The following tasks give you practice for the AQA Literature exam in which you will be given an extract and asked to answer a question on it (and the text as a whole).

Your answer should fulfil the assessment objectives as the exam will measure how you achieve the following:

**AO1**: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and an informed personal response
- use relevant textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.

**AO2**: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

**AO3**: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

**AO4**: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.
Extract: Stave Three - The Second of the Three Spirits

Read the following extract from Stave Three and then answer both parts of the question.

In this extract, Scrooge meets Ignorance and Want.

There was a boy and a girl. Yellow, meager, ragged, scowling, wolfish, but prostrate too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shriveled hand like that of age, had pinched and twisted them and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude.

‘Spirit! Are they yours?’ Scrooge could say no more.

‘They are Man’s,’ said the Spirit, looking down upon them. ‘And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware of them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!’ cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. ‘Slander these who tell it ye! Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse! And bide the end!’

‘Have they no refuge or resources?’ cried Scrooge

‘Are there no prisons?’ said the Sprit turning on him for the last time with his own words. ‘Are there no workhouses?’

The bell struck twelve.

(NB this extract refers to the 2013 TGR books edition of the text.)
Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present society’s attitudes to poverty?

Write about:
- how Dickens presents Ignorance and Want in this extract
- how Dickens presents attitudes towards poverty in the novel as a whole.

(30 marks)

Before you begin, make sure you plan your answer. The following activities will help.

**Task one**

Complete the table with quotes from the extract which describe Ignorance and Want. Add an explanation to link the description back to the question. The first two have been done as examples. Add three more of your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Yellow, meager, ragged,’</td>
<td>By showing us that the children have yellow skin, are thin (starving?) and in ragged clothes, Dickens highlights the need for action and shows the reader how urgent their situation is. Ignorance and Want have been ignored by everybody.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘scowling, wolfish’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Task two**

Now, before you attempt the question, skim read the rest of the text to find more examples that explore the theme of poverty - thinking about its wider implications. The first two have been completed for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stave</th>
<th>Quotation</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stave One</td>
<td>‘I help to support the establishments I have mentioned — they cost enough: and those who are badly off must go there.’</td>
<td>Scrooge is washing his hands of helping anyone that is poor and stating that it is not his problem. He believes that the...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some further points to include

When you answer the question you could explore:

- The different sides to being poor that Dickens shows.
- How Scrooge treats Bob Cratchit.
- Why Scrooge is so scared of becoming poor and why he pushes Belle away from him instead of marrying her.
- **Stave Four** in which Scrooge is taken to the ‘infamous resort’. This scene shows poverty at its worst.

Getting top marks

In order to get into the top **Band 6** (26-30 marks) you will need to make sure that your answer contains ‘Convincing, critical analysis and exploration’ and contains the following ‘features’:

| AO1 | Critical, exploratory, conceptualised response to task and whole text  
|     | Judicious use of precise references to support interpretation(s) |
| AO2 | Analysis of writer’s methods with subject terminology used judiciously  
|     | Exploration of effects of writer’s methods on reader |
| AO3 | Exploration of ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by specific, detailed links between context/text/task. |

Make sure that you refresh your knowledge of the assessment objectives of **AO1**, **AO2**, **AO3** before starting the exam practice question so that you know what is expected of you.