lets for about four shillings a week.</p>	
10	<p>The gas-works in this neighbourhood are sure to attract a certain number of labourers, and these labourers are sure to live as near as possible to the factory. Laundry Yard, a long, narrow strip of pavement, covered with every kind of filth, contains a row of dwarfed two-roomed huts, filled with labourers and their families, and closely faced by the high wall of the Chartered Gas Company's premises. It is no uncommon thing to find eighteen people, of both sexes and of all ages, in one of these miserable dwellings. The rooms are dark on the finest day, and the small outlet at the back is nearly full when it contains a dog's house and a <b>pail</b>.</p>	pail: (n) bucket
15	<p>If some of these places are dirty, repulsive, and overcrowded, they are all brightness and purity compared to other parts of the colony. Enter a narrow street called St. Anne's Lane, glance up at a fearful side-court called St. Anne's Place, and wonder whether such filth and <b>squalor</b> can ever be exceeded. I went up the last-mentioned court, which had every feature of a sewer, and found a long puddle of sewage soaking in the hollow centre. The passages of the low black huts on either side were like old sooty chimneys, and the inhabitants were buried out of sight in the gloom. As I turned round to leave this place I caught a glimpse of several rough, long-haired heads peeping round the edges of the entrance. They disappeared immediately, like figures in a Punch and Judy show.</p>	squalor: (n) the state of being extremely dirty or unpleasant
20	<p>I crossed over the road, and entered the openly acknowledged high street of thieves and prostitutes. It is called Pye Street, and has no mock modesty about it--no desire to <b>conceal</b> its real character. Threepenny "homes for travellers" <b>abound</b> on both sides--yellow, sickly, unwholesome places, many of them far below the level of the road, and entered by a kind of pit. Many of the houses have no flooring on their passages; and there is nothing for the barefooted children to stand upon but the black, damp, uneven earth. A child, dirty and nearly naked, was hanging out of one of the old-fashioned casement windows; and in the summer time it is no unusual thing to see about fifty coarse women exhibiting themselves in the same manner. The yards at the back of the houses contain little mountains of ashes and vegetable refuse; and a dust contractor's yard, in the centre of the street, seems to have burst its bounds, and to have nearly poured out its oyster-shells, cabbage-stalks, and broken china into the open <b>thoroughfare</b>. A fiddler was playing a dancing tune to a mixed assembly of thieves and prostitutes, and a morning ball was being arranged on both sides of the pavement. Many of the side streets and courts about here are shored up with black beams to keep the houses from falling, which adds to their wretched appearance. A few ragged and other schools have been planted in this district in some of those faded shops which were formerly the <b>haunts</b> of receivers of stolen property.</p>	conceal: (v) hide, cover up abound: (v) have in large numbers of amounts
30		
35		
40		thoroughfare: (n) passage
45	<p>Where the links of new buildings have not yet joined each other you can see courts or interiors of ruined houses <b>lopped</b>, like diseased limbs, but not sewn up and healed. Sometimes the filth of these places runs out in black streams, and winds its way slowly down under the road arches.</p>	haunts: (n) a place visited by a person, territory, patch lop: (v) cut off, chop, hack

**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about poverty in the Victorian era. Use the space below to record key facts.



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**TASK 2:** Read the article on page 6. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 3:** Using lines 1-15, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



a. The houses in Tripp's buildings have no air-hole at the back.

b. The houses at Tripp's buildings are legally built.

c. The houses have two rooms.

d. The houses cost four shillings a month.

e. Labourers live in these houses because their work is nearby.

f. Laundry Yard is a dirty place.

g. The labourers live alone in these huts.

h. The rooms let in a lot of light.

**TASK 4:** Hollingshead offers his feelings/viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The buildings in the area

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

The poor children

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

The poor adults

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Hollingshead convey his viewpoint in his article? Use the space below to explain Hollingshead's viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



# 4/ THE POWER OF EDUCATION

The following extract is from a speech by Charles Dickens. He attended a dinner for the Leeds Mechanics Institute, an education establishment, in 1847, and spoke about the power of education.

<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> <p>30</p> <p>35</p> <p>40</p> <p>45</p>	<p>Why, ladies and gentlemen, reflect whether <b>ignorance</b> be not power, and a very dreadful power. Look where we will, do we not find it powerful for every kind of wrong and evil? Powerful to take its enemies to its heart, and strike its best friends down powerful to fill the prisons, the hospitals, and the graves powerful for blind violence, prejudice, and error, in all their gloomy and destructive shapes. Whereas the power of knowledge, if I understand it, is, to bear and forbear; to learn the path of duty and to tread it; to <b>engender</b> that self-respect which does not stop at self, but cherishes the best respect for the best objects to turn an always enlarging acquaintance with the joys and sorrows, capabilities and imperfections of our race to daily account in mildness of life and gentleness of construction, and humble efforts for the improvement, stone by stone, of the whole social fabric. [...]</p> <p>Now, ladies and gentlemen, I turn to the report of this Institution, on whose behalf we are met; and I start with the education given there, and I find that it really is an education that is deserving of the name. I find that there are papers read and lectures delivered, on a variety of subjects of interest and importance. I find that there are evening classes formed for the <b>acquisition</b> of sound, useful English information, and for the study of those two important languages, daily becoming more important in the business of life, the French and German. I find that there is a class for drawing, a chemical class, subdivided into the elementary branch and the manufacturing branch, most important here. I find that there is a day-school at twelve shillings a quarter, which small cost, besides including instruction in all that is useful to the merchant and the man of business, admits to all the advantages of the parent institution. I find that there is a School of Design established in connection with the Government School; and that there was in January this year, a library of between six and seven thousand books. Ladies and gentlemen, if any man would tell me that anything but good could come of such knowledge as this, all I can say is, that I should consider him a new and most <b>lamentable</b> proof of the necessity of such institutions, and should regard him in his own person as a <b>melancholy</b> instance of what a man may come to by never having belonged to one or sympathized with one. There is one other paragraph in this report which struck my eye in looking over it, and on which I cannot help offering a word of joyful notice. It is the steady increase that appears to have taken place in the number of lady members among whom I hope I may presume are included some of the bright fair faces that are clustered around me. Gentlemen, I hold that it is not good for man to be alone even in Mechanics' Institutions; and I rank it as very far from among the last or least of the merits of such places, that he need not be alone there, and that he is not. I believe that the sympathy and society of those who are our best and dearest friends in infancy, in childhood, in manhood, and in old age, the most devoted and least selfish natures that we know on earth, who turn to us always constant and unchanged, when others turn away, should greet us here, if anywhere, and go on with us side by side. [...]</p> <p>I will only observe, in reference to the proceeding of this evening, that after what I have seen, and the excellent speeches I have heard from gentlemen of so many different callings and persuasions, meeting here as a neutral ground, I do more strongly and sincerely believe than I ever have in my life, and that is saying a great deal, that institutions such as this will be the means of refining and improving that social <b>edifice</b> which has been so often mentioned to-night [...] it shall end in sweet accord and harmony amongst all classes of its builders.</p>	<p>ignorance: (n) lack of knowledge or information</p> <p>engender: (v) cause or lead to</p> <p>acquisition: (n) the learning or developing of a skill</p> <p>lamentable: (adj) tragic, awful, regrettable. melancholy: (adj) deep sadness, sorrowful, woeful</p> <p>edifice: (n) a complex system of beliefs</p>
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**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about Victorian education. Use the space below to record the facts.



