***A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens**

Exploring the Context of the Novel

**Poverty**

1. Explain the purpose of a ‘blacking factory’
2. Explain what sort of work a young Charles Dickens would have undertaken at one of those factories
3. Provide one reason why Dickens might have been particularly interested in social reform
4. Explain the difference between the ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ poor
5. Explain the primary aim of the (new) Poor Law
6. Write down the century and decade in which the (new) Poor Law was introduced
7. Provide two reasons why poor people feared being sent to the workhouse
8. Read the passage below and write down three adjectives to describe the conditions in workhouses

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**London**

1. Write down the century and decade in which *A Christmas Carol* was published
2. Read the passage below and provide two reasons why the population of London rapidly expanded in the nineteenth century

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**Christmas**

1. Provide a definition of the word ‘charity’
2. Explain what the term ‘social conscience’ means

**Ghosts**

1. Name two of the ghosts that appear in *A Christmas Carol*
2. Provide a definition of the word ‘counsel’
3. Explain what the phrase ‘embodiment of generosity’ means

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