

George Eliot

Silas Marner

KEY TO THE EXERCISES AND EXIT TEST

George Eliot and *Silas Marner*

Page 8 – exercise 1

a. 3 b. 1 d. 5 e. 2 f. 4 c. is not used

Page 8 – exercise 2

		Paragraph number
1.	Mentions fairy tale elements in the story?	2
2.	Gives a brief description of Eliot's family background?	1
3.	Gives reasons for the unpopularity of Silas Marner amongst the inhabitants of Raveloe?	3
4.	Links a negative event with positive consequences?	4
5.	Views Silas Marner as the last of a certain type of novel by the author?	5
6.	Describes Silas Marner's unhappy life?	3

Page 8 – exercise 3

The rural setting of the English countryside.

Page 8 – exercise 4

Lonely male protagonist; the love of nature; rural setting.

Page 8 – exercise 5

Future novels abandon the rural setting and become more ambitious in scope and construction.

Before you read

Page 9 – exercise 2

KEY TO THE EXERCISES

Miser: *someone who has a great desire to possess money and hates to spend it, sometimes living in very unpleasant conditions because of this.*

(Cambridge International Dictionary of English).

Page 9 – exercise 3

possible answers:

introduce the characters, plot, time and locational setting; create suspense, curiosity, interest and the desire to continue reading.

Chapter One

Page 15 – exercise 1

a. Memorising the names of characters

Apart from Silas Marner, a varied collection of villagers is introduced: Jem Rodney; Squire Cass; Mr Macy; Sally Oates. At this stage it is not possible to decide with certainty the

importance or marginality of any one character.

- b. Understanding relationships existing between these characters
Silas Marner is considered an outsider. He is the object of suspicion.
- c. Clarifying time and location
At the beginning of the 19th century; a rural community in England.
- d. Inferring relations of cause and effect

We are not told in Chapter One. We can only infer that he came seeking work. The personal reasons for his leaving his home town will be revealed in the next chapter.

- e. Picturing physical appearances
The only description we have in Chapter One is *the bent shape of his body as he worked and his large brown short-sighted eyes* (pp. 11-12).

Page 15 – exercise 2

A. Time

Phrases fixing a historical setting	Phrases referring to Silas Marner and his life in Raveloe
<p><i>In the days when the spinning wheels hummed busily in the farmhouses...'</i> (p. 10)</p> <p><i>In that far off time...</i></p> <p><i>To the peasants of old times...(p.11)</i></p> <p><i>In the early years of this century... (p.11)</i></p>	<p><i>Silas had lived in Raveloe for fifteen years. (p.12)</i></p> <p><i>As the years went by... (p.14)</i></p>



The first group of phrases distances the writer's narrative world from the reader's present. This distancing also creates 'another world' effect. The second group of phrases tells the reader how long Silas Marner had been in Raveloe and how long he had been an outsider.

- B. Characters and relationships**
- a. Eliot tells us the villagers were very superstitious and that they didn't like anything strange or new (p.10).
 - b. She is basically sympathetic, explaining their views rather than judging them. This is clear from the paragraph beginning: *To the peasants of old times, the world outside their own direct experience was a region of mystery...*
 - c. i. *Where were their homes? (p.11); Who were their*

fathers and mothers? (p.11); And how can you trust someone if you do not know who his father and mother were? (p.11); Where was all that money going? (p.14).

- ii. These questions highlight the reasons for the villagers' suspicions. They also tell us not only what the villagers do not know but what the reader does not know either. We as readers are in the same position as the villagers. The questions function as a curiosity-creating device.
- iii. *Where was all that money going?*

Looking Ahead
Open answers

Chapter Two

Page 24 – exercise 2

	Silas	William Dane
Character	<i>Honest and innocent</i>	Severe and critical of others
Facial expression	<i>Trusting simplicity</i>	<i>narrow slanting eyes and thin lips (p. 18).</i>
Position regarding salvation	<i>Hopeful but unsure</i>	absolutely certain

Page 24 – exercise 3

Those present *were convinced that his mysterious suspended state had a spiritual meaning. They thought Silas had been chosen by God.* The fact that the members of the community are unable to believe that Silas's fit had no religious significance is exploited by Dane's insistence that the trance *seemed more like a visitation of Satan than a sign of God's favour.*

Page 24 – exercise 4

The accusation	What really happened
Realising the deacon was dead, sometime between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. Silas stole the deacon's money Silas took the money home and hid it behind his wardrobe in his bedroom.	William Dane came at 2 a.m., saw Silas in a trance and took advantage of the situation to discredit him, taking the money (using Silas's knife); He planted it in Silas's home.