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**TASK 2:** Read the article on page 8. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 3:** Using lines 13-30, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



a. There are lectures delivered at the institute.

b. There are classes available in the evening.

c. There are classes in Spanish and German

d. There are two branches of chemical class.

e. Each class costs twelve shillings.

f. There is a School of Design within the institute.

g. The library has more than 7,000 books.

h. Dickens is not happy with this amount of knowledge being available.

**TASK 4:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The impact of  
ignorance

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

The Leeds  
Mechanics  
Institute

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

Women in  
education

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his speech? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



## 5/ CHILDHOOD AND PARENTING

The following extract is from a section of Dickens' biography compiled by his friend, John Forster, in 1875. This section was written by Dickens. It tells of the period in his life where his family went to a prison due to his father's debt, and he was expected to work at a factory, and stayed with a relative.

<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> <p>30</p> <p>35</p> <p>40</p> <p>45</p> <p>50</p>	<p>In an evil hour for me, as I often bitterly thought, its chief manager, James Lamert, proposed that I should go into the blacking-warehouse, to be as useful as I could, at a salary, I think, of six shillings a week [...] the offer was accepted very willingly by my father and mother, and on a Monday morning I went down to the blacking-warehouse to begin my business life.</p> <p>It is wonderful to me how I could have been so easily cast away at such an age. It is wonderful to me that, even after my descent into the poor little <b>drudge</b> I had been since we came to London, no one had compassion enough on me—a child of <b>singular</b> abilities, quick, eager, delicate, and soon hurt, bodily or mentally—to suggest that something might have been spared, as certainly it might have been, to place me at any common school. Our friends, I take it, were tired out. No one made any sign. My father and mother were quite satisfied. They could hardly have been more so if I had been twenty years of age, distinguished at a grammar-school, and going to Cambridge.</p> <p>The blacking-warehouse was the last house on the left-hand side of the way, at old Hungerford Stairs. It was a crazy, tumble-down old house, <b>abutting</b> of course on the river, and literally overrun with rats. Its <b>wainscoted</b> rooms, and its rotten floors and staircase, and the old grey rats swarming down in the cellars, and the sound of their squeaking and scuffling coming up the stairs at all times, and the dirt and decay of the place, rise up visibly before me, as if I were there again. Our relative had kindly arranged to teach me something in the dinner-hour; from twelve to one, I think it was; every day. But an arrangement so incompatible with counting-house business soon died away, from no fault of his or mine.</p> <p>No words can express the secret agony of my soul as I sunk into this companionship; compared these every-day associates with those of my happier childhood; and felt my early hopes of growing up to be a learned and distinguished man, crushed in my breast. The deep remembrance of the sense I had of being utterly neglected and hopeless; of the shame I felt in my position; of the misery it was to my young heart to believe that, day by day, what I had learned, and thought, and delighted in, and raised my fancy and my <b>emulation</b> up by, was passing away from me, never to be brought back any more; cannot be written. My whole nature was so penetrated with the grief and humiliation of such considerations, that even now, famous and caressed and happy, I often forget in my dreams that I have a dear wife and children; even that I am a man; and wander desolately back to that time of my life.</p> <p>I know I do not exaggerate, <b>unconsciously</b> and unintentionally, the <b>scantiness</b> of my resources and the difficulties of my life. I know that if a shilling or so were given me by any one, I spent it in a dinner or a tea. I know that I worked, from morning to night, with common men and boys, a shabby child. I know that I tried, but ineffectually, not to anticipate my money, and to make it last the week through. I know that I have lounged about the streets, insufficiently and unsatisfactorily fed. I know that, but for the mercy of God, I might easily have been, for any care that was taken of me, a little robber or a little vagabond.</p> <p><i>(At this point Dickens had returned home. His mum wanted him to continue working.)</i> I do not write resentfully or angrily; for I know how all these things have worked together to make me what I am; but I never afterwards forgot, I never shall forget, I never can forget, that my mother was <b>warm</b> for my being sent back.</p>	<p>drudge: (n) a person made to do hard or dull work singular: (adj) remarkable</p> <p>abutting: (v) to be next to, adjoining, bordering wainscoted: (v) lined with wooden panelling</p> <p>emulation: (n) an effort to surpass an achievement</p> <p>unconsciously: (adv) without realising, being unaware scantiness: (n) small or insufficient in amount</p> <p>warm: (adj) keen, enthusiastic</p>
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**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about Dickens' childhood. Use the space below to record the facts.



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**TASK 2:** Read the source on page 10. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 3:** Using lines 12-24, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



a. Dickens' mother and father were not keen on him working.

b. Dickens went to Cambridge after grammar-school.

c. The blacking factory was located at old Hungerford Stairs.

d. There were rats in the factory.

e. The factory was in an old building

f. The factory was unclean and not nice to work in.

g. Dickens struggles to remember the place.

h. Dickens got an education from a relative throughout his working days.

**TASK 4:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The blacking  
factory

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

His parents'  
behaviour

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

His childhood

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his writing? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



## 6/ ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE

The following extract is from *Cassell's Household Guide*. It was published in 1869 and offered guidance and advice on the expectations of domestic and social life during the Victorian era.

5	According to English custom, a gentleman generally <b>ascertains</b> the state of a lady's feelings towards himself before he makes a positive declaration of his love. His proposal having been conditionally received, the lady usually refers him to her father or nearest relative for sanction of the union. If all <b>preliminary</b> statements are satisfactory, the young couple are considered engaged, without any further formality than the exchange of rings or some similar love token. If it should happen that delay arises before the engagement can be completely effected, it is not customary for the young people to meet in the interval. The lady in such cases usually pays a visit to distant friends, or in some manner	ascertain: (v) find out, make sure of, work out  preliminary (adj): initial
10	<b>contrives</b> to absent herself from circles where she is likely to meet her admirer. All correspondence by letter is suspended, and, in fact, the lovers live towards each other as perfect strangers for the time.	contrives: (v) to deliberately bring about, to orchestrate
15	The delays which most commonly arise in the acceptance of a suitor by a lady's parents and guardians are those occasioned by marriage settlements and similar business transactions. It has long been a generally-recognised custom that, when a lady had a fortune, some portion of it should be settled on herself, for her own especial use and absolute benefit, leaving the interest which is derived from the principal of her fortune to the use of her husband. The principal was generally held under trust for the joint lives of the husband and	
20	wife, to be ultimately divided amongst the children. Women that have no money escape, to a certain extent, many preliminary troubles of a business nature when forming a <b>matrimonial</b> engagement.	matrimonial: (adj) related to marriage
25	Whenever it is possible, the parents of a young lady although herself penniless, should endeavour to obtain from her future husband the promise or settlement of a certain sum of money, however small, which she may call her own, and dispose of at will.	
30	The anxieties of business transactions being happily at an end, engaged couples are subject, in good society to certain restraints which are almost if not equally <b>irksome</b> . Lovers do not usually bear in mind that the whole period of their engagement is a period of probation. They are mutually under trial. The opportunities of sharing each other's company previously may have been few; in all that constitutes their habits of thought and living they may be totally ignorant; and it by no means follows that, because an engagement has been entered into, marriage is certain to crown the intimacy.	irksome: (adj) irritating, annoying
35	In no case does the old proverb, "many a slip between a cup and lip," hold good with such disappointing force as in projected marriages. The strict surveillance to which a maiden is during that time subject often constitutes the "rugged course" of which lovers so bitterly complain. For instance, no young lady who values her status in the eyes of society ever appears at theatres or	constitutes: (v) accounts for
40	other places of amusement alone with her lover, she is either attended by her mother, sister, or some other female chaperon. Neither should she frequent promenades and other places of general resort, without the companionship of a sister or friend. Retiring from a circle of friends in the same apartment, and whispering apart in conversation to each other, is also forbidden by every rule	
45	of good taste. A gentleman may pay particular attention to the lady he is about to marry, but at no time should his attentions be of a nature to excite smiles and comments on the part of others present. Whatever makes people look absurd is a <b>violation</b> of <b>propriety</b> , and should be <b>scrupulously</b> avoided.	violation: (n) breach, breaking propriety: (n) decency scrupulously: (adv) carefully
50	Lovers' quarrels are a fertile topic, and are supposed to be inseparable from an engaged state. What do they arise from? - generally from <b>fickleness</b> and jealousy.	fickleness: (n) easy changing loyalty or affections

