How is Scrooge presented in the opening of the text?

In the opening text of the Christmas Carol Scrooge is presented as a mean, selfish, rude man by Dickens. He is also shown as being ruthless towards the poor.

It is quite obvious that Scrooge is a hard, cold man from the simile “Hard and sharp as flint”~~, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire “.~~ Dickens describes him using the adjective ‘sharp’ to show him as rude, unkind and harsh ~~and someone who keeps a watchful eye on what is going on around him.~~ It also shows that he is a hurtful man ~~because something that is sharp~~ and he is capable of harming people. The adjective ‘hard’ shows that he has a mean, closed off personality, which is cruel and uncaring. The noun ‘flint’ is used to suggest that he looks grey and old, and the simile might also show that Scrooge is stubborn, antiquated and unchanging; his attitudes are figuratively set in stone. This ~~quote~~ simile also shows that it was impossible to make him warm inside because of how cold he was. We are also told that ‘no steel had ever struck out generous fire’ ~~Flint is used to start fires but~~ Scrooge is so cold and uncaring that he would never be generous. However, flint was traditionally used as protection and so this noun is also showing that his personality is like this because he is trying to protect himself. ~~In conclusion from this quote we can therefore see that Scrooge is a dark , hurtful , cold ,old man .~~

I also believe that Dickens has compared Scrooge to the icy cold weather of London . For example “ No warmth could warm , no wintry weather chill him . No wind that blew was bitterer than him”. The adjectives chill and wintry are used to show that he is a cold person. The quote also illustrates that no matter how cold it is outside it is never as cold as him . The use of the adjective bitter makes him sound angry and hostile. Dickens has used alliteration in this sentence to make his features come across as clearer to the reader . In conclusion , we can see from this quote that Scrooge is a cold, hostile person with no desire to change but he could like the weather .

Another point to consider is that Scrooge is shown as disliking poor people . For example “If they would rather die, they better do it, and decrease the surplus population”. The use of the word surplus shows that he thinks poor people are useless and unimportant . Dickens was trying to get Scrooge across as being a classic rich Victorian to show what the rich people’s attitudes were like towards the poor . The rich people were often heartless and cruel to the poor people and Dickens is trying to make Scrooge like this too. In conclusion this shows Scrooge as being unsympathetic and ruthless towards the poor .