

Sample Paper
GRADE XII
ENGLISH (Code - 301)

Max. Marks: 80
Duration: 3 hours

General Instructions:

- *Please check that this question paper contains 8 printed pages.*
 - *Please check that this question paper contains 20 questions.*
 - *Read the questions carefully and present your answers neatly.*
 - *Marks for each question are allocated in brackets along with the questions.*
 - *It is mandatory to answer all questions.*
 - *Always leave one line between the MCQ answers. Write BOTH the correct option as well as the option number.*
 - *Do not write anything on the question paper.*
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READING SECTION: 22 MARKS

Q. 1 Read the following question carefully.

(12)

1. In the labyrinthine landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), the intersection of innovation and ethics has become an intellectual battleground. As humanity hurtles toward an era dominated by intelligent machines, the ethical implications of AI are a complex web that demands our unwavering attention.
2. At the heart of this discourse lies the enigma of algorithmic bias. As AI systems evolve, they inherit the biases embedded in their training data, inadvertently perpetuating societal prejudices. Unravelling this ethical conundrum requires a nuanced understanding of how these biases infiltrate decision-making processes, shaping outcomes that may inadvertently mirror and reinforce existing disparities. The struggle to mitigate these biases, often deeply ingrained in historical data, underscores the necessity for ethical frameworks that guide the development and deployment of AI.
3. Yet, as we grapple with bias, the ethical dimensions of AI extend beyond algorithmic considerations. The exponential growth of AI technologies raises profound questions about the very nature of work and employment. Automation, driven by AI, threatens to reshape industries, rendering certain professions obsolete while creating new opportunities. Navigating this shifting employment landscape requires a delicate balance between fostering innovation and safeguarding livelihoods, demanding ethical frameworks that prioritize societal well-being over unchecked technological advancement.
4. Moreover, the spectre of privacy looms large in the age of AI. As algorithms sift through vast datasets to extract meaningful insights, the boundary between surveillance and convenience becomes increasingly blurred. Striking the right balance between harnessing the power of

data for societal benefit and safeguarding individual privacy emerges as a formidable challenge. Ethical considerations must guide the development of AI systems that respect and protect the autonomy of individuals in an era where personal data is a coveted currency.

5. The ethical labyrinth deepens when contemplating the existential implications of AI. As machines acquire cognitive capabilities that approach human intelligence, questions of moral agency and accountability come to the forefront. How should we navigate the ethical terrain when confronted with machines capable of autonomous decision-making? Establishing a framework that assigns responsibility and accountability for the actions of AI systems becomes imperative to ensure ethical governance in a world increasingly shaped by intelligent machines.
6. In conclusion, the ethical challenges posed by AI weave a complex tapestry that demands careful consideration. From algorithmic biases to the redefinition of employment and the preservation of privacy, navigating the ethical abyss of AI requires a collective commitment to crafting frameworks that prioritize societal well-being. As we stand at the precipice of an AI-dominated future, the choices we make today will shape the ethical landscape for generations to come.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- (i) Comment on the significance of describing the landscape of artificial intelligence as labyrinthine in the context of the ethical challenges discussed in about 40 words. 2
- (ii) How does AI challenge the balance between societal benefit and privacy? 1
- (iii) According to the passage, what is the key challenge in the age of AI with regards to data usage? 1
- (a) Exploiting Personal Information
- (b) Balancing Surveillance and Convenience
- (c) Emphasizing Algorithmic Power
- (d) Fostering Individual Autonomy
- (iv) How can societies strike a balance between fostering technological innovation through AI and ensuring the protection of jobs and livelihoods, as suggested in the passage? Share your insights in about 40 words. 2
- (v) Choose the option that correctly labels the following statements as Facts (F) and Opinions (O). 1
1. Algorithmic bias may lead to distorted and unfair decisions.
2. Striking the right balance between harnessing the power of data for societal benefit and safeguarding individual privacy emerges as a formidable challenge.

3. The choices we make today will shape the ethical landscape for generations to come.
4. The exponential growth of AI technologies threatens to reshape industries, rendering certain professions obsolete while creating new opportunities.

- (a) (F) – 1 and 2; (O) – 3 and 4 (b) (F) – 1 and 3; (O) – 2 and 4
(c) (F) – 1 and 4; (O) – 2 and 3 (d) (F) – 2 and 4; (O) – 1 and 3

(vi) If ensuring ethical governance in an AI-dominated world is analogous to steering a ship through turbulent waters, what would be the equivalent of the guiding principles or policies? 1

- (a) Ethical Lighthouse (b) Technological Anchor
(c) Policy Rudder (d) Innovation Sail

(vii) What is highlighted as imperative in the passage for ensuring ethical governance in a world shaped by intelligent machines? 1

