

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 2 Silas Marner's good fortune improves.

Gradually the guineas, the crowns, and the half-crowns, grew to a heap, and Marner drew less and less for his own wants, trying to solve the problem of keeping himself strong enough to work sixteen hours a day on as small an outlay as possible. Have not men, shut up in solitary imprisonment, found an interest in marking the moments by straight strokes of a certain length on the wall, until the growth of the sum of straight strokes, arranged in triangles, has become a mastering purpose? Do we not wile away moments of inanity or fatigued waiting by repeating some trivial movement or sound, until the repetition has bred a want, which is incipient habit? That will help us to understand how the love of accumulating money grows an absorbing passion in men whose imaginations, even in the very beginning of their hoard, showed them no purpose beyond it. Marner wanted the heaps of ten to grow into a square, and then into a larger square; and every added guinea, while it was itself a satisfaction, bred a new desire. In this strange world, made a hopeless riddle to him, he might, if he had a less intense nature, have sat weaving, weaving – looking towards the end of his pattern, or towards the end of his web, till he forgot the riddle, and everything else but his immediate sensations; but the money had come to mark off his weaving into periods, and the money not only grew, but it remained with him. He began to think it was conscious of him, as his loom was, and he would on no account have exchanged those coins, which had become his familiars, for other coins with unknown faces. He handled them, he counted them, till their form and colour were like the satisfaction of a thirst to him; but it was only in the night, when his work was done, that he drew them out to enjoy their companionship. He had taken up some bricks in his floor underneath his loom, and here he had made a hole in which he set the iron pot that contained his guineas and silver coins, covering the bricks with sand whenever he replaced them. Not that the idea of being robbed presented itself often or strongly to his mind: hoarding was common in country districts in those days; there were old labourers in the parish of Raveloe who were known to have their savings by them...

Silas Marner

- 6** (a) Explore how Eliot presents Silas Marner's obsession with money in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, Silas Marner keeps the location of his money a secret.

Explain the importance of secrets **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- who has secrets
- the effects that secrets have on the characters.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 19 Godfrey Cass and his wife, Nancy, ask Eppie to leave Silas and live with them.

[Eppie] "... We've been used to be happy together every day, and I can't think o' no happiness without him. And he says he'd nobody i' the world till I was sent to him, and he'd have nothing when I was gone. And he's took care of me and loved me from the first, and I'll cleave to him as long as he lives, and nobody shall ever come between him and me."

"But you must make sure, Eppie," said Silas, in a low voice – "you must make sure as you won't ever be sorry, because you've made your choice to stay among poor folks, and with poor clothes and things, when you might ha' had everything o' the best."

His sensitiveness on this point had increased as he listened to Eppie's words of faithful affection.

"I can never be sorry, father," said Eppie. "I shouldn't know what to think on or to wish for with fine things about me, as I haven't been used to. And it 'ud be poor work for me to put on things, and ride in a gig, and sit in a place at church, as 'ud make them as I'm fond of think me unfitting company for 'em. What could I care for then?"

Nancy looked at Godfrey with a pained questioning glance. But his eyes were fixed on the floor, where he was moving the end of his stick, as if he were pondering on something absently. She thought there was a word which might perhaps come better from her lips than from his.

"What you say is natural, my dear child – it's natural you should cling to those who've brought you up," she said, mildly; "but there's a duty you owe to your lawful father. There's perhaps something to be given up on more sides than one. When your father opens his home to you, I think it's right you shouldn't turn your back on it."

"I can't feel as I've got any father but one," said Eppie, impetuously, while the tears gathered. "I've always thought of a little home where he'd sit i' the corner, and I should fend and do everything for him: I can't think o' no other home. I wasn't brought up to be a lady, and I can't turn my mind to it. I like the working – folks, and their houses, and their ways. And," she ended passionately, while the tears fell, "I'm promised to marry a working-man, as'll live with father, and help me to take care of him."

Question 6 - *Silas Marner*

- 6 (a) Explore how Eliot presents Eppie's feelings about her life with Silas Marner in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, Nancy gives advice to Eppie.

