



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



MID-TERM EXAMINATION 2023-24

ENGLISH CORE (301)

Class: XII

Date : 11.10.23

Admission No.:

Duration : 3 Hrs

Max. Marks : 80

Roll No.:

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part

Note: All names and addresses of places and organisations used, are fictitious.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the following text.

(12)

Concussions are brain injuries that occur when a person receives a blow to the head, face, or neck. Although most people who suffer a concussion experience initial bouts of dizziness, nausea, and drowsiness, these symptoms often disappear after a few days. The long-term effects of concussions, however, are less understood and far more severe. Recent studies suggest that people who suffer multiple concussions are at significant risk for developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disorder that causes a variety of dangerous mental and emotional problems to arise weeks, months, or even years after the initial injury. These psychological problems can include depression, anxiety, memory loss, inability to concentrate, and aggression. In extreme cases, people suffering from CTE have even committed suicide or homicide. The majority of people who develop these issues are athletes who participate in popular high-impact sports, especially football. Although new sports regulations and improvements in helmet technology can help protect players, amateur leagues, the sports media, and fans all bear some of the responsibility for reducing the incidence of these devastating injuries.

Improvements in diagnostic technology have provided substantial evidence to link severe—and often fatal—psychological disorders to the head injuries that players receive while on the field. Recent autopsies performed on the brains of football players who have committed suicide have shown advanced cases of CTE in every single victim. In response to the growing understanding of this danger, the National Football League (NFL) has revised its safety regulations. Players who have suffered a head injury on the field must undergo a “concussion sideline assessment”—a series of mental and physical fitness tests—before being allowed back in the game. In an effort to diminish the number of head and neck injuries on the field, NFL officials began enforcing stricter penalty calls for helmet-to-helmet contact, leading with the head, and hitting a defenceless player. Furthermore, as of 2010, if a player’s helmet is accidentally wrenched from his head during play, the ball is immediately whistled dead. It is hoped that these new regulations, coupled with advances in helmet design, will reduce the number of concussions, and thus curb further cases of CTE.

Efforts by the NFL and other professional sports leagues are certainly laudable; we should commend every attempt to protect the mental and physical health of players. However, new regulations at the professional level cannot protect amateur players, especially young people. Fatal cases of CTE have been reported in victims as young as 21. Proper tackling form—using the arms and shoulders to aim for a player’s

midsection—should be taught at an early age. Youth, high school, and college leagues should also adopt safety rules even more stringent than those of the NFL. Furthermore, young athletes should be educated about the serious dangers of head injuries at an early age.

Perhaps the most important factor in reducing the number of traumatic brain injuries, however, lies not with the players, the coaches, or the administrators, but with the media and fans. Sports media producers have become accustomed to showcasing the most aggressive tackles and the most intense plays. NFL broadcasts often replay especially violent collisions while the commentators marvel at the players' physical prowess. Some sports highlights television programs even feature weekly countdowns of the "hardest hits." When the media exalts such dangerous behaviour, professionals are rewarded for injuring each other on the field and amateurs become more likely to try to imitate their favourite NFL athletes. Announcers, commentators, television producers, and sportswriters should engage in a collective effort to cease glorifying brutal plays. In turn, fans should stop expecting their favourite players to put their lives on the line for the purposes of entertainment. Players must not be encouraged to trade their careers, their health, their happiness, and even their lives for the sake of a game.

1) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following statements are true except 1

- A. tackling is not always dangerous; however, players who use improper tackling form may injure others.
- B. scientists have established a definitive link between players who die untimely deaths and the onset of CTE.
- C. NFL officials have done little to address the problem of CTE.
- D. athletes who are praised for exceptionally brutal hits are likely to continue engaging in such dangerous behaviour.

2) According to the passage, which of the following factors contribute(s) to the incidence of CTE in amateur players? 1

- I. inconsistent application of safety regulations for all levels
- II. lack of education about the dangers of head injuries
- III. amateur players' desire to emulate professionals

A. I, II, and III B. II only C. I and II only D. II and III only

3) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for laudable? 1

A. praiseworthy B. ineffectual C. memorable D. audacious

4) The author's tone in the final paragraph can best be described as 1

A. remorseful B. hopeless C. perplexed D. insistent

5) In describing the sports media, the author emphasizes its 1

A. responsibility B. sensationalism C. senselessness D. danger

6) In the final paragraph, the author mentions "sports highlights television programs" as an example of how 1

- I. The media glorifies violence
- II. amateurs learn to mimic professional athletes