Page 25 – exercise 5

He loses everything; his *companionship and mental activity*; his prospects for future happiness with Sarah; his faith '*...there is no just God who governs the earth; there is only a God of lies, who bears witness against the innocent!*' (p. 22)

Page 25 – exercise 6

The two extracts illustrate Eliot's critical position with regards to a religious faith rooted in ignorance and superstition; a faith which is prepared to ignore socially accepted forms of justice (*the people of Lantern Yard never called the police...*) and sentence a man on the basis of drawing lots.

Page 25 – exercise 7

Both communities are characterised by ignorance and superstition. Eliot is far more sympathetic to the villagers of Raveloe, whose suspicion is based on an ignorance of the world outside their 'direct experience' and one which does not seek religious justification.

Chapter Three

Page 31 – exercise 1

Question	Name
Who is the most prominent person in Raveloe?	<i>Squire Cass</i>
Who is the eldest of the Cass sons?	Godfrey Cass
Who is liked by the community?	Godfrey Cass
Who is seen as a suitable bride for Godfrey?	Nancy Lammeter
Who drinks and gambles?	Dunstan Cass
Who is Godfrey's secret wife?	Molly Farren
Who buys and sells horses?	Bryce

Page 31 – exercise 2

Vocabulary	Godfrey Cass	Dunstan Cass
Physical description	<i>handsome, pleasant young man; (p 26) (not as) healthy and happy as usual...(p. 26); ...sad, pale face (p. 27)</i>	<i>A spiteful fellow...(p. 26) His plump face... (p. 27) ...a sneering smile (p. 27)</i>
Other information	<i>...soon he would marry Miss Nancy Lammeter; (p. 26) Godfrey and Nancy were fond of each other (p.26)</i>	<i>The villagers did not like Squire Cass's second son who (...) laughed at other people's misfortunes and wasted all his money on gambling and drink... (p. 26) (his face) was red and his eyes were bright (p. 27)</i>

Page 32 – exercise 3

sample answers:

- This would not be very difficult! He is, however, morally weak.
- Probably, yes; so explaining the fact that he ultimately does what Dunstan suggests.
- Absolutely not! Being amoral, he is completely disinterested in other people's moral judgement.
- Dunstan certainly isn't afraid of his father. It is probably too early to understand Godfrey's feelings. He is certainly afraid of his father's power to deprive him of economic comfort.
- The chapter has shown clearly the amoral nature of Dunstan's character.
- Absolutely not! See b.

Page 32 – exercise 4

- Dunstan borrows money from his brother; money which originally belonged to their father (*It was the rent I had collected for father*). (p. 27). Dunstan ignores any obligations he may have towards his father and continues to use his brother's secret to his (Dunstan's) benefit. There is no compassion here and no desire to help.
- Dunstan preferred to sell the horse, because he knew it would pain Godfrey. (p. 28)

Page 32 – exercise 5

Dunstan's thoughts	Reported form
1. You won't see me walking, Walking indeed!	<i>Now Dunstan would have to walk home and that seemed to him a humiliating thing...</i>
2. No horse, no money and, to make things worse, this miserable weather.	<i>He always rode on horseback to and from the village. It was nearly four o'clock and a fog was gathering. Dunstan started walking home along the lonely lane, drinking his brandy and swearing at his misfortune.</i>
3. What's that light? It must be Marner's cottage.	<i>Then suddenly he saw a light. Dunstan realised that it must be coming from the window of Silas Marner's cottage.</i>
4. I'll borrow some money from him. He has lots. I'll pay him back with interest.	<i>He would also ask Silas to lend him some money. He would promise to pay interest...</i>
5. Just let him try refusing me money! I'll change his mind.	<i>...and if Silas was still unwilling to part with his gold, he would frighten him a little.</i>
6. No answer, I'm going in.	<i>There was no answer, so Dunstan pushed the door and it opened.</i>
7. No one here. Maybe Marner's lost or better still drowned.	<i>Perhaps he got lost in the fog and had fallen into the abandoned quarry. If so, he would certainly drown...</i>
8. Where does he keep that money everybody talks about?	<i>Dunstan thought of taking the money.</i>
9. If he's dead, nobody will ever know the money's gone.	<i>If the old weaver were dead, no one would ever know that it had been stolen.</i>
10. It must be here somewhere. What's that on the floor?	<i>He looked around the cottage, searching for the hiding place. The brick floor was sprinkled with sand, but in one place the sand had been smoothed by a hand.</i>

Chapter Four

Page 38 – exercise 1

1. Silas discovers his money is missing.
2. Silas goes to the Rainbow for help.
3. The next day the villagers look for clues at Silas' cottage.
4. Bryce tells Godfrey about the accident to Wildfire.

