"A Christmas Carol" – Act II Questions

Part I: Literary Questions (pgs. 663-680 of literature book)

Directions:
- Using your book, answer the following questions in preparation for your test; this will serve as part of your review packet for the test on Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th!
- You don’t have to write in complete sentences or use all the space, but make sure you fully answer the question!

SCENE I    Pages 663-664

1. Who are the “brothers” of the Ghost of Christmas Present, and why hasn’t Scrooge “walked forth” with them?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is the significance of this quote? “Spirit, conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion and learnt a lesson which is working now. Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it.” (664)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

3. How is Scrooge’s attitude toward this ghost different than the attitude he had with Marley at first and the Ghost of Christmas Past?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

SCENE II    Page 665

4. What does the Ghost of Christmas Present symbolically sprinkle from his torch?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

4a. On whom does he sprinkle that? Why do they need it the most?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
5. What Scrooge’s reaction when Christmas Present shows him the Cratchit home and Bob’s many children?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

6. What is the significance of this quote? “If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, none other of my race will find him here.” (667)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

7. Present says to Scrooge: “If he be liked to die, he had better do it and decrease the surplus population.” How does hearing his own words about “surplus population” echoed by the Ghost of Christmas Present affect Scrooge? (667)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

8. How does Scrooge's reaction to the Ghost of Christmas Present’s prediction for Tiny Tim further develop the plot? (667)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

9. What is Mrs. Cratchit’s response to Bob’s toast to Scrooge? Why do you think she acts this way, and do you agree or disagree with her reaction? (667-668)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

10. What is the significance of this quote? “They don’t sing very well, do they? But, nonetheless, they do sing….. think of that Scrooge. Fifteen shillings a week and they do sing…” (669)
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
11. What is an example of foreshadowing in this scene or scene IV? (667 or 672)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

SCENE IV  Pages 669 – 676

12. What is it you think Scrooge would say to Fred and his wife if he were audible (able to be heard)? Why? (670)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

13. Why does the Ghost of Christmas Present warn Scrooge of the dolls Ignorance and Want? (670)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

14. Explain why the Ghost of Christmas Present’s response to Scrooge’s question about “refuge or resource” for Ignorance and Want is significant. (670-671) *hint: think back to the beginning of the play!

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

15. What does Scrooge’s eagerness, despite his fear, to learn from the Ghost of Christmas Yet-to-Come (Future) show how Scrooge is changing? (671)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

16. Who are the businessmen talking about? How did you come to this conclusion? (672)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________
17. “Spirit, why did you show me this? Why do you show me businessmen from my streets as they take the death of Jacob Marley. That is a thing past. You are future!”

Based on the previous excerpt, what can you infer about Scrooge as he begins his journey with Future? (672)

18. What did the men and women admit to doing, and what was their reasoning behind it? (672-673)

19. Situational irony can be defined as “An outcome contrary to what was or might have been expected.” What was ironic about Scrooge’s reaction to the conversation among Old Joe, First Man, First Woman, and Mrs. Dilber when they were discussing the dead man’s belongings? (673)

20. Explain the significance of this quote: “‘If he wanted to keep ’em after he was dead, a wicked old screw... why wasn’t he natural in his lifetime? If he had been, he’d have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.’” (672)

21. Why does Scrooge begin screaming and fall down crying at the end of scene four? (673)

22. What has happened to Tiny Tim? What clues on pg. 674 only help you come to this conclusion?
23. Why is it important for Scrooge to know if this is how the future “will be, or MAY be”? (675)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

24. Explain the significance of this quote: “'I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!'” (676)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

SCENE V Pages 676 – 680

25. Why does Scrooge say he feels like a baby at the end of Act II? (676)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

26. Explain Marley’s statement about one act of kindness leading to another and another. What does he mean? (678)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

27. Why doesn’t Scrooge want the Cratchit family to know who bought the turkey? (678)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

28. Based on his chat with the portly man from the previous night, how can you tell that Scrooge has changed? (679)

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
29. Why do you think Scrooge keeps losing the courage to knock on Fred’s door? (679)
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

30. Because Cratchit does not know about Scrooge’s change in attitude, what might he be expecting Scrooge to do or say when he shows up late the day after Christmas? (680)
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

31. How does Scrooge live up to the promise that he made to Christmas Future in the final scene? (680)
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________