

Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol*

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is being shown the streets on Christmas morning by the Ghost of Christmas Present.

The house fronts looked black enough, and the windows blacker, contrasting with the smooth white sheet of snow upon the roofs, and with the dirtier snow upon the ground; which last deposit had been ploughed up in deep furrows by the heavy wheels of carts and waggons; furrows that crossed and re-crossed each other hundreds of times where the great streets branched off; and made intricate channels, hard to trace in the thick yellow mud and icy water. The sky was gloomy, and the shortest streets were choked up with a dingy mist, half thawed, half frozen, whose heavier particles descended in a shower of sooty atoms, as if all the chimneys in Great Britain had, by one consent, caught fire, and were blazing away to their dear hearts' content. There was nothing very cheerful in the climate or the town, and yet was there an air of cheerfulness abroad that the clearest summer air and brightest summer sun might have endeavoured to diffuse in vain.

08

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present places in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents a place in this extract
- how Dickens presents places in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]