Page 38 – exercise 2

A. The atmosphere was warm and merry, (*‘they were drinking beer, telling jokes and laughing...’*). The warmth and good humour of the pub contrast starkly with Silas's state (*...when the door burst open and there stood Silas Marner, soaking wet, trembling and as white as a ghost.’*)

B.

Job	Name of character
mole-catcher	Jem Rodney
tailor	not given
parish clerk	not given
wheelwright	Ben Winthrop
cobbler	Oates
pub landlord	Mr Snell
horse dealer	Bryce
not given	Mr Macey

C. *the pedlar and tinder-box camp, headed by Mr Snell* (rational) and *the supernatural camp, headed by Mr Macy* (superstitious). Mr Macey's superstitious views have already been seen in Chapter One: he interprets *Silas's fit as proof that Silas's soul had left his body...*

Page 39 – exercise 3

- A. Dunstan's idea was to sell Wildfire and with the money Godfrey could pay his father the rent money that Dunstan had spent. Dunstan's disappearance means that Godfrey cannot pay his father and so would have to confess everything.
- B. The best solution to Godfrey's situation would be the death of Molly. (This is clearly morally unacceptable and, according to the norms of fiction of the time, Godfrey cannot be released from his predicament without any consequences).

Chapter Five

Page 46 – exercise 1

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. c

Page 46 – exercise 2

The effect of the pattern chosen is to maintain the separate identity of each narrative whilst preparing for the convergence of the narratives that begins in Chapter Six.

Page 46 – exercise 3

- A. 'to mourn': to feel sad or show sadness for the loss of life, because someone has died'. (Cambridge International Dictionary of English). The usual collocation for the verb 'to mourn' would be 'life'. The use of gold as complement here, illustrates how Marner's life had no personal ties and how money substituted human affections.
- B. moaned: his reaction, and the suffering caused, is as if a real person has died.

Page 47 – exercise 4

- A. not to tell his father
- B. that he had lent the money to Dunstan, who had accidentally killed Wildfire
- C. the theft of Silas's gold (and the fact that Dunstan had once disappeared once before following an argument with his father).
- D. His wife and whether she would appear to tell his secret.
- E. Nancy's character is revealed without being a central character to the plot. She is introduced in this way as a separate character but one who is at the same time connected to Godfrey. Her thoughts emphasise the conflict in emotions when the characters address 'moral dilemmas'. She is a woman with high moral standards but she is not as hard hearted as she appears.

Page 47 – exercise 5

A.

Typical behaviour	Signs of change
Worked all day Desperate about the loss of his money Worked on Sunday Relieved when Mrs Winthrop and her son left	He invited Mrs Winthrop into his cottage He was grateful for her kindness He offered Aaron a cake

B. The world outside her own is a mystery. What she does not know is shrouded in superstition. Her attitude to religion is a clear example of this.

Page 47 – exercise 6

Silas Marner

Will the theft of his money be solved?

Godfrey Cass

What will his secret wife do?

What will Dunstan do?

Nancy Lammeter

Will she find out Godfrey's secret?

Will she decide to marry him?

- b. He mistook the little girl for gold.
- c. His strong desire for the return of the money led him to confuse the golden curls of the child for his missing gold; another reason is his poor eyesight.
- B. The intersection of the two narratives clearly involves the child; it is the little girl who brings the stories together.

Looking ahead

Page 48 – exercise 1

- A. a. He had a fit (the third one mentioned in the story so far).

Evolutionary Theory

Page 52 – exercise 1

1798	1833	1844	1852	1859	1861
Essay on the Principle of Population	<i>Principles of Geology</i>	<i>Vestiges of Creation</i>	<i>‘the survival of the fittest’</i>	<i>The Origin of the Species</i>	<i>Silas Marner</i>
by Thomas Malthus	by Charles Lyell	by Robert Chambers	coined by Hubert Spencer	by Charles Darwin	by George Eliot

Page 52 – exercise 2

- How can the present class system be justified?
 - Why can't women have the same rights and opportunities as men?
- Are we, as humans, no better than any other species?
 - What is the meaning of life?

Page 52 – exercise 3

- Silas's loss of faith was as a result of empirical evidence.
- the natural vs. supernatural debate at the Rainbow over the robbery of Silas's money.

Chapter Six

Page 60 – exercise 1

DUNSTAN		MOLLY
What did he do after his accident on Wildfire?		What did the child do after its mother collapsed?
a. he robbed ... >	...Silas Marner's house	b. she went to ... <
What would he have done if he hadn't found Silas's money?		What would Molly have done if she hadn't collapsed in the snow and died?
b. He would have continued to blackmail Godfrey so forcing Godfrey to... >	...reveal his secret	d. She would have gone to Squire Cass's house so forcing Godfrey to... <

Page 60 – exercise 2

- He was wrongfully accused of theft; as a result he suffered the loss of companionship, love, faith and his home.
- He realised she had been walking by her shoes, and retraced her footsteps through the snow to her dead mother's body.