Explain how Nancy is presented **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- Nancy's relationship with Godfrey Cass
- what Nancy says and does.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 10, Dolly Winthrop and her young son, Aaron, visit Silas Marner to offer him some comfort following the theft of his money.

He [Silas] opened the door wide to admit Dolly, but without otherwise returning her greeting than by moving the armchair a few inches as a sign that she was to sit down in it. Dolly, as soon as she was seated, removed the white cloth that covered her lard-cakes, and said in her gravest way—

‘I’d a baking yesterday, Master Marner, and the lard-cakes turned out better nor common, and I’d ha’ asked you to accept some, if you’d thought well. I don’t eat such things myself, for a bit o’ bread’s what I like from one year’s end to the other: but men’s stomichs are made so comical, they want a change—they do, I know, God help ‘em.’

Dolly sighed gently as she held out the cakes to Silas, who thanked her kindly, and looked very close at them, absently, being accustomed to look so at everything he took into his hand—eyed all the while by the wondering bright orbs of the small Aaron, who had made an outwork of his mother’s chair, and was peeping round from behind it.

‘There’s letters pricked on ‘em,’ said Dolly. ‘I can’t read ‘em myself, and there’s nobody, not Mr Macey himself, rightly knows what they mean; but they’ve a good meaning, for they’re the same as is on the pulpit-cloth at church. What are they, Aaron, my dear?’

Aaron retreated completely behind his outwork.

‘O go, that’s naughty,’ said his mother, mildly.

‘Well, whatever the letters are, they’ve a good meaning; and it’s a stamp as has been in our house, Ben says, ever since he was a little un, and his mother used to put it on cakes, and I’ve allays put it on too; for if there’s any good, we’ve need of it i’ this world.’

‘It’s I.H.S.,’ said Silas, at which proof of learning Aaron peeped round the chair again.

‘Well, to be sure, you can read ‘em off,’ said Dolly. ‘Ben’s read ‘em to me many and many a time, but they slip out o’ my mind again; the more’s the pity, for they’re good letters, else they wouldn’t be in the church; and so I prick ‘em on all the loaves and all the cakes, though sometimes they won’t hold, because o’ the rising—for, as I said, if there’s any good to be got, we’ve need of it i’ this world—that we have; and I hope they’ll bring good to you, Master Marner, for it’s wi’ that will I brought you the cakes; and you see the letters have held better nor common.’

Question 6 - *Silas Marner*

- 6** (a) Explore how Eliot presents Dolly Winthrop in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, Dolly speaks about the church.

Explain the importance of religion **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- where religion is central to events in the novel
- why belief in religion is important in the novel.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 1, the reader learns about Silas Marner's life at Lantern Yard.

Among the members of his [Silas's] church there was one young man, a little older than himself, with whom he had long lived in such close friendship that it was the custom of their Lantern Yard brethren to call them David and Jonathan. The real name of the friend was William Dane, and he, too, was regarded as a shining instance of youthful piety, though somewhat given to over-severity towards weaker brethren, and to be so dazzled by his own light as to hold himself wiser than his teachers. But whatever blemishes others might discern in William, to his friend's mind he was faultless; for Marner had one of those impressible self-doubting natures which, at an inexperienced age, admire imperativeness and lean on contradiction. The expression of trusting simplicity in Marner's face, heightened by that absence of special observation, that defenceless, deer-like gaze which belongs to large prominent eyes, was strongly contrasted by the self-complacent suppression of inward triumph that lurked in the narrow slanting eyes and compressed lips of William Dane. One of the most frequent topics of conversation between the two friends was Assurance of salvation: Silas confessed that he could never arrive at anything higher than hope mingled with fear, and listened with longing wonder when William declared that he had possessed unshaken assurance ever since, in the period of his conversion, he had dreamed that he saw the words 'calling and election sure' standing by themselves on a white page in the open Bible. Such colloquies have occupied many a pair of pale-faced weavers, whose unnurtured souls have been like young winged things, fluttering forsaken in the twilight.

