

**Question** “At the end of *Silas Marner*, there is a feeling that justice has been done, that the bad have been punished and the good rewarded.” Explain, with reference to at least two characters in the novel, how far you agree with this statement?

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**Introduction** ✓ (tick the box when you’ve done it)

Name the novel, the author and the date it was written

Write about ¾ of a page summarising the plot and referring to the question.

*e.g. ...by the end of the novel, Silas, who has remained honest and good throughout his life is rewarded. His faith in God is restored, he has the certainty that Eppie will only ever look upon him as her father and his gold is returned to him. Godfrey and Dunstan, on the other hand, ...*

Explain something of the social/historical context of the novel. Particularly the Victorian preoccupation with moral values and the significance of the two settings of the novel, Lantern Yard and Raveloe being religious communities. Explain that George Eliot was from a religious family but that she abandoned religion. Comment on how this may have influenced the way she wrote about right and wrong and justice.

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**Main Part** ✓ (tick the box when you’ve done it)

Decide which two characters you are going to write about

Silas Marner

Godfrey Cass

Dunstan Cass

Write in detail about your first character. Consider:

- Their actions
- The consequences of these actions for other people
- Their response to their actions
- What happens to them
- Whether you think what happens to them is a result of their actions or just coincidence.
- The structure of the novel and the time frame in which it is set.

Repeat for the second character you chose

Briefly write about some of the other characters

- What about Molly Farren – did she get what she deserved?
- Was William Dane ever found out?
- Was Nancy “punished” for Godfrey’s wrongdoing when she was unable to have children?

**Conclusion** Refer back to the question and explain what conclusions you have drawn as a result of your study of the novel.

***Throughout your essay, don’t forget to back up your points with relevant quotations.***

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