**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about Victorian women. Use the space below to record the facts.



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**TASK 2:** Read the article on page 12. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 3:** Using lines 1-18, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



a. A man shouldn't check the lady's feelings towards him before he proposes.

b. The woman should refer the man to her father or a relative.

c. If everyone agrees, the couple are seen as engaged.

d. If there is a delay the couple should meet during this.

e. The woman should try and locate the man during this time.

f. No letters should be sent during this time.

g. Often delays are caused by the female not being sure.

h. The female should keep a portion of the money that is hers.

**TASK 4:** The writer offers their feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



Before the engagement

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

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Quotation:

## Money arrangements

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

Quotation:

During the engagement

Feelings:

Viewpoint:

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Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does the writer convey their viewpoint in this source? Use the space below to explain the writer's viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



# 7/ A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

David W Bartlett, an American, wrote *London by Day and Night* in 1852 about his year living in London.

5	The streets on Christmas Eve were one continuous blaze of show and ornament. From Piccadilly to Whitechapel the bells rung, and the people flocked to the churches. For a week previous to Christmas-day, the weather had been black and foggy, full of rain and mud, but Christmas morning the sun rose to gaze all day long down upon the pleasant earth. The sky was blue and <b>serene</b> , the weather mild, and the chimes of the bells, ringing out against the sunshine, seemed to fill the air with joy. Every shop was shut like the Sabbath, but the streets were full of happy faces flocking to and from the churches, or wandering in the streets to sharpen their appetites for the Christmas dinner. At all the	serene: (adj) calm, peaceful
10	Unions, or poor-houses, the inmates had pudding, roast-beef, and porter- happy day for the poor wretches; it was the only day of the year when they could taste of a luxury, and they swung their hats in honor of "Merry Christmas."	
15	After noon the streets began to grow thin, and with a friend we left town to eat our Christmas dinner among the trees Christmas in the country! The very thought of it makes the heart glow with pleasure. It conjures up such sights of fairy children with laughing eyes and crimson cheeks, and home-joys and pleasures!	
20	It made our hearts beat fast with pleasure to stand upon the green grass and look into the pleasant sky, and hear the few lingering birds sing - to run races with children, and recall the time when we were young and ran races with our fellows in America! And when at last we all gathered around that groaning table, fair faces and manly faces, yet each one full of Christmas smiles, and with pleasant converse and laughing humor tasted the <b>viands</b> it supported, it indeed seemed that Christmas in England was a happy festival.	viands: (n) items of food
25	And when, the dinner past, the shutters were drawn, and the fire blazed bright in the grate, when we drew our chairs before it, and in the flickering fire-light one after another told stories of <b>perils</b> on sea and land, or of pale and shadowy ghosts, so that in the dim and shadowy corners of the drawing-room the shadows from the fire seemed to be ghosts of departed days - we said, -	perils: (n) dangers, hazards
30	"Merry, merry Christmas!"	
35	And when by a mere touch, all the room looked brilliant as noonday, and the evening plays came on, and we thought of all the pantomimes at the theatres that night - we, choosing to remain in the presence of such natural joys and pleasures rather than to go to Drury Lane or Covent Garden- when we looked into the happy, loving eyes of those around us, and saw how calmly joyous were all in that room ;- and when at last we were in our chamber for sleep, and our head lay on a soft pillow, we thought - last thought before going to sleep - may we never forget the English Christmas!	
40	But the next morning - what a change! The day after Christmas is a joyful day for <b>menials</b> , and a provoking one for everybody else. It is a day for "Christmas boxes". On that day every person who has during the previous year served you in any capacity almost, will present himself, tip his hat, and say- "Christmas box, please, sir!" expecting you to make him a present of money. The custom is such an old one that few care to disobey it, but to an American in London it is a	menials: (n) the low-grade workers
45	disagreeable usage. When the paper-carrier left at our apartments a morning copy of The Times, instead of allowing the servant to bring it to us, as usual, he made his own appearance at our breakfast-room door, and doffing his hat said- "Christmas box, please, sir!" There was no resisting his demand, and our purse was made thinner by his call. In a few moments the postman made his	
50	appearance, made a like demand, with like success. An hour later and the coalman wished his Christmas box; still later the laundress hers, until at night we found no silver left in our purse.	

**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about a Victorian Christmas. Use the space below to record the facts.



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**TASK 1:** Read the article on page 14. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 2:** Using lines 1-15, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a. The bells rang across London on Christmas Eve                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Lots of people go to churches on Christmas Eve                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c. The weather had been lovely in the run up to Christmas.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d. The shops are shut on Christmas morning.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | e. The streets are empty on Christmas morning.                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | f. The poor get nothing extra on Christmas.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | g. The streets grow busier after noon.                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | h. The writer leaves the town to eat Christmas dinner in the country. |

**TASK 3:** Bartlett offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



Christmas in London	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
Christmas indoors	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
Boxing day traditions	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Bartlett convey his viewpoint in his article? Use the space below to explain Bartlett's viewpoint on one topic of your choice.



## 8/ CARING FOR SICK CHILDREN OF THE ERA

The following extract is from a speech given by Charles Dickens in 1858. It was given at a fundraising dinner for the now famous Great Ormond Street Hospital. The aim was to raise the number of beds to 75.

