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.