Page 61 – exercise 3

Visit	Reason for visit	Place of visit	Impact of his arrival
1st visit: Chapter Four (p. 34)	He wanted to report the theft of his gold.	The Rainbow pub	<i>They were drinking beer, telling jokes and laughing when the door burst open and there stood Silas Marner, soaking wet, trembling and as white as a ghost.</i>
2nd visit: Chapter Six (p. 57)	He needs a doctor after finding the child and its dead mother.	The Red House, home of Squire Cass	<i>...looking up (Godfrey) saw what seemed to be an apparition from the dead. Silas Marner stood there, wet with snow...</i>

- Similarities: Silas arrives on both occasions wet and distraught; on both occasions his arrival interrupts a party-atmosphere and causes surprise and even a little fear. (They feel like they've seen a ghost).
Differences: The reasons for his need for help is different: the loss of money on the first occasion and the arrival of a child on the second; the destinations: the two places represent the two sides of Raveloe life. The Rainbow represents the peasant class whilst the Red House represents the landed classes.

Page 61 – exercise 4

Relief	Guilt
Molly is dead. He can marry Nancy.	He would like to confess (also out of decency for Nancy). He is saddened by the fact that his child does not recognise him and that he will not admit it is his.

- B. While his wife lives, his life will always depend on the secret they share, which she at any moment could reveal. If that secret were to be revealed he (Godfrey) could lose both Nancy, who he wants to be his wife, and possibly his inheritance.
- C. open answer

Chapter Seven

Page 69 – exercise 1

Dolly Winthrop: paragraph beginning: *the day after ... Dolly Winthrop brought some clothes ...*

Eppie: probably from paragraph beginning: *So the child was christened... (p. 63);*

Godfrey: clearly from the paragraph beginning: *One person watched Eppie's growth with particular interest (p. 65).*

Topic shift is marked by change of subject, place, time.

Page 69 – exercise 4

Dolly tells Silas ...	Her actual words
How to dress the child That the child must be looked after whilst Silas is working That the child must be christened and should go to church That the child should be disciplined	NOT REPORTED <i>'But what are you going to do with her while you work at your loom?' (p. 63).</i> <i>'And you must take her to church...She probably hasn't even been christened yet' (p. 63).</i> <i>'You must smack her...either that or put her in the coal-hole' (p. 65).</i>

Page 69 - exercise 2

Both accept the idea that life is basically mysterious and respond to it in consequence. Silas does not understand why his money was stolen or why Eppie has been brought to him. He accepts both; the latter by wanting to bring the child up as best as possible. Dolly accepts the mysteries of the world by following her code of behaviour: practical generosity, acceptance of conventional rules (*'prayers ...and good words and good things that will keep us from harm'*). Both are ignorant of worlds that are different from their own: Dolly does not know of baptism just as Silas does not know of christening.

Page 69 – exercise 3

1. cooking and cleaning
2. to looking after a child
3. be tied to the loom with a piece of linen
4. to be christened and to go to church
5. Silas hasn't been christened

Page 70 – exercise 5

Order	Sentence
1	b. Eppie was christened
2	e. Dolly tells Silas that Eppie must be smacked
3	f. Eppie manages to cut the strip of linen tying her to the loom
4	a. Eppie runs outside
5	i. Silas runs to the quarry
6	d. Silas finds the girl and holds her in his arms
7	g. Eppie is put in the coal-hole
8	j. Eppie cries asking to be let out of the coal-hole
9	c. Eppie is washed and changed
10	h. Eppie goes to the coal-hole for a joke

Page 70 – exercise 6

1. Silas is inevitably drawn closer to the community of Raveloe because of: the practical implications of having and bringing up a daughter (his need for help, as provided by Dolly Winthrop);
2. the goodwill shown to Silas by his adoption of the child (Silas was doing something socially acceptable);
3. Silas's desire to do everything he can for the child meant integrating the child into its social context.

Page 70 – exercise 7

The contrast between Silas and Eppie highlights how far Silas had gone into his narrow, lonely life and how Eppie's arrival brought *a new life of*

joy and companionship. This journey would have been the same with a character who was not as 'lively' but it would have been considerably harder to narrate.