It had seemed to the unsuspecting Silas that the friendship had suffered no chill even from his formation of another attachment of a closer kind. For some months he had been engaged to a young servant-woman, waiting only for a little increase to their mutual savings in order to their marriage; and it was a great delight to him that Sarah did not object to William's occasional presence in their Sunday interviews. It was at this point in their history that Silas's cataleptic fit occurred during the prayer-meeting; and amidst the various queries and expressions of interest addressed to him by his fellow-members, William's suggestion alone jarred with a general sympathy towards a brother thus singled out for special dealings. He observed that, to him, this trance looked more like a visitation of Satan than a proof of divine favour, and exhorted his friend to see that he hid no accursed thing within his soul.

Question 6 – *Silas Marner*

- 6** (a) Explore how Eliot presents Silas Marner's relationship with William Dane in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, Silas Marner admires and trusts his friend.

Explain the importance of trust **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how belief in the goodness of others is lost
- how trust is shown.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

BEGIN YOUR ANSWER ON PAGE 2 OF THE ANSWER BOOKLET.

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 4, Dunstan Cass takes Wildfire, Godfrey's horse, to town in order to sell it.

Dunstan Cass, setting off in the raw morning, at the judiciously quiet pace of a man who is obliged to ride to cover on his hunter, had to take his way along the lane, which, at its farther extremity, passed by a piece of unenclosed ground called the Stone-pit, where stood the cottage, once a stone-cutter's shed, now for fifteen years inhabited by Silas Marner. The spot looked very dreary at this season, with the moist trodden clay about it, and the red, muddy water high up in the deserted quarry. That was Dunstan's first thought as he approached it; the second was, that the old fool of a weaver, whose loom he heard rattling already, had a great deal of money hidden somewhere. How was it that he, Dunstan Cass, who had often heard of Marner's miserliness, had never thought of suggesting to Godfrey that he should frighten or persuade the old fellow into lending the money on the excellent security of the young Squire's prospects? The resource occurred to him now as so easy and agreeable, especially as Marner's hoard was likely to be large enough to leave Godfrey a handsome surplus beyond his immediate needs, and enable him to accommodate his faithful brother, that he had almost turned the horse's head towards home again. Godfrey would be ready enough to accept the suggestion: he would snatch eagerly at a plan that might save him from parting with Wildfire. But when Dunstan's meditation reached this point, the inclination to go on grew strong and prevailed. He didn't want to give Godfrey that pleasure: he preferred that Master Godfrey should be vexed. Moreover, Dunstan enjoyed the self-important consciousness of having a horse to sell, and the opportunity of driving a bargain, swaggering, and, possibly, taking somebody in. He might have all the satisfaction attendant on selling his brother's horse, and not the less have the further satisfaction of setting Godfrey to borrow Marner's money. So he rode on to cover.

Bryce and Keating were there, as Dunstan was quite sure they would be – he was such a lucky fellow.

"Hey-day!" said Bryce, who had long had his eye on Wildfire, "you're on your brother's horse to-day: how's that?"

"O, I've swopped with him," said Dunstan, whose delight in lying, grandly independent of utility, was not to be diminished by the likelihood that his hearer would not believe him – "Wildfire's mine now."

"What! has he swopped with you for that big-boned hack of yours?" said Bryce, quite aware that he should get another lie in answer.

Question 6 – *Silas Marner*

- 6** (a) Explore how Eliot presents Dunstan Cass in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, the horse dealers know that Dunstan Cass is lying and trying to deceive them.

Explain the importance of deception **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- which characters are deceived
- the effects that lies and deception have on others.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 21, Silas Marner and Eppie try to find Lantern Yard.

With some difficulty, after many turnings and new enquiries, they reached Prison Street; and the grim walls of the jail, the first object that answered to any image in Silas's memory, cheered him with the certitude, which no assurance of the town's name had hitherto given him, that he was in his native place.

'Ah,' he said, drawing a long breath, 'there's the jail, Eppie; that's just the same: I aren't afraid now. It's the third turning on the left hand from the jail doors, that's the way we must go.'

'O, what a dark ugly place!' said Eppie. 'How it hides the sky! It's worse than the Workhouse. I'm glad you don't live in this town now, father. Is Lantern Yard like this street?'

'My precious child,' said Silas, smiling, 'it isn't a big street like this. I never was easy i' this street myself, but I was fond o' Lantern Yard. The shops here are all altered, I think – I can't make 'em out; but I shall know the turning, because it's the third.'

