**A Christmas Carol Context**

1. Charles Dickens wrote and published *A Christmas Carol* in the Victorian era.
2. Dickens was writing at a time when there was no Welfare State and, therefore, no safety net to catch the most vulnerable members of society when they were most in need.
3. Before becoming a successful novelist, Dickens was a parliamentary reporter and had become sickened by the attitudes MPs displayed towards their fellow human beings.
4. Dickens was highly critical of the ‘Poor Law Amendment Act’ which established the cruel workhouse system.
5. Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* to highlight how those at the zenith of society turned a blind eye to those most in need and to encourage people to change for the better.