III. Professional athletes gain approval

- A. I, II, and III B. II only C. I and II only D. II and III only

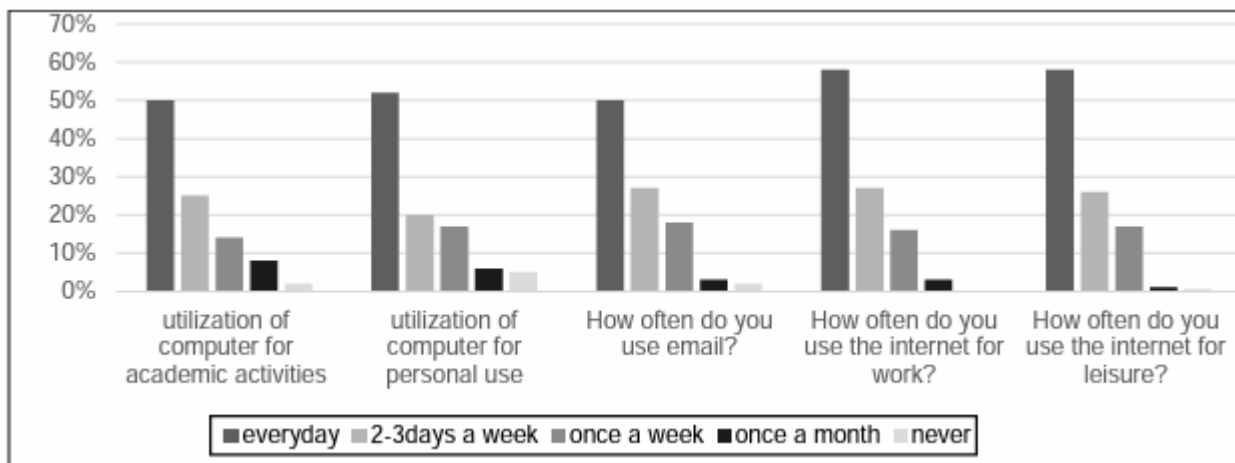
7. Explain chronic traumatic encephalopathy. 2

8. What was the alarming discovery made after introducing advanced diagnostic test technology? 2

9. What steps did the NFL take to protect the mental and physical health of players? 2

2. Read the following text. 10

1. The present generation is well-updated in the use of the Internet and computers. The rapid development in computer technology and the increase in accessibility of the internet for academic purposes have changed the face of education for everyone associated with it. Let's look at the data arising out of a recent survey that was done to ascertain the time spent on utilization of the computer and internet:



2. At present, many schools and universities have been implementing internet-based learning, as it supplements the conventional teaching methods. The internet provides a wide variety of references and information to academics as well as scientific researchers. Students often turn to it to do their academic assignments and projects.

3. However, research on the Net is very different from traditional library research, and the differences can cause problems. The Net is a tremendous resource, but it must be used carefully and critically.



4. According to a 2018 Academic Student e-book Experience Survey, conducted by LJ's research department and sponsored by EBSCO, when reading for pleasure, almost 74% of respondents said they preferred print books for leisure whereas, 45 % of respondents chose e-books rather than the printed versions, for research or assignments.

5. When asked what e-book features make them a favourite for research, the respondents were clear. Having page numbers to use in citations, topped the list (75%); followed by the ability to resize text to fit a device's screen (67%); the ability to bookmark pages, highlight text, or take notes for later reference (60%); downloading the entire e-book (57%); and allowing content to be transferred between devices (43%) were the varied responses.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. According to the passage, one of the reasons for the recent transformation of education is the: 1

- a. techno-efficiency of the present generation.
- b. expanse of courses on technology.
- c. simplification of the teaching and learning- method.
- d. easy availability of the internet.

ii. Pick the option that lists statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage. 1