'Here it is,' he said, in a tone of satisfaction, as they came to a narrow alley. 'And then we must go to the left again, and then straight for'ard for a bit, up Shoe Lane: and then we shall be at the entry next to the o'erhanging window, where there's the nick in the road for the water to run. Eh, I can see it all.'

'O father, I'm like as if I was stifled,' said Eppie. 'I couldn't ha' thought as any folks lived i' this way, so close together. How pretty the Stone-pits 'ull look when we get back.'

'It looks comical to *me*, child, now – and smells bad. I can't think as it usened to smell so.'

Here and there a sallow, begrimed face looked out from a gloomy doorway at the strangers, and increased Eppie's uneasiness, so that it was a longed-for relief when they issued from the alleys into Shoe Lane, where there was a broader strip of sky.

'Dear heart!' said Silas, 'why, there's people coming out o' the Yard as if they'd been to chapel at this time o' day – a week-day noon!'

Suddenly, he started and stood still with a look of distressed amazement, that alarmed Eppie. They were before an opening in front of a large factory, from which men and women were streaming for their mid-day meal.

'Father,' said Eppie, clasping his arm, 'what's the matter?' But she had to speak again and again before Silas could answer her.

'It's gone, child,' he said, at last, in strong agitation – 'Lantern Yard's gone.'

Question 6 – *Silas Marner*

- 6** (a) Explore how Eliot presents the search for Lantern Yard in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, Silas Marner is shocked to see how his old town has changed.

Explain the importance of change **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- what changes occur
- the effects of change.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

Use this extract to answer Question 6.

Silas Marner: George Eliot

In Chapter 12, Silas Marner is shocked when he discovers a child sleeping in front of his fire.

But there was a cry on the hearth: the child had awaked, and Marner stooped to lift it on his knee. It clung round his neck, and burst louder and louder into that mingling of inarticulate cries with 'mammy' by which little children express the bewilderment of waking. Silas pressed it to him, and almost unconsciously uttered sounds of hushing tenderness, while he bethought himself that some of his porridge, which had got cool by the dying fire, would do to feed the child with if it were only warmed up a little.

He had plenty to do through the next hour. The porridge, sweetened with some dry brown sugar from an old store which he had refrained from using for himself, stopped the cries of the little one, and made her lift her blue eyes with a wide quiet gaze at Silas, as he put the spoon into her mouth. Presently she slipped from his knee and began to toddle about, but with a pretty stagger that made Silas jump up and follow her lest she should fall against anything that would hurt her. But she only fell in a sitting posture on the ground, and began to pull at her boots, looking up at him with a crying face as if the boots hurt her. He took her on his knee again, but it was some time before it occurred to Silas's dull bachelor mind that the wet boots were the grievance, pressing on her warm ankles. He got them off with difficulty, and baby was at once happily occupied with the primary mystery of her own toes, inviting Silas, with much chuckling, to consider the mystery too. But the wet boots had at last suggested to Silas that the child had been walking on the snow, and this roused him from his entire oblivion of any ordinary means by which it could have entered or been brought into his house. Under the prompting of this new idea, and without waiting to form conjectures, he raised the child in his arms, and went to the door. As soon as he had opened it, there was the cry of 'mammy' again, which Silas had not heard since the child's first hungry waking. Bending forward, he could just discern the marks made by the little feet on the virgin snow, and he followed their track to the furze bushes. 'Mammy!' the little one cried again and again, stretching itself forward so as almost to escape from Silas's arms, before he himself was aware that there was something more than the bush before him – that there was a human body, with the head sunk low in the furze, and half-covered with the shaken snow.



Question 6 – *Silas Marner*

- 6** (a) Explore how Eliot presents Silas Marner's interactions with the child in this extract.

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, Silas Marner looks after the child, whom he later calls Hephzibah, or Eppie for short.

Explain how the character of Eppie is explored **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- Eppie's life when growing up
- the effect Eppie has on others.

(20)

(Total for Question 6 = 40 marks)

BEGIN YOUR ANSWER ON PAGE 2 OF THE ANSWER BOOKLET.