<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> <p>30</p> <p>35</p> <p>40</p> <p>45</p> <p>50</p>	<p>Of the annual deaths in this great town, their [children's] unnatural deaths form more than one-third. I shall not ask you, according to the custom as to the other class — I shall not ask you on behalf of these children to observe how good they are, how pretty they are, how clever they are, how promising they are, whose beauty they most resemble — I shall only ask you to observe how weak they are, and how like death they are! And I shall ask you, by the remembrance of everything that lies between your own infancy and that so miscalled second childhood when the child's graces are gone and nothing but its helplessness remains; I shall ask you to turn your thoughts to THESE spoiled children in the sacred names of Pity and Compassion.</p> <p>Some years ago, being in Scotland, I went with one of the most <b>humane</b> members of the humane medical profession, on a morning tour among some of the worst lodged inhabitants of the old town of Edinburgh. In the closes and <b>wynds</b> of that picturesque place — I am sorry to remind you what fast friends picturesqueness and <b>typhus</b> often are — we saw more poverty and sickness in an hour than many people would believe in a life. Our way lay from one to another of the most wretched dwellings, reeking with horrible odours; shut out from the sky, shut out from the air, mere pits and dens. In a room in one of these places, where there was an empty porridge-pot on the cold hearth, with a ragged woman and some ragged children crouching on the bare ground near it — where, I remember as I speak, that the very light, refracted from a high damp-stained and time-stained house-wall, came trembling in, as if the fever which had shaken everything else there had shaken even it — there lay, in an old egg-box which the mother had begged from a shop, a little <b>feeble</b>, wasted, <b>wan</b>, sick child. With his little wasted face, and his little hot, worn hands folded over his breast, and his little bright, attentive eyes, I can see him now, as I have seen him for several years, look in steadily at us. There he lay in his little frail box, which was not at all a bad emblem of the little body from which he was slowly parting — there he lay, quite quiet, quite patient, saying never a word.</p> <p>Now, ladies and gentlemen, such things need not be, and will not be, if this company, which is a drop of the life-blood of the great compassionate public heart, will only accept the means of rescue and prevention which it is mine to offer. Within a quarter of a mile of this place where I speak, stands a courtly old house, where once, no doubt, blooming children were born, and grew up to be men and women, and married, and brought their own blooming children back to patter up the old oak staircase which stood but the other day, and to wonder at the old oak carvings on the chimney-pieces.</p> <p>Lastly, gentlemen, and I am sorry to say, worst of all —lastly, the visitor to this Children's Hospital, reckoning up the number of its beds, will find himself <b>perforce</b> obliged to stop at very little over thirty; and will learn, with sorrow and surprise, that even that small number, so forlornly, so miserably <b>diminutive</b>, compared with this vast London, cannot possibly be maintained, unless the Hospital be made better known.</p> <p>Now, ladies and gentlemen, this, without a word of <b>adornment</b> — which I resolved when I got up not to allow myself — this is the simple case. This is the pathetic case which I have to put to you; not only on behalf of the thousands of children who annually die in this great city, but also on behalf of the thousands of children who live half developed, racked with preventable pain, <b>shorn</b> of their natural capacity for health and enjoyment. If these innocent creatures cannot move you for themselves, how can I possibly hope to move you in their name?</p>	<p>humane: (adj) having kindness and compassion</p> <p>wynds: (n) streets (Scottish)</p> <p>typhus: (n) a common disease</p> <p>feeble: (adj) weak, frail</p> <p>wan: (adj) pale, ashen</p> <p>perforce: (adv) necessarily</p> <p>diminutive: (adj) tiny, small</p> <p>adornment:(n)embellishment</p> <p>shorn: (v) cut or broken off (past tense of shear)</p>
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**TASK 1:** Read the speech on page 16. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 2:** Using lines 11-25, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



- Dickens describes an experience that took place in recent weeks.
- Dickens travelled to Scotland alone.
- Dickens visited the poorer areas of Edinburgh.
- There were horrible smells in the places visited.
- Many of the places visited had little air or light.
- The single house described had only adults living there.
- The house was clean with clean walls and windows.
- Dickens sees a sick child lying in an old box.

**TASK 3:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The living arrangements of the poor	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The sick child in Scotland	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The Great Ormond Street Hospital	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 4:** Dickens uses persuasive techniques to convince his audience to contribute to the charity. Note a method and then explain the impact



Quotation	Method	Impact of method
“Of the annual deaths in this great town, their unnatural deaths form more than one-third”		
“his little wasted face, [...] his little hot, worn hands [...] his little bright, attentive eyes”		
“how can I possibly hope to move you in their name?”		

**TASK 3:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his speech? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.

[illegible]

# 9/ THE POOR AT CHRISTMAS

The following extract is from *Paved with Gold*, written by Augustus Mayhew. It describes a place where the homeless can go in freezing temperatures, and was written in 1858.

5	But if grateful thoughts of comfort are suggested by the contrast of the snow, the same cause leads the more imaginative to think of the sharp, biting misery gnawing into the very bones of the luckless portion of London society. To those who can put on warm flannel, and encase their bodies in a thick great-coat, a sharp frost means only "healthy, <b>bracing</b> weather," and to such people the long evenings are welcome, from a sense of the happy family circle gathered round the bright cherry-coloured fire. To the well-born young silver- <b>spoonbills</b> of the West-end, Christmas is a season of <b>mirth</b> and holiday games, of feasting, pantomimes, and parties. By the elder gentlefolks it is regarded as a time of	bracing: (adj) refreshing  spoonbills: (n) a type of bird mirth: (n) high spirits, fun
10	good cheer, with its cattle-shows and "guinea-hampers," and presents of fat turkeys from the country; for such as these, the butchers' shops are piled with prize-meat, coated with thick fat, and decorated with huge ribbons-for such as these, the grocers' windows are dressed out with dried fruits and spices, and studded with lumps of candied peel; and Covent-garden is littered with holly,	
15	laurel, and mistletoe, and fragrant with the odours of bright-coloured fruits. But how, think you, must the cold be welcomed by those whose means of living <b>cease</b> directly when the earth becomes like cast-iron with the frost. How merry must Christmas appear to those whose tattered clothes afford no more protection than broken windows against the bleak, stinging breeze.	cease: (v) come to an end
20	Some readers, maybe, will fancy that such winter's misery is far from being common among our people; but they should remember that in the lottery of life the prizes, as in other lotteries, are but the exception, and that the greater proportion of the chances are dead against those entering the <b>lists</b> , so that where one adventurer gets a lucky cast, thousands are doomed to end the	lists: (n) tournament, contest
25	game as badly as they began it. Readers should bear in mind, too, that with the luckless, the winter is especially the season when the wants are not only greater, but employment is scarcer, and, therefore, life harder than ever.	
30	The <b>sceptical</b> upon such matters, and more especially those who believe that <b>destitution</b> is always the result of <b>idleness</b> , should visit the Asylum for the Houseless Poor; an asylum which is opened only, be it said, when the thermometer reaches freezing-point, and which offers nothing but dry bread and warm shelter to such as <b>avail</b> themselves of its charity.	sceptical: (adj) doubtful destitution: (n) poverty idleness: (n) laziness  avail: (v) help, benefit
35	To this place swarm, as the bitter winter's night comes on, some half-thousand penniless and homeless wanderers. The poverty-stricken from every quarter of the globe are found within its wards. Nearly every shade and grade of misery, misfortune, <b>vice</b> , and even guilt, are to be found in the place ; for characters are not demanded previous to admission, and want alone is the sole qualification required of the applicants.	vice: (n) wickedness
40	It is a terrible thing to look down upon that squalid crowd from one of the upper windows. There they stand shivering in the snow, with their thin cobwebby garments hanging in tatters about them. Many are without shirts; with their bare skin showing through the rents and gaps, like the hide of a dog with the <b>mange</b> . Some have their greasy garments tied round their wrists and ankles with string, to prevent the piercing wind from blowing up them. A few are without	mange: (n) a skin disease for animals, scabies
45	shoes, and these keep one foot only to the ground, while the bare flesh that has had to tramp through the snow is blue and livid-looking, as half-cooked meat. It is a sullenly silent crowd, without any of the riot and rude <b>frolic</b> which generally ensues upon any gathering in the London streets; for the only sounds heard are the squealing of the beggar infants, or the wrangling of the <b>vagrant</b>	frolic: (v) to move in a playful and lively way, scamper vagrant: (n) homeless person
50	boys for the front ranks, together with a continued succession of hoarse coughs, that seem to answer each other like the bleating of a flock of sheep.	