Page 70 – exercise 8

- A. The problem of his secret wife has been resolved: his wife is dead and their child has been adopted by Silas Marner. Dunstan is unlikely to return and so Godfrey is free to marry Nancy.
- B. marriage to Nancy with a happy family; maintaining his responsibilities towards Eppie *without raising suspicion.*

Extension Exercises Part 1

Page 71 – exercise 1

Possible answers:

- Chapter 1 The Stranger
- Chapter 2 Betrayal!
- Chapter 3 Blackmail
- Chapter 4 Who did it?
- Chapter 5 Silas is changing...
- Chapter 6 As if by magic
- Chapter 7 A new start

Page 71 – exercise 2

1. Why were linen-weavers in particular distrusted?
2. How did the people of Lantern Yard discover Silas's innocence or guilt?
3. How much did Dunstan say he could get for selling Wildfire?
4. What were the two camps of opinion regarding the theft?
5. Why did Dolly Winthrop recommend Silas went to church?
6. Who brought Molly Farren's body back to Silas's cottage?

7. Why did Silas decide not to punish Eppie for disobedience?

Page 71 – exercise 3

open answers

Page 71 – exercise 4

1. b. linen-weaver (not a local profession of Raveloe)
2. d. severe (associated with William Dane)
3. a. Mr Snell (the landlord of the Rainbow; the others are regulars)
4. c. Sarah (not connected to Raveloe)
5. a. spiteful (adjective describing Dunstan Cass; the others describe Godfrey)

Page 72 – exercise 5

open answers

Page 72 – exercise 6

The situation as it stands at this stage in the story is morally unacceptable to

Page 78 – exercise 2

New Year's Eve, 16 years earlier	A bright Autumn Sunday, 16 years later
Silas was in his thirties He had dark hair Eppie was a young child Silas had no pets His cottage was simply furnished The quarry was full of water	Silas is 55 His hair is white Eppie is 18 They have a dog and two cats The house has fine pieces of furniture The water of the quarry has dropped

Page 78 – exercise 3

- a. He has grown up and fallen in love with Eppie. He is handsome and respectable. He works for Godfrey Cass.

Eliot and to the moral norms of the period. Godfrey cannot get away with it. Some form of judgement or retribution is inevitable. The victims of the deception (Nancy, Eppie) have a right to know the truth. Perhaps only Silas would be satisfied with not knowing the truth.

How will it occur: Godfrey's secret is revealed. Students should be asked how they imagine this revelation will occur.

Part 2

Chapter Eight

Page 78 – exercise 1

bright, Autumn Sunday (p. 73);
the bells were ringing (p. 73);
the freshest blossom of youth, a blonde dimpled girl of eighteen; a handsome man ...(p. 73);
this happy animal life...(p.76).

- b. Godfrey's life apparently continues without drama: he is renewing his gardens and land. His decision to drain the quarry so as to use the land shows him in the role of efficient squire.

- c. Aaron is obviously dissatisfied with the social injustice of a system that allows a few to have too much and too many to have too little. His origins along with his contact with the Red House as gardener give him ample evidence to support these views.

Page 78 – exercise 4

Short-term plans

- Build a garden

Medium/long-term plans

- marry Aaron
- live together with her father and husband

Page 79 – exercise 5

open answers

Looking ahead

Page 79 – exercise 1

1. c 2. c 3. a

Page 79 – exercise 2

open answers

Chapter Nine

Page 85 – exercise 1

open answer

Page 85 – exercise 2

A.

	'positive'	'negative'
Godfrey	a handsome man; his hair was still blond and his skin smooth; (p. 80)	He was heavier (p.80)
Nancy	still a good-looking woman; clear brown eyes expressed ... patience and quiet strength; a woman who has ... born (her troubles) bravely. (p. 80)	(a little pale; (she) has had troubles in her life; (p.80)

- B. though; contrastive or adversative linkers can be divided into three main categories according to the grammatical context they require:
1. intra sentential, joining two main clauses together: but;
 2. introducing a subordinate clause or noun phrase: although, though, despite (the fact);
 3. as an adjunct to a main clause marked off by a comma: however; yet.

Page 85 – exercise 3

- A.
- 16 years ago Dunstan disappeared and Molly Farren died;
 - 15 years ago, soon after their marriage Squire Cass died and Godfrey inherited the Red House;

- After 10 years of marriage it became clear that Nancy could not have children and Godfrey told her he wanted to adopt a child, possibly Eppie;
 - Two years later Godfrey raised the subject of adoption again and Nancy continued to refuse;
 - For four years now Godfrey had not mentioned the idea of adopting Eppie.
- B.** – Godfrey wanted to adopt Eppie. Nancy believed that it was God’s will for her not to have children. Therefore, adoption also was against God’s will.
- Nancy might not have married Godfrey if he had told her about his marriage to Molly.
 - If Godfrey had told Nancy about Eppie immediately after their marriage Eppie would have loved Nancy as her mother.
 - If Godfrey had been truthful about his past their marriage would have been happier.
 - If Eppie had been adopted by Godfrey and Nancy Cass, she (Eppie) would have been brought up as a lady/she might not have been any happier.

