1. In Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, Tiny Tim is a central character that the
author uses to generate an emotional response in the reader. The possibility of his
death, in particular, stirs up the reader’s feelings as the novel draws to its close.
Is Dickens being fair here, or is he manipulating the feelings of his readers in order
to drive home his social criticism? Can Scrooge’s response to the spirits of
Christmas really determine if Tiny Tim lives or dies?

2. Given that Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* does not present a Christian view of
the holiday surrounding the birth of Christ, does the novel promote principles that
Christians can nevertheless support? What lessons taught by the novel are
coherent with a Christian view of Christmas, and why? Be sure to cite specifics.

3. Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* is often considered an allegory. An allegory is a
story where the main characters represent character traits and are not intended to
be understood as real people. Choose three significant characters in the novel and
discuss the character traits they are intended to represent, being sure to illustrate
those character traits with specific incidents and quotations from the story.

4. Discuss the structure of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. The plot is simple and
linear, but the symmetry of the novella is rather complex. Show how Dickens uses
symmetry in the structure of the story to bring out the themes he seeks to
communicate.

5. Charles Dickens, the author of *A Christmas Carol*, was an active supporter of Ragged
Schools - institutions for poor children who often had no other access to a basic
education. The fact that the emaciated child under the robes of the Ghost of
Christmas Present on whom Dickens places the greatest emphasis is Ignorance is
therefore no surprise. In what aspects of the popular Christmas tale does Dickens
show the consequences of ignorance? How does he show that it, more than
anything else, is a threat to the stability, and even the existence, of English
society?

6. In commenting upon Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, George Orwell said, “There
is no clear sign that he wants the existing order to be overthrown, or believes that
it would make very much difference if it were overthrown. For in reality his target
is not so much society as ‘human nature.’” Do you agree or disagree with Orwell’s
assessment? Support your answer with specific details and quotations from the
novel.
7. Is Scrooge's transformation believable?