**TASK 1:** Read the source on page 18. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 2:** Using lines 3-15, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Rich people can keep warm with their clothing at Christmas.   |
| b. | Rich people do not like the longer evenings of winter.        |
| c. | Rich families can gather around a fire at Christmas.          |
| d. | Rich families can enjoy games and fun at Christmas.           |
| e. | The older members of wealthy families do not enjoy Christmas. |
| f. | The butchers and grocers are full for the rich at Christmas.  |
| g. | Covent garden is not well decorated at Christmas.             |
| h. | Covent garden does not smell nice at Christmas.               |

**TASK 3:** Mayhew offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The wealthy at Christmas time	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The poor at Christmas time	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The crowd outside the charity home	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 4:** Mayhew uses language techniques to paint a sympathetic image of the poor at Christmas. Note down the method and impact of each method.



Quotation	Method	Impact of method
“To this place swarm [...] some half-thousand penniless and homeless wanderers”		
“Nearly every shade and grade of misery, misfortune, vice, and even guilt, are to be found”		
“hoarse coughs [...] like the bleating of a flock of sheep”		

**TASK 5:** How does Mayhew convey his viewpoint in his article? Use the space below to explain Mayhew's viewpoint on one topic of your choice.

[illegible]

# 10/ A VICTORIAN PAWNBOKER'S

The following extract is from *Sketches by Boz*, written by Charles Dickens. It describes a visit to a pawnbrokers (a shop where you can sell your possessions) in 1837.

5	If the outside of the pawnbroker's shop be calculated to attract the attention, or excite the interest, of the speculative pedestrian, its interior cannot fail to produce the same effect in an increased degree. The front door, which we have before noticed, opens into the common shop, which is the resort of all those customers whose habitual acquaintance with such scenes <b>renders</b> them <b>indifferent</b> to the observation of their companions in poverty. The side door opens into a small passage from which some half-dozen doors (which may be secured on the inside by bolts) open into a corresponding number of little dens, or closets, which face the counter. Here, the more <b>timid</b> or respectable portion of the crowd <b>shroud</b> themselves from the notice of the remainder, and patiently wait until the gentleman behind the counter, with the curly black hair, diamond ring, and double silver watch-guard, shall feel disposed to favour them with his notice - a <b>consummation</b> which depends considerably on the temper of the aforesaid gentleman for the time being....	renders: (v) makes indifferent: (adj) unbothered
10		timid: (adj) easily frightened shroud: (v) cover, cloak
15	In the last box, which is situated in the darkest and most obscure corner of the shop, considerably removed from either of the gas-lights, are a young delicate girl of about twenty, and an elderly female, evidently her mother from the resemblance between them, who stand at some distance back, as if to avoid the observation even of the shopman. It is not their first visit to a pawnbroker's	consummation: (n) completion, achievement
20	shop, for they answer without a moment's hesitation the usual questions, put in a rather respectful manner, and in a much lower tone than usual, of 'What name shall I say? - Your own property, of course? - Where do you live? - Housekeeper or lodger?' They bargain, too, for a higher loan than the shopman is at first inclined to offer, which a perfect stranger would be little <b>disposed</b> to do; and the elder female urges her daughter on, in scarcely audible whispers, to <b>exert</b> her utmost powers of persuasion to obtain an advance of the sum, and expatiate on the value of the articles they have brought to raise a present supply upon. They are a small gold chain and a 'Forget me not' ring: the girl's property, for they are both too small for the mother; given her in better times;	disposed: (adj) willing, ready scarcely: (adv) barely exert: (v) use, apply, employ expatiate: (v) speak in detail
25		
30	prized, perhaps, once, for the giver's sake, but parted with now without a struggle; for want has hardened the mother, and her example has hardened the girl, and the prospect of receiving money, coupled with a recollection of the misery they have both endured from the want of it - the coldness of old friends - the stern refusal of some, and the still more galling compassion of others -	
35	appears to have obliterated the consciousness of self-humiliation, which the idea of their present situation would once have aroused.	
40	In the next box, is a young female, whose <b>attire</b> , miserably poor, but extremely <b>gaudy</b> , wretchedly cold, but extravagantly fine, too plainly bespeaks her station. The rich satin gown with its faded trimmings, the worn-out thin shoes, and pink silk stockings, the summer bonnet in winter, and the sunken face, where a daub of rouge only serves as an index to the ravages of <b>squandered</b> health never to be regained, and lost happiness never to be restored, and where the practised smile is a wretched mockery of the misery of the heart, cannot be mistaken. There is something in the glimpse she has just	attire: (n) clothing gaudy: (adj) bright or showy
45	caught of her young neighbour, and in the sight of the little trinkets she has offered in pawn, that seems to have awakened in this woman's mind some slumbering recollection, and to have changed, for an instant, her whole demeanour. Her first hasty impulse was to bend forward as if to scan more <b>minutely</b> the appearance of her half-concealed companions; her next, on seeing them involuntarily shrink from her, to retreat to the back of the box, cover her	squandered: (v) wasted
50	face with her hands, and burst into tears.	minutely: (adv) with great attention to detail, critically

**TASK 1:** Read the source on page 20. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 2:** Using lines 1-14, decide the four true statements below.  
Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



- The inside of the pawnbroker shop is more interesting than the outside.
- The door leads from a corridor into a shop.
- The customers are shocked to see each other.
- A side door leads to a small passage.
- Some of the crowd try to hide themselves from the others.
- The shop owner has straight black hair.
- The shop owner does not wear anything worth money.
- The shop owner can sometimes have a bad temper.

**TASK 3:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different people. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The gentleman running the shop	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The girl and her mother	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The young female	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 4:** Dickens uses specific words to create sympathy for the people having to give away their belongings. Explain in detail the impact of these words.



Quotation	Method	Impact of method
“the elder female <b>urges</b> her daughter on”	verb “urges”	
“want has <b>hardened</b> the mother, and her example has <b>hardened</b> the girl”	verb “hardened”	
“the misery they have both <b>endured</b> from the want”	verb “endured”	

**TASK 3:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his writing? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.

[illegible]

# 11/ DEATH IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

The following extract was written by Dr John Simon. He wrote it for the City of London Medical Reports in 1852. In it he describes the Victorian practice of keeping a body in the home whilst awaiting burial.