Page 86 – exercise 4

Statement	Your reaction ('yes', 'no', 'not given')
Nancy wanted only her own children.	Yes: <i>...it would be wrong to go against God's will (p. 81).</i>
Nancy resigned herself to not having children almost immediately.	No: <i>...as the years passed...Slowly Nancy gave up hope ... (p. 80).</i>
Godfrey would not have wanted to adopt any other child but Eppie.	Not given: it depends on our opinion of him whether he would have been prepared to adopt another child.
Nancy was saddened by her husband’s insistence on adopting Eppie.	Yes: <i>Godfrey, however, could not accept it (not having children) and this caused Nancy further pain and sadness (p. 81).</i>
Godfrey in time accepted life without children.	Not given: the fact that he <i>had not mentioned the idea of adopting Eppie for four years now...</i> (p. 81), does not necessarily mean that he had ceased to want a child. Yes: <i>Godfrey never imagined that Silas would rather die than part with Eppie (p. 81).</i>
Godfrey didn’t understand the strength of Silas’s feelings for Eppie.	Yes: <i>it was God's will and (...) her duty, as a good Christian, (...) to accept it (p.p. 80/81).</i>
Nancy uses her religion to justify her opposition to adoption.	Not given: This is not stated explicitly. It depends very much on the reader’s opinion of Nancy’s actions: she isn’t prepared to adopt Eppie when she is an orphan but she is when she finds out that Godfrey is her father. However, this could also be interpreted as consistent with her view that when a child has a natural parent, this should be recognised.
Nancy’s views on adoption are inconsistent.	
Nancy has a easy-going approach to life.	No: <i>'...nothing is worth doing wrong for – nothing in the world'(p. 84).</i>
Nancy believes she is the main victim of Godfrey’s lies.	No: <i>'...the person you really wronged was Eppie' (p. 84).</i>

Looking ahead

Page 86 – exercise 1

open answers

Chapter Ten

Page 93 – exercise 1

1. e 2. b 3. a 4. c d is not used

Page 93 – exercise 2

The loss of his gold coincided with the arrival of Eppie. With the loss of his money he was saved from *a life in misery*. Eppie replaced his material well-being with love and companionship.

Page 93 – exercise 3

The return of his money coincides happily with Eppie’s plans to marry Aaron (and give them the financial help they will need).

Page 94 – exercise 8

Argument	Silas’s or Eppie’s replies
The social advancement for Eppie	<i>'I would be miserable if I left my father...I don't want fine clothes or a carriage or a big house'. (Eppie) (p. 90)</i>
Godfrey is Eppie’s natural father	<i>'Why didn't you come 16 years ago, before I began to love her... God gave her to me because you did not want her and now He looks upon her as mine'. (Silas) (p. 89)</i>

Page 94 – exercise 9

accepting to be without a child

Page 94 – exercise 10

a. Godfrey admitted his secret to Nancy

Page 93 – exercise 4

- financial security for Silas;
- social advancement for Eppie.

Page 93 – exercise 5

He is not used to talking to people of a higher social level.

Page 93 – exercise 6

She wants to stay with her father and with the people she knows.

Page 94 – exercise 7

The opposition is *unexpected* (p. 89); Godfrey is clearly not accustomed, thanks to his social position, to finding opposition from lower social classes. He rather arrogantly assumes that money and social advancement are enough to convince Silas and Eppie, and believes he has done enough by making this offer.

- b. Silas – anxious, Eppie - mistrustful, reinforcement of her attachment to Silas; Nancy - sympathetic.
- c. Dunstan’s body is found in the quarry near Silas’s cottage, where he fell the night of the theft.

Page 94 – exercise 11

the robbery at Lantern Yard

Chapter 11

Page 100 – exercise 1

Order	Event
1	Silas and Eppie decide to return to Lantern yard.
2	They ask a gentleman for directions.
3	They find Lantern Yard.
4	They discover that the site where the chapel was is now a factory.
5	They ask people in the brush shop about the chapel.
6	They return to Raveloe.
7	Silas resigns himself to never knowing the truth about what happened 30 years previously.

Page 100 – exercise 2

- A. - The streets: *busy, noisy, dark, narrow*
 - The faces of the people: *strange, indifferent, pale, dirty*
 - The prison: *dark, ugly*
 - The smell: *bad*

B. The oppressive nature of the city contrasts starkly with Raveloe: *How pretty Raveloe will look, when we get home* (p. 97) says Eppie.