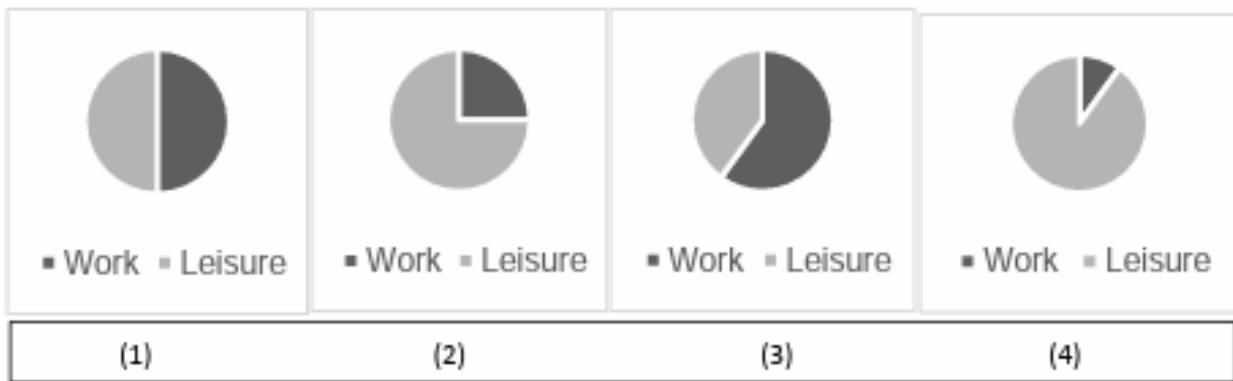
- 1. Internet-based education can only complement familiar methods of education.
- 2. Net-based learning will replace face-to-face education.
- 3. The resources that the net provides are a danger to the education system.
- 4. The current times have seen a rise in the convenience of using the internet for academic purposes.

- a. 1 & 2
- b. 3 & 4
- c. 2 & 3
- d. 1 & 4

iii. The word 'tremendous', as used in paragraph 3, means the same as 1

- a. 'expensive'.
- b. 'renowned'.
- c. 'innovative'.
- d. 'incredible'.

iv. Based on the graphical chart in the passage, choose the option that correctly states the depiction of internet usage for work and for leisure, once a month. 1



- a. Option (1)
- b. Option (2)
- c. Option (3)
- d. Option (4)

v. Based on the given graphical representation of data in the passage, choose the option that lists the statements that are TRUE with respect to the usage of email. 1

- 1. The everyday usage of email is more than the everyday usage of computer for personal use.
- 2. About 18% people use email once a week.
- 3. There are a smaller number of email users using it 2-3 times a week than the ones using it once a month.
- 4. Less than 5% of people never use the email.

- a. 1 and 3
- b. 2 and 4
- c. 1 and 2
- d. 3 and 4

vi. In the cartoon, the student's reaction reveals that he is _____. 1

- a) indignant
- b) apologetic
- c) obedient
- d) inquisitive

vii. Write a short note on the pros and cons of internet-based learning. 2

viii. How has technology influenced the field of education in the post-Covid era in India? 2

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose .

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

4

You are Anusha Raj, the President of the Social Science club in your school. Your club is organizing a visit to a local handloom center. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, addressing students of classes X-XII, informing them about this event, and encouraging them to participate in it and buy handloom goods. Mention how the visit can boost the morale of the local weavers.

OR

As the President of the school photography club, draft a notice in not more than 50 words for the school notice board, informing the students of classes X-XII about the theme of the upcoming photography competition. Mention when and how students can submit their entries. You are Dhruv Prasad.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

4

You are Amrutha Sudhan, a famous Indian entrepreneur. You have received an invitation from the Director, of the Givinity Foundation, Telangana, to be a speaker at an international conference titled 'Responsible Leadership and Community Empowerment' that will be conducted on 05 August 2023 at 3 p.m. in Hampshire Plaza, Hyderabad. Respond to accept the invitation in about 50 words.

OR

You are a member of the Cultural Society at L.J. High School. Your school is organizing a cultural programme aimed at spreading awareness about environmental conservation. The programme will have dance and song performances, poetry recitations, and art exhibitions by the students throughout the day, in the school auditorium. In about 50 words, create an invitation for parents and school teachers to attend. Mention the relevant details required for an invitation.

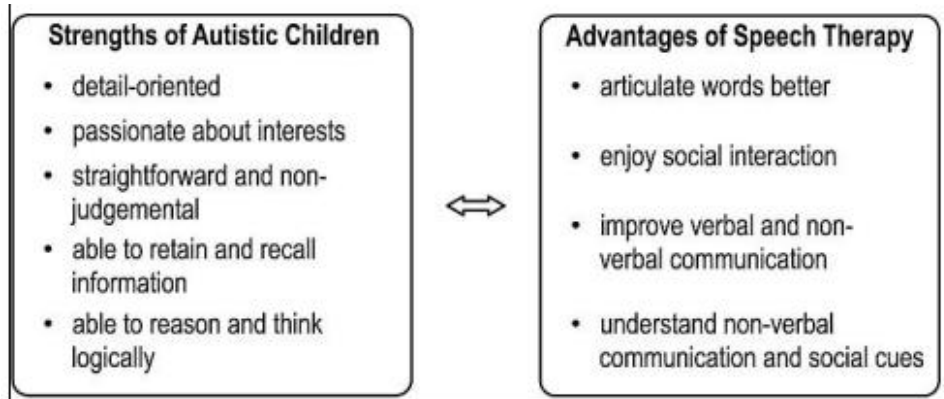
5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5

Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart disease have increased in India. 53% of deaths in India are due to lifestyle diseases. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily about the issue and your understanding of the reasons behind the same. Offer suggestions on how one can reduce their risk of having such diseases and on ways to cope with them. You are Shriya Rawat, a concerned citizen.

