Year 8 – Cumulative Assessment Topic List for Revision

KS3 Grading

Use the **FEEDBACK codes** below to help with your <u>assessment</u>:
- *Annotate your margin with feedback codes.*
- *WWW: I have reached a Grade ___ because I have ...*
- *EBI: To reach a Grade ___, I need to... - linked to feedback codes*
- *I am ___ grade(s) above/below my target grade.*
- *Now complete a <u>DIRT Response</u> that meets your EBI.*

How to achieve the -, secure, plus grades:
1 paragraph gives you a **minus (-)** grade.
2 paragraphs gives you a **secure** grade.
3 paragraphs gives you a **plus (+)** grade.

FEEDBACK CODES:
P = Point – Adjectives and Link to BIG IDEAS
EV = Evidence (three a paragraph min.)
EXP = Explanation
T = Technique / Tone / Word class
Z = Zoom on individual word
R = Reader's response / sympathy
C = Context / History
L = Link to character/evidence from text as whole
A = Alternative interpretation / However
I = Writer's intentions – humanity
V = Vocabulary – ambitious adjectives / BIG ideas
Q = Refer to the question/thesis

Grade(s)	Skills Required									
1	P	EV								
2	P	EV	EXP (1)							
3	P	EV	EXP (2)	T	R	C				
4	P	EV(2)	EXP (3)	T	Z	R	C	L		
5	P	EV(3)	EXP (4)	T	Z	R	C	A	L	V	Q
6	P	EV(3)	EXP (5)	T	Z	R	C	A	I	V	Q

GRADE 5+ Each point needs to be supported by at least three quotes from text as a whole.

You will be expected to write 2-3 extended paragraphs in response to an extract and question that will follow.

Below is a comprehensive list of key quotes, themes, structures, and plot details that will support you in answering this question.

Key Quotes to Learn

- **"Marley was dead: to begin with."** – establishes certainty and foreshadows the supernatural.

- **"Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire."** – description of Scrooge's character.

- **"Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?"** – Scrooge's harsh attitude to poverty.

- **"I wear the chain I forged in life."** – Marley's warning about consequences of selfishness.

- **"God bless us, every one!"** – Tiny Tim's hopeful message of unity and compassion.

- **"He was a second father."** – Scrooge's transformation at the end.

Context

- Written in **1843**, during the **Victorian era**.

- Dickens was concerned about **poverty and social inequality**, especially after visiting the slums of London.

- The novella reflects the **impact of the Industrial Revolution**: wealth for some, hardship for many.

- Inspired by Dickens's own experiences of poverty as a child.

- Links to **Christian values** of charity, redemption, and forgiveness.

- Published at Christmas, when traditions of generosity and family were being revived.

Key Information

- **Themes**:

  - Social responsibility and charity.

  - Redemption and transformation.

  - Family and community.

  - The consequences of greed and selfishness.

- **Characters**:

  - **Scrooge** – miserly at first, later redeemed.

  - **Marley** – warns Scrooge of his fate.

  - **The Ghosts** – Past, Present, and Yet to Come, each teaching Scrooge a lesson.

  - **Tiny Tim** – symbol of innocence and the need for compassion.

- **Structure & Form**:

  - Novella divided into **five staves** (like musical stanzas).

  - Allegorical – characters and events symbolise moral lessons.

  - Cyclical – begins with Scrooge's coldness, ends with warmth and generosity.

- **Language & Imagery**:

  - **Similes & metaphors**: "solitary as an oyster."

- o **Symbolism**: chains (consequences), light (hope), cold vs. warmth (emotional states).
- o **Contrast**: Scrooge's isolation vs. the Cratchits' warmth.

Suggested Revision Topics

1. **Memorise key quotes** (above) and practise linking them to themes.

2. **Understand Dickens's context** – Victorian poverty, Industrial Revolution, Christian values.

3. **Analyse Scrooge's character arc** – from miser to redeemed.

4. **Comment on structure and symbolism** – allegory, staves, contrasts.

5. **Explore themes of social responsibility and redemption.**

YouTube Resources

Here are some useful video links, whilst some may be aimed at GCSE students – a reminder that this is also a GCSE text studied by students for their exams, it is useful to know and can help you:

- GCSE English Literature – A Christmas Carol Context & Themes

- Top Grade Analysis of A Christmas Carol

- Character Analysis: Scrooge

- Themes in A Christmas Carol

- Line-by-Line Summary & Analysis