Page 100 – exercise 3

A key theme in the Victorian novel was the effect of industrialisation. Industrialisation/progress has

‘swept away’, in Silas’s words, the chapel. The chapel and what it represented (good and bad) has been replaced by a factory, where work replaces faith. See: Evolutionary Theory (p. 49).

Page 101 – exercise 4

The chapel belongs to the distant past. Silas finally resigns himself to accepting that that period in his life has no connection to the present and that he will never know the truth about the robbery.

Page 101 – exercise 5

open answers

Page 101 – exercise 6

Character	Theme
Gentleman who is asked for directions to Lantern Yard	Class differences and the social system: <i>‘He won’t know...gentlemen never went to Lantern yard. It was a place for simple, working people’</i> - Silas (p. 96).
Dolly Winthrop	Religion, faith and ignorance: She had asked (Silas) to explain about the drawing of lots several times, but even then she (Dolly) did not understand. (p. 96).

Weaving and the Industrial Revolution

Page 105 – exercise 1

- from 1740 to 1850
- positive climate for enterprise and

hard work; large markets in the Empire.

- Machines facilitated mass production: flying shuttle, spinning jenny.
- Production shifted from individual artisans to mass production and the factory system; weavers could not compete with mass produced products so weavers moved to cities to seek work in the factories; villages were depopulated as weavers and other artisans became *extinct*.

Page 105 – exercise 2

The two meanings are: weak and unhealthy in appearance; a craft which became extinct as a result of industrialisation.

Conclusion

Page 109 – exercise 1

- A. open answers
 B. a. to get engaged
 b. white wedding
 c. reception
 d. bride; bridegroom

Silas Marner doesn’t end like thisbut ends like this	and the effect is...
Paragraph 1: Winter, rain, the trees are bare, a cold day	<i>..springtime... the flowers were blooming...the sun was shining...the fields were full of calves and lambs.</i>	A contrast to the city described in the previous chapter, reiteration of rural bliss (chap. 8); symbols of birth and regeneration related to a new life.
Closing paragraphs: Eppie and Aaron left the Rainbow to move to their own house, leaving Silas alone	<i>Eppie, Aaron, Silas and Dolly left the wedding feast...they walked back to Silas’s cottage... and passed Eppie’s new garden and the flowers seemed to smile at the four united people... ‘what a pretty home ours is...nobody could be happier than we are.’</i>	Eppie and Silas are united in happiness; the happiness of one brings happiness to the other.

Part 2 - Extension exercises

Page 110 - exercise 1

Chapter 8 - d

Chapter 9 - c

Chapter 10 - b

Chapter 11- a

Conclusion – e

Alternative: open answers

Page 110 - exercise 2

Inner Circle:

Who?
Primarily Silas and Godfrey.

What?
Silas's dilemma is to come to terms with the injustice he suffered, and build a new life. His solace in money was taken away from him and the miraculous arrival of Eppie restored him. Some writers have referred to this as his redemption. Godfrey's dilemma is his secret past and how these secrets inevitably affect his present. The individual has responsibilities to other people and keeping secrets often is a form of injustice to others.

Outer circle:

Where?
Raveloe (The Rainbow – a microcosm of the village);

Who?
The inhabitants of Raveloe and Dolly Winthrop in particular. She is the villager who helps Silas not only in practical terms but is also a friend to talk to.

Sample answer:
The organic form that typifies Eliot's writing (especially up to 'Silas Marner') of an inner and outer circle is clearly present in 'Silas Marner'. The dilemmas of Silas and Godfrey are at first separate and unconnected. Silas has been wrongly accused of stealing and the response of his chapel leads to his flight from his own town, the people he loved and his loss of faith.

In Raveloe, Silas's miserable existence without love and companionship is compensated by a growing pile of gold. When this is stolen he is desperate. The miraculous arrival of Eppie leads Silas back to a life of companionship not only with Eppie directly but also with the social contacts with the village his adoption of Eppie entails. Godfrey's dilemma stems from past secrets that come back to haunt him. His rejection of Eppie as a baby and his decision not to tell his secret prove to be mistakes. He is, however, morally a better person after telling his wife his secret. The news and the subsequent refusal by Eppie to join them bring the couple together.

The outer circle of Raveloe and its inhabitants serves various functions. It highlights the original feelings of suspicion about Silas the outsider but also their goodwill towards him when he decides to adopt Eppie. Raveloe is a social microcosm and proves an interesting historic description of English village life at the beginning of the industrial revolution. It compares starkly to the 'great industrial town' that Silas and Eppie go back to in search of the chapel at Lantern Yard.