<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> <p>30</p> <p>35</p> <p>40</p> <p>45</p>	<p>There is no part of the subject which I have considered with more anxiety than that which relates to delays in <b>interment</b>, and to the pro-longed keeping of dead bodies in the rooms of their living <b>kindred</b>.</p> <p>Evils arising in this source are unknown to the rich. <b>Soldered</b> in its leaden coffin, on tressels in some separate and spacious room, a corpse may await the convenience of survivors with little <b>detriment</b> to their atmosphere. Not so in the poor man's dwelling. The sides of a wooden coffin, often imperfectly joined, are at best all that divides the decomposition of the dead from the respiration of the living. A room, tenanted night and day by the family of mourners, likewise contains the remains of the dead. For some days the coffin is unclosed. The bare corpse lies there amid the living; beside them in their sleep; before them at their meals.</p> <p>The death perhaps has occurred on a Wednesday or Thursday; the next Sunday is thought too early for the funeral; the body remains unburied till the Sunday week. Summer or winter makes little difference to this detention: nor is there sufficient knowledge on the subject, among the poorer population, for alarm to be excited even by the <b>concurrence</b> of infectious disease in a room so hurtfully occupied... On an average, there would probably be lying within the City at any moment, from thirty to forty dead bodies in rooms tenanted by a living person...</p> <p>Among the wealthier classes, as I have said, this delay is practically unimportant, except in so far as every repetition maintains the <b>pernicious</b> custom. Scarcely on account of any risk arising to themselves in <b>emanations</b> from the dead, but mainly for the sake of influence and example, would one wish the educated classes of the community to adopt the usage of earlier burial. Our present practice is upheld by no law of necessity; nor for the most part does it represent any extravagance of grief, or fond reluctance of separation. Chiefly it subsists by our <b>indolent acquiescence</b> in a habit, which former prejudices and former <b>exigencies</b> established. Fears of premature interment, which had much to do with it, are now <b>seldom</b> spoken of but with a smile. The longer interval, once rightly insisted on as necessary for the gathering of distant friends, has now, in the progress of events, become absurdly excessive: in a vast majority of cases, all those whose presence is needed, live within a narrow circle; and the more distant mourner, who, fifty years ago, would have spent several days in coming from Paris or Edinburgh, can now finish his journey in twelve hours. It is much to be wished that, under these changed circumstances, an altered practice might ensue in the upper classes of society, fixing their time of burial within three or four days of death. Such example of wealthier neighbours aided by greater enlightenment and education among themselves, would greatly tend to detach the poor from many observances and delays, in relation to the dead, which, in their narrow dwellings cannot continue with impunity.</p>	<p>interment: (n) burial kindred: (n) family, soldered: (v) joined tressels: (n) a framework of a horizontal beam and legs, like a long table. detriment: (n) harm</p> <p>concurrence: (n) multiple events after one another</p> <p>pernicious: (adj) harmful emanations: (n)side effects</p> <p>indolent: (adj) lazy, idle acquiescence: (n) consent exigencies:(n)requirements seldom: (adv) rarely</p> <p>impunity: (n) freedom from punishment or consequences</p>
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**TASK 1:** Whilst watching the video, list 5 facts you learn about attitudes to death. Use the space below to record the facts.



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**TASK 1:** Read the article on page 22. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 2:** Using lines 1-14, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a. The writer is not concerned about prolonged burial.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b. The rich know of the dangers of prolonged burial.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c. The rich often use lead coffins.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d. The rich place the coffins in spacious, separate rooms.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | e. The prolonged burial affects the atmosphere in rich homes.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | f. The coffins poor people use are not always properly joined.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | g. The poor leave their coffins in a separate, uninhabited room. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | h. The poor sometimes leave their coffins open.                  |

**TASK 3:** Dr Simon offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The impact of slow burials on the poor	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
Burials for the wealthier classes	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
Changing burial delays in the future	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 5:** How does Dr Simon convey his viewpoint in his article? Use the space below to explain his viewpoint on one topic.



# 12/ CHARITY IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

Across his lifetime, Dickens donated to 43 different charities. The following speech was given in 1857, by Dickens, in support of a children's home for orphaned and poor children of warehouse workers.

<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> <p>30</p> <p>35</p> <p>40</p> <p>45</p> <p>50</p>	<p>I must now <b>solicit</b> your attention for a few minutes to the cause of your assembling together—the main and real object of this evening’s gathering; for I suppose we are all agreed that the motto of these tables is not “Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die;” but, “Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we live.”</p> <p><b>Conspicuous</b> on the card of admission to this dinner is the word “Schools.” And now, ladies and gentlemen, perhaps you will permit me to sketch in a few words the sort of school that I do like. It is a school established by the members of an industrious and useful order, which supplies the comforts and graces of life at every familiar turning in the road of our existence; it is a school</p> <p>established by them for the Orphan and Necessitous Children of their own brethren and sisterhood; it is a place giving an education worthy of them—an education by them invented, by them conducted, by them watched over; it is a place of education where, while the beautiful history of the Christian religion is daily taught, and while the life of that Divine Teacher who Himself took little</p> <p>children on His knees is daily studied, no ill-will nor narrow human <b>dogma</b> is permitted to darken the face of the clear heaven which they disclose. It is a children’s school, which is at the same time no less a children’s home, a home not to be <b>confided</b> to the care of cold or ignorant strangers, nor, by the nature of its foundation, in the course of ages to pass into hands that have as much</p> <p>natural right to deal with it as with the peaks of the highest mountains or with the depths of the sea, but to be from generation to generation administered by men living in precisely such homes as those poor children have lost; by men always bent upon making that replacement, such a home as their own dear children might find a happy refuge in if they themselves were taken early away.</p> <p>And I fearlessly ask you, is this a design which has any claim to your sympathy? Is this a sort of school which is deserving of your support? This is the design, this is the school, whose strong and simple claim I have to lay before you to-night. I must particularly <b>entreat</b> you not to suppose that my fancy and unfortunate habit of fiction has anything to do with the picture I have just presented to you.</p> <p>It is sober matter of fact. The Warehousemen and Clerks’ Schools, established for the maintaining, clothing, and educating of the Orphan and Necessitous Children of those employed in the wholesale trades and manufactures of the United Kingdom, are, in fact, what I have just described. These schools for both sexes were originated only four years ago. In the first six weeks of the</p> <p>undertaking the young men of themselves and quite unaided, subscribed the large sum of £3,000. The schools have been opened only three years, they have now on their foundation thirty-nine children, and in a few days they will have six more, making a total of forty-five. To carry this good work through the two remaining degrees of better and best there must be more work, more co-operation, more friends, more money. Then be the friends and give the money. Ladies and gentlemen, this little “labour of love” of mine is now done. I most heartily wish that I could charm you now not to see me, not to think of me, not to hear me—I most heartily wish that I could make you see in my <b>stead</b> the <b>multitude</b> of innocent and bereaved children who are looking towards these</p> <p>schools, and entreating with uplifted hands to be let in. A very famous <b>advocate</b> once said, in speaking of his fears of failure when he had first to speak in court, being very poor, that he felt his little children tugging at his skirts, and that recovered him. Will you think of the number of little children who are tugging at my skirts, when I ask you, in their names, on their behalf, and in their little</p> <p>persons, and in no strength of my own, to encourage and assist this work?</p>	<p>solicit: (v) ask for, request</p> <p>conspicuous:(adj)visible, clear</p> <p>dogma: (n) teaching, beliefs</p> <p>confided: (v) revealed</p> <p>entreat: (v) beg, ask, pray</p> <p>stead: (n) place</p> <p>multitude: (n) a lot, a mass</p> <p>advocate: (n) supporter</p> <p>skirts: (n) here means the bottom of a piece of clothing</p>
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**TASK 1:** Read the speech on page 24. Use the column provided to write a summary of what each paragraph is about.



**TASK 2:** Using lines 7-25, decide the four true statements below. Shade the boxes of the four statements which you think are true.



- |    |  |
|----|--|
| a. | The school was established by hard-working people.         |
| b. | The school was established for orphan and needy children.  |
| c. | The people who established the school offer the education. |
| d. | The school teaches aspects of religion.                    |
| e. | The school caters for adults and children.                 |
| f. | The school is not a home for the children.                 |
| g. | Dickens does not want to create sympathy in the audience.  |
| h. | Dickens does not want the support of the audience.         |

**TASK 3:** Dickens offers his feelings and viewpoint on different topics. Use the space below to write a key feeling, viewpoint and quotation.