OR

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a group of developmental disabilities that can affect a person's ability to communicate and interact socially. It is reported that every 1 in 100 children below 10 years has autism in India. You are Thara George, a speech therapist experienced in treating children with special needs. From your experience, you feel that Indian parents in general tend to keep such children away from the normal social structure and are hesitant to get the needed professional help. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120-150 words, helping the parents to understand the strengths of autistic children and encouraging them to help the children reach their full potential by seeking speech therapy. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.



6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5

By 2050, India will be amongst the countries which will face acute water shortages. You are highly alarmed and terrified of the future world without water. So, write an article on "Save water- are we doing enough?" for the local daily in 150-200 words. You are Virat / Anushka of RC Memorial School.

OR

You are Karan / Kirti of L.M. Memorial Public School, Dwarka. Your school has adopted a village as a social responsibility. Students are being taken to teach the children of that village on a regular basis. Write a report, for your school magazine, on the various other programmes organized there in 150-200 words.

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6

*Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.
What I want should not be
confused with total inactivity.*

(Keeping Quiet)

i. Which of these uses the same poetic device as used in the third line of the extract?

1

A. The boy ran at lightning speed.

B. The little joys of life are necessary.

C. The absence of his presence was felt.

D. The hooter buzzed when the shooter shot.

ii. From the extract, identify the line or phrase that suggests the following:

1

Humans are involved in the exploitation of natural resources.

iii. Based on the extract, which of these best describes the poet?

1

(i) prudent

(ii) spiritual

(iii) visionary

(iv) methodical

A. (i) and (ii)

B. (i) and (iii)

C. (ii) and (iv)

D. (ii), (iii) and (iv)

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately in no more than TWO words.

1

When the poet says that people who participate in wars 'would put on clean clothes' he means that they should _____.

v. Based on the extract, select the correct option with reference to (1) and (2). 1

(1) Not every win is a triumph.

(2) Self reflection is crucial to evolution.

- A. (1) is the result of (2) B. Both (1) and (2) are true
C. Both (1) and (2) are false D. (1) is a hypothesis based on (2)

vi. Which of these is an appropriate title for the extract? 1

- A. Standing in Solitude B. Looking for Prosperity
C. The Desire for Renewal D. The Road to Uncertainty

OR

*The little old house was out with a little new shed
In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flowers of cities from sinking and withering faint.*

i. Where was the stand situated and how was it made? 1

ii. Which of these is an appropriate central idea for the above extract? 1

- A. Social equality B. Plight of the vendors C. Life of city dwellers D. Roadside traffic control

iii. Explain: 'too pathetically pled'. 1

iv. Is it right that the roadside stand was set up for a dole of bread? 1

v. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The real aim for those who are running the stand was _____ . 1

vi. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. 1

By referring to the city dwellers' money as the "flower of the city", the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the development of the cities.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 4

The dewan followed his orders. He found the right girl from a state which possessed a large number of tigers. Maharaja Jung Jung Bahadur killed five or six tigers each time he visited his father-in-law. In this manner, ninety-nine tiger skins adorned the walls of the reception hall in the Pratibandapuram palace.

i. Which is the genre of the chapter?

- A. Satire B. Travelogue C. historical D. mystery

ii. What was Maharaja's preference for marrying a girl?

iii. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence from the passage that portrays the Tiger King being obsessed and self-centered (that people in power assume).

iv. What does the narrator mean by 'Ninety-nine skins adorned the wall'?

- A. The Maharaja had bought ninety-nine tiger skins
B. The Maharaja had killed ninety-nine tigers

- C. The Maharaja had decorated his palace walls with ninety-nine tiger skins
- D. None of the above

OR

The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did awaken.

“The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea,” Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding had stopped for the moment, he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands.

“Yes, undoubtedly that would be best,” Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man.

“If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die,” Sadao said.