Page 111 – exercise 3

open answers

1 Answer these questions:

1. Why did the villagers distrust the linen-weaver?
.....
2. Why was Silas Marner 'mysterious to the villagers'?
.....
3. What events at Lantern Yard had caused Silas to lose his faith?
.....
4. What did Dunstan Cass do to justify the villagers' bad opinion of him?
.....
5. What did Silas do when he discovered he had been robbed?
.....
6. Why was Godfrey's proposed marriage to Nancy Lammeter at risk?
.....
7. How did Silas first meet Molly's daughter?
.....
8. Why was Silas known as 'the kindest of fathers'?
.....
9. How does Aaron offer to help Silas and Eppie in the building of their garden?
.....
10. Who opposed Godfrey Cass' proposal to adopt Eppie?
.....
11. What event made Godfrey tell his wife about his past life?
.....
12. Why does Eppie refuse to leave Silas to live with the Cass family?
.....
13. What is the effect on Silas of his return to Lantern Yard?
.....
14. What is the effect on Godfrey and Nancy Cass of Eppie's decision to stay with Silas and to marry Aaron?
.....
15. Who suffers injustice in 'Silas Marner'? What injustice do they suffer?
.....

2 Complete these sentences:

'All our bad deeds come to light in the end...'

1. Because Godfrey didn't want his father to know about Molly, his brother Dunstan
2. Because he didn't want Nancy Lammeter to know that the child Silas brought to the Red House was his, he agreed
3. Because he did not recognise his daughter when she was a little girl, later, a grown-up Eppie refused
4. Because he had to accept Eppie's decision, on the day of her wedding Godfrey Cass

3 Look at this sentence:

'The gold had gone... and you had come in its place'

How are the Cass brothers responsible for what Silas says?

4 What do you think is the moral of the story? Write a composition explaining your choice.

1. They knew nothing about them and did not understand their skills.
 2. He didn't mix socially; Jem Rodney had seen him in a death-like trance; he was saving a large amount of money.
 3. The unjust accusation of theft; the dishonesty of William Dane; the drawing of lots to decide guilt or innocence.
 4. He drank and gambled; he blackmailed his brother; he robbed Silas Marner.
 5. He went to the Rainbow to ask for help.
 6. He would have to tell his father about his marriage to Molly because he was no longer able to raise 100 pounds after the death of his horse, Wildfire.
 7. She entered his house whilst he was in a trance.
 8. He was unable to punish Eppie; he was patient with her naughtiness.
 9. He offers to dig the garden, and bring soil and herbs from Mr Cass' garden.
 10. His wife and Silas.
 11. Dunstan's dead body was found in the drained quarry.
 12. She loved Silas and had no ambition to become a lady.
 13. He learns to accept his past and the fact that the truth about the real events at Lantern Yard will never be revealed.
 14. They resign themselves to their existence and think they can be happier than they had been so far.
 15. Nancy Lammeter: she suffers years of silence on her husband's part; Silas Marner: he is unjustly accused of theft; he is robbed by Dunstan Cass; Eppie: she loses her mother and her natural father refuses to recognise her.
2. 1. ...was able to blackmail him.
2. ...letting Silas keep the child.
3. ... to leave Silas and live with the Cass family.
4. ... could not go to the wedding and left the village for the day.
 3. Dunstan steals his gold, but Godfrey gives him Eppie.
 4. *open answer*

George Eliot, English Victorian novelist who developed the method of psychological analysis characteristic of modern fiction. Her major works include *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), *Middlemarch* (1871–72), and *Daniel Deronda* (1876). Evans was born on an estate of. In 1851 Mary Ann Evans moved to London hoping to become a freelance writer. She worked as a subeditor at *The Westminster Review*, wrote essays, and translated German. Mary Ann Evans (22 November 1819 – 22 December 1880; alternatively Mary Anne or Marian), known by her pen name George Eliot, was an English novelist, poet, journalist, translator and one of the leading writers of the Victorian era. She wrote seven novels, *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), *Romola* (1862–63), *Felix Holt, the Radical* (1866), *Middlemarch* (1871–72) and *Daniel Deronda* (1876), most of which are set in provincial England and known for their realism and psychological insights. George Eliot was the pen name of Mary Ann Evans, one of the leading English novelists of the 19th century. Her novels, most famously 'Middlemarch', are celebrated for their realism and psychological insights. George Eliot was born on 22 November 1819 in rural Warwickshire. When her mother died in 1836, Eliot left school to help run her father's household. In 1841, she moved with her father to Coventry and lived with him until his death in 1849.