The Warehouse men and Clerks' School	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The children who need the school	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:
The need for the audience to give to the charity	Feelings:
	Viewpoint:
	Quotation:

**TASK 4:** Dickens uses persuasive techniques to convince his audience to contribute to the charity. Note a method and then explain the impact



Quotation	Method	Impact of method
“there must be more work, more co-operation, more friends, more money”		
“children who are looking towards these schools, and entreating with uplifted hands to be let in”		
“Will you think of the number of little children [...] ?”		

**TASK 3:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint in his speech? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint on one topic of your choice.

[illegible]

# 13/ DICKENS' VIEWS ON CHRISTMAS

The following is a chapter from *Sketches by Boz*, by Charles Dickens, describing Christmas in 1836.

Christmas time! That man must be a misanthrope indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused—in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened—by the recurrence of Christmas. There are people who will tell you that Christmas is not to them what it used to be; that each succeeding Christmas has found some cherished hope, or happy prospect, of the year before, dimmed or passed away; that the present only serves to remind them of reduced circumstances and straitened incomes—of the feasts they once bestowed on hollow friends, and of the cold looks that meet them now, in adversity and misfortune. Never heed such dismal reminiscences.

There are few men who have lived long enough in the world, who cannot call up such thoughts any day in the year. Then do not select the merriest of the three hundred and sixty-five for your doleful recollections, but draw your chair nearer the blazing fire—fill the glass and send round the song—and if your room be smaller than it was a dozen years ago, or if your glass be filled with reeking punch, instead of sparkling wine, put a good face on the matter, and empty it off-hand, and fill another, and troll off the old ditty you used to sing, and thank God it's no worse. Look on the merry faces of your children (if you have any) as they sit round the fire. One little seat may be empty; one slight form that gladdened the father's heart, and roused the mother's pride to look upon, may not be there. Dwell not upon the past; think not that one short year ago, the fair child now resolving into dust, sat before you, with the bloom of health upon its cheek, and the gaiety of infancy in its joyous eye. Reflect upon your present blessings—of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some. Fill your glass again, with a merry face and contented heart. Our life on it, but your Christmas shall be merry, and your new year a happy one!

Who can be insensible to the outpourings of good feeling, and the honest interchange of affectionate attachment, which abound at this season of the year? A Christmas family-party! We know nothing in nature more delightful!

There seems a magic in the very name of Christmas. Petty jealousies and discords are forgotten; social feelings are awakened, in bosoms to which they have long been strangers; father and son, or brother and sister, who have met and passed with averted gaze, or a look of cold recognition, for months before, proffer and return the cordial embrace, and bury their past animosities in their present happiness. Kindly hearts that have yearned towards each other, but have been withheld by false notions of pride and self-dignity, are again reunited, and all is kindness and benevolence! Would that Christmas lasted the whole year through (as it ought), and that the prejudices and passions which deform our better nature, were never called into action among those to whom they should ever be strangers!

The Christmas family-party that we mean, is not a mere assemblage of relations, got up at a week or two's notice, originating this year, having no family precedent in the last, and not likely to be repeated in the next. No. It is an annual gathering of all the accessible members of the family, young or old, rich or poor; and all the children look forward to it, for two months beforehand, in a fever of anticipation. Formerly, it was held at grandpapa's; but grandpapa getting old, and grandmamma getting old too, and rather infirm, they have given up house-keeping, and domesticated themselves with uncle George; so, the party always takes place at uncle George's house, but grandmamma sends in most of the good things, and grandpapa always will toddle down, all the way to Newgate-market, to buy the turkey, which he engages a porter to bring home behind him in triumph, always insisting on the man's being rewarded with a

glass of spirits, over and above his hire, to drink 'a merry Christmas and a happy new year' to aunt George. As to grandmamma, she is very secret and mysterious for two or three days beforehand, but not sufficiently so, to prevent rumours getting afloat that she has purchased a beautiful new cap with pink ribbons for each of the servants, together with sundry books, and pen-knives, and pencil-cases, for the younger branches; to say nothing of divers secret additions to the order originally given by aunt George at the pastry-cook's, such as another dozen of mince-pies for the dinner, and a large plum-cake for the children.

On Christmas-eve, grandmamma is always in excellent spirits, and after employing all the children, during the day, in stoning the plums, and all that, insists, regularly every year, on uncle George coming down into the kitchen, taking off his coat, and stirring the pudding for half an hour or so, which uncle George good-humouredly does, to the vociferous delight of the children and servants. The evening concludes with a glorious game of blind-man's-buff, in an early stage of which grandpapa takes great care to be caught, in order that he may have an opportunity of displaying his dexterity.

On the following morning, the old couple, with as many of the children as the pew will hold, go to church in great state: leaving aunt George at home dusting decanters and filling casters, and uncle George carrying bottles into the dining-parlour, and calling for corkscrews, and getting into everybody's way.

When the church-party return to lunch, grandpapa produces a small sprig of mistletoe from his pocket, and tempts the boys to kiss their little cousins under it—a proceeding which affords both the boys and the old gentleman unlimited satisfaction, but which rather outrages grandmamma's ideas of decorum, until grandpapa says, that when he was just thirteen years and three months old, he kissed grandmamma under a mistletoe too, on which the children clap their hands, and laugh very heartily, as do aunt George and uncle George; and grandmamma looks pleased, and says, with a benevolent smile, that grandpapa was an impudent young dog, on which the children laugh very heartily again, and grandpapa more heartily than any of them.

But all these diversions are nothing to the subsequent excitement when grandmamma in a high cap, and slate-coloured silk gown; and grandpapa with a beautifully plaited shirt-frill, and white neckerchief; seat themselves on one side of the drawing-room fire, with uncle George's children and little cousins innumerable, seated in the front, waiting the arrival of the expected visitors. Suddenly a hackney-coach is heard to stop, and uncle George, who has been looking out of the window, exclaims 'Here's Jane!' on which the children rush to the door, and helter-skelter down-stairs; and uncle Robert and aunt Jane, and the dear little baby, and the nurse, and the whole party, are ushered up-stairs amidst tumultuous shouts of 'Oh, my!' from the children, and frequently repeated warnings not to hurt baby from the nurse. And grandpapa takes the child, and grandmamma kisses her daughter, and the confusion of this first entry has scarcely subsided, when some other aunts and uncles with more cousins arrive, and the grown-up cousins flirt with each other, and so do the little cousins too, for that matter, and nothing is to be heard but a confused din of talking, laughing, and merriment.

A hesitating double knock at the street-door, heard during a momentary pause in the conversation, excites a general inquiry of 'Who's that?' and two or three children, who have been standing at the window, announce in a low voice, that it's 'poor aunt Margaret.' Upon which, aunt George leaves the room to welcome the new-comer; and grandmamma draws herself up, rather stiff and stately; for Margaret married a poor man without her consent, and poverty not being a sufficiently weighty punishment for her offence, has been discarded by her friends, and debarred the society of her dearest relatives. But Christmas has come round, and the unkind feelings that have struggled against better

dispositions during the year, have melted away before its genial influence, like half-formed ice beneath the morning sun. It is not difficult in a moment of angry feeling for a parent to denounce a disobedient child; but, to banish her at a period of general good-will and hilarity, from the hearth, round which she has sat on so many anniversaries of the same day, expanding by slow degrees from infancy to girlhood, and then bursting, almost imperceptibly, into a woman, is widely different. The air of conscious rectitude, and cold forgiveness, which the old lady has assumed, sits ill upon her; and when the poor girl is led in by her sister, pale in looks and broken in hope—not from poverty, for that she could bear, but from the consciousness of undeserved neglect, and unmerited unkindness—it is easy to see how much of it is assumed. A momentary pause succeeds; the girl breaks suddenly from her sister and throws herself, sobbing, on her mother's neck. The father steps hastily forward, and takes her husband's hand. Friends crowd round to offer their hearty congratulations, and happiness and harmony again prevail.