“The Kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea,” Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion at the inert figure.

i. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with ‘stupor’?

- A. She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a slumber.
- B. The Manager complained about the employee’s sluggishness.
- C. He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week.
- D. Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box.

ii. The line ‘But neither of them moved’, displays which situation?

iii. Which character traits of Sadao and Hana are described in the passage?

	Sadao	Hana
A	Practical	Apprehensive
B	Dutiful	caring
C	doubtful	strong
D	loyal	emotional

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately.

Sadao and Hana cared about the soldier but were worried about the _____

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

6

“They thought, amongst themselves, that Gandhi was totally a stranger, and yet he was prepared to go to prison for the sake of the peasants; if they on the other hand, being not only residents of the adjoining districts but also those who claimed to have served these peasants, should go home, it would be shameful desertion. They accordingly went back to Gandhi and told him they were ready to follow him into jail.”

i. Which of the following sentences uses the word ‘desertion’ exactly in the same sense as in the passage? 1

- A. The army had been thinned by desertion.
- B. The soldier was court-martialled for desertion during war.
- C. She divorced her husband for desertion.
- D. None of the above sentences.

ii. Who does ‘they’ refer to in the extract? 1

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

‘They’ thought amongst themselves because Gandhi’s question had put them into.....

- iv. Which act would be a 'shameful desertion'? 1
 a. Going to prison b. Returning home c. Serving the peasants d. Going back to Gandhi
- v. Why do 'they' decide to follow Gandhi into jail? 1
- vi. Name the author of the given extract. 1

OR

It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rattrap offered cheese and pork, and as soon as anyone let himself be tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him, and then everything came to an end. The world had, of course, never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwonted joy to think ill of it in this way.

- (i) How does the peddler describe the world? 1
 (a) Unjust and hostile (b) Unequal and brutal (c) Kind and Compassionate (d) Sad and sorrowful
- (ii) Select the option that matches the reference 'riches and joys, shelter and food'. 1
 (a) Deceit (b) Temptation (c) Materialism (d) Luxury
- (iii) The given extract does not talk about 1
 a. how people treated the peddler b. the philosophy of the rattrap seller
 c. the characteristics of the peddler d. the monotony of the peddler's life
- (iv) Why do you think that the world was not very kind to him? 1
- (v) How had the peddler come across the philosophy elucidated in the given extract? 1
- (vi) What does the word 'unwonted' mean in the extract? 1

10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words. 5x2=10

- i. Rationalize why Keats uses the metaphor 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' in his poem, A Thing of Beauty.
- ii. What can be inferred from the writer's expression on linguistic chauvinism, at Alsace in France?
 Reference- On the roof, the pigeons cooed very low, and I thought to myself, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?"(Last Lesson)
- iii. Which two distinct worlds does the author notice in the bangle-making industry?
- iv. Why has the poet brought in the image of the merry children spilling out of their homes?
- v. How might the message of the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' be different if the following last four lines were omitted?

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
 Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
 The tigers in the panel that she made
 Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- vi. Why does Douglas say: 'The Instructor was finished, but I was not finished?' How did he overpower tiny vestiges of the old terror?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4

- i. "Things that matter. Things nobody else has ever said. Things I want to think about." What are the 'things' that Derry is referring to? How did Derry's meeting with Mr. Lamb prove meaningful for him?
- ii. In his letter to Charley, Sam writes, '...then I got to believe you were right.' What could have made Sam begin to believe?
- iii. 'The world's geological history is trapped in Antarctica.' How is the study of this region useful to us?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. Though Rajkumar Shukla was an illiterate peasant; he was resolute and was able to bring a change in the lives of the people of Champaran. Taking hints from the text, write an article on the topic,

"Grit and Determination can take you a long way".

OR

B. The distinct depiction of **fear** in the texts 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', 'Lost Spring', 'My Mother at Sixty-six', 'Deep Water', and 'Indigo offer insights into the experiences of humans in different circumstances.

You have been asked to address your peers and share-

→ the factors these depictions highlight the experiences of fear

→ the struggle and the ways to overcome fear

Write the speech, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts listed above.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone.

As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way.

To conclude, I'd like to say that

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. Mr. Lamb calls Derek his friend while Derek refuses his affirmation. Would you consider their relationship with each other as friendship? Support your answer with reference to the instance(s) from the text.

OR

B. The servants of Sadao and Hana reflect a particular mindset of the general public in society towards thinking and broad-minded human beings. Elaborate with the help of the story "The Enemy".

*****The End*****