

Question: Show how the novel connects, however indirectly, the personal problems of one or two of its characters to the large and seemingly impersonal political conditions that appear in its background.

(B2.) For the male characters of Middlemarch, getting a job and having a career is a somewhat consuming task. Fred Vincy and Will Ladislaw are two examples of how George Eliot explores some of the challenges that men faced in their career decisions. Fred Vincy's father has been sending him to school for a while to prepare him for a life in the clergy. However, Fred is resisting this by being irresponsible and not passing his exams. He loves a woman, Mary Garth, who will not marry him because of his irresponsibility, but he does not gain the strength of character to do anything about his career path until a wealthy uncle dies and does not leave him any money to cover the debts he owes. What Fred finally realizes is that he does not need to be spending a lot of money to be happy, but he can work to earn a living and be happy with his wife; which is what K does at the end of the novel. Will Ladislaw also acts irresponsibly in the early half of the novel. He has been financially supported by his uncle, Casaubon; who saw to it that Ladislaw received an education so that he would be fit for employment somewhere. However, Ladislaw resisted choosing a real career path. Instead, he played with visual arts, such as painting; which is what he was doing in Rome. Then when he came back to England he worked in the written arts with Dorthea's uncle, in the form of a newspaper; He finally accepted responsibility near the end of the novel and went into the legislature to improve society.

**Comment:** Does this really say anything?

**Comment:** Note: the particular "challenges" (as they relate thematically to the topic) are never defined – the paper just plunges into plot summary with no clear purpose

**Comment:** You've written (unrelated) character sketches of two characters – the essay doesn't attempt to locate the characters thematically in relation to the topic – in addition, the writing is, though mainly clear, lacking in any precise view of the characters and makes no real distinction between them – notice how your rhetoric ("career path") flattens out the texture of the novel so that one implication might be that Fred and Will fail because they didn't get adequate job counseling