As to the dinner, it's perfectly delightful—nothing goes wrong, and everybody is in the very best of spirits, and disposed to please and be pleased. Grandpapa relates a circumstantial account of the purchase of the turkey, with a slight digression relative to the purchase of previous turkeys, on former Christmas-days, which grandmamma corroborates in the minutest particular. Uncle George tells stories, and carves poultry, and takes wine, and jokes with the children at the side-table, and winks at the cousins that are making love, or being made love to, and exhilarates everybody with his good humour and hospitality; and when, at last, a stout servant staggers in with a gigantic pudding, with a sprig of holly in the top, there is such a laughing, and shouting, and clapping of little chubby hands, and kicking up of fat dumpy legs, as can only be equalled by the applause with which the astonishing feat of pouring lighted brandy into mince-pies, is received by the younger visitors. Then the dessert!—and the wine!—and the fun! Such beautiful speeches, and such songs, from aunt Margaret's husband, who turns out to be such a nice man, and so attentive to grandmamma! Even grandpapa not only sings his annual song with unprecedented vigour, but on being honoured with an unanimous encore, according to annual custom, actually comes out with a new one which nobody but grandmamma ever heard before; and a young scapegrace of a cousin, who has been in some disgrace with the old people, for certain heinous sins of omission and commission—neglecting to call, and persisting in drinking Burton Ale—astonishes everybody into convulsions of laughter by volunteering the most extraordinary comic songs that ever were heard. And thus the evening passes, in a strain of rational good-will and cheerfulness, doing more to awaken the sympathies of every member of the party in behalf of his neighbour, and to perpetuate their good feeling during the ensuing year, than half the homilies that have ever been written, by half the Divines that have ever lived.

**TASK 5:** How does Dickens convey his viewpoint on Christmas in his article? Use the space below to explain Dickens' viewpoint in detail, analysing his use of language to present his ideas.





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## Vocabulary for emotions and feelings

	Happiness	Caring	Depression	Inadequate	Fear	Confusion	Hurt	Anger	Loneliness	Remorse
Strong	Delighted Ebullient Ecstatic Elated Energetic Enthusiastic Euphoric Excited Exhilarated Overjoyed Thrilled Tickled pink Turned on Vibrant Zippy	Adoring Ardent Cherishing Compassionate Crazy about Devoted Doting Fervent Idolizing Infatuated Passionate Wild about Worshipful Zealous	Alienated Barren Beaten Bleak Dejected Depressed Desolate Despondent Dismal Empty Gloomy Grieved Grim Hopeless In despair Woeful Worried	Blemished Broken Crippled Damaged Feeble Finished Flawed Helpless Impotent Inferior Invalid Powerless Useless Washed up Whipped Worthless Zero	Appalled Desperate Distressed Frightened Horrificed Intimidated Panicky Paralyzed Petrified Shocked Shook up Speechless Terrified Terror-stricken Wrecked	Baffled Befuddled Chaotic Confounded Confused Flustered Panicky Rattled Reeling Shocked Shook up Speechless Startled Stumped Stunned Taken-aback Thrown Trapped	Abused Aching Anguished Crushed Degraded Destroyed Devastated Discarded Disgraced Forsaken Humiliated Mocked Punished Rejected Ridiculed Ruined Scorned	Affronted Belligerent Bitter Burned up Enraged Fuming Furious Heated Incensed Infuriated Outraged Provoked Seething Storming Truculent Vengeful Vindictive	Abandoned Black Cut off Deserted Destroyed Empty Forsaken Isolated Marooned Neglected Ostracized Outcast Rejected Shunned	Abashed Debased Degraded Delinquent Depraved Disgraced Evil Exposed Humiliated Judged Mortified Shamed Sinful Wicked Wrong
Medium	Aglow Buoyant Cheerful Elevated Gleeful Happy In high spirits Jovial Light-hearted Lively Merry Riding high Sparkling Up	Admiring Affectionate Attached Fond Fond of Huggy Kind Kind-hearted Loving Partial Soft on Sympathetic Tender Trusting Warm-hearted	Awful Blue Crestfallen Demoralized Devalued Discouraged Dispirited Distressed Downcast Downhearted Fed up Lost Melancholy Miserable Regretful Rotten Sorrowful Tearful Upset Weepy	Ailing Defeated Deficient Dopey Feeble Helpless Impaired Imperfect Incapable Incompetent Incomplete Ineffective Inept Insignificant Lacking Lame Overwhelmed Small Substandard Unimportant	Afraid Alarmed Apprehensive Awkward Defensive Fearful Fidgety Fretful Jumpy Nervous Scared Shaky Skittish Spineless Taut Threatened Troubled Wired	Adrift Ambivalent Bewildered Puzzled Blurred Disconcerted Disordered Disorganized Disquieted Disturbed Dizzy Foggy Frozen Frustrated Misled Mistaken Misunderstood Mixed up Perplexed Troubled	Belittled Cheapened Criticized Damaged Depreciated Devalued Discredited Distressed Impaired Injured Maligned Marred Miffed Mistreated Resentful Tortured Troubled Wounded	Aggravated Annoyed Antagonistic Crabby Cranky Exasperated Fuming Grouchy Hostile Ill-tempered Indignant Irate Irritated Offended Ratty Resentful Sore Spiteful Testy Ticked off	Alienated Alone Apart Cheerless Companionless Dejected Despondent Estranged Excluded Left out Leftover Lonely Oppressed Uncherished	Apologetic Ashamed Contrite Crestfallen Culpable Demeaned Downhearted Flustered Guilty Penitent Regretful Remorseful Repentant Shamefaced Sorrowful Sorry
Light	Contented Cool Fine Genial Glad Gratified Keen Pleasant Pleased Satisfied Serene Sunny	Appreciative Attentive Considerate Friendly Interested in Kind Like Respecting Thoughtful Tolerant Warm toward Yielding	Blah Disappointed Down Funk Gloom Low Moody Morose Somber Subdued Uncomfortable Unhappy	Dry Incomplete Meager Puny Tenuous Tiny Uncertain Unconvincing Unsure Weak Wishful	Anxious Careful Cautious Disquieted Goose-bumpy Shy Tense Timid Uneasy Unsure Watchful Worried	Distracted Uncertain Uncomfortable Undecided Unsettled Unsure	Annoyed Let down Minimized Neglected Put away Put down Rueful Tender Touched Unhappy Used	Bugged Chagrined Dismayed Galled Grim Impatient Irrked Petulant Resentful Sullen Uptight	Blue Detached Discouraged Distant Insulated Melancholy Remote Separate Withdrawn	Bashful Blushing Chagrined Chastened Embarrassed Hesitant Humble Meek Sheepish