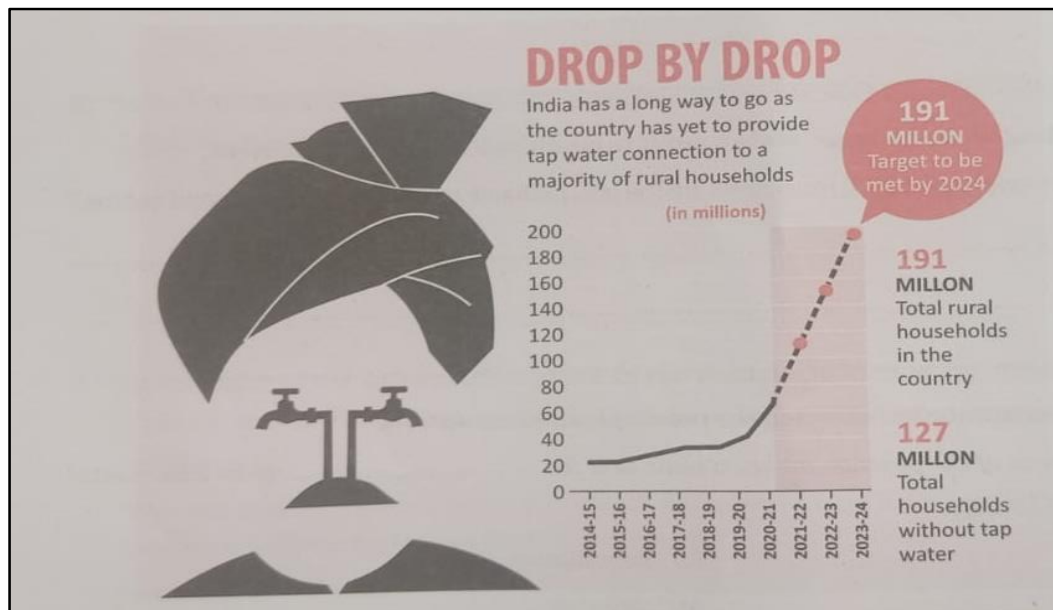
(viii) From the concluding statement, what can be inferred about the author's perspective on the long-term impact of ethical decision-making in the current era of AI development? 2

(ix) Select an option that correctly matches the paragraph numbers with their titles. 1

Paragraph No.	Title
1	Navigating the Blurred Boundary
2	The Ethical battlefield of AI
3	Crafting the Ethical Future of AI
4	Balancing Progress and Livelihoods
5	Unravelling the Ethical conundrum
6	Moral Agency in the Age of Machines

- (a) 1-(a), 2-(b), 3-(c), 4-(d), 5-(e), 6-(f) (b) 1-(b), 2-(e), 3-(d), 4-(a), 5-(f), 6-(c)
(c) 1-(b), 2-(e), 3-(d), 4-(a), 5-(c), 6-(f) (d) 1-(c), 2-(e), 3-(d), 4-(a), 5-(b), 6-(c)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answers the questions that follow. (10)



1. At the headquarters of the Union Jal Shakti Ministry in New Delhi, Bharat Lal, additional secretary and director, Jal Jeevan Mission, clicks on his computer to check on the progress of the government's massive programme to ensure that every rural household has a functional tap connection for drinking water by 2024. The dashboard of the ministry website flashes that 127,000 households across the country have been provided with a functional tap connection on that particular day. Next, he checks the total number of households that have been provided these tap connections since the mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019. The figure stands at 38.46 million. That's phenomenal progress considering that prior to that date, only 32 million households had received functional tap connections since Independence.
2. Yet, despite the Jal Jeevan Mission fast-tracking supply, only around 36.9 per cent, or a little more than a third of the 191 million households, have piped water supply. That about 63 per cent of India's rural population still has to step outside their homes and wait in queues, sometimes for hours, to get their daily requirement of water should be a matter of shame for a country and its leaders.
3. That's why Lal and his colleagues are pursuing the Jal Jeevan Mission, which promises to provide functional tap water connections to all rural households apart from schools by 2024, with missionary zeal and keeping a hawk's eye on the calendar. While there have been massive efforts to provide drinking water in the past, including the National Drinking Water Mission launched by Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, none compares with the magnitude of the task the Jal Jeevan Mission has set for itself. To meet its 2024 target under the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (Tap water in every house) programme as it is called, the government has to provide annually 30 million new households with tap water for the next four years.
4. Money is not an issue, with the Narendra Modi government setting aside Rs 3.6 lakh crore to accomplish it. But what the Jal Jeevan Mission team is doing is injecting a massive amount of technology to monitor the progress of the mission, apart from pushing for standardisation of pipes, taps and other equipment needed to provide tap water. Lal can zero in on any district in the country or any village to find out the progress achieved in terms of infrastructure being

provided and water being supplied. It is such constant monitoring that ensures that not only the quantity of water supplied but its quality too is being checked.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

(i) Infer two ways in which technology is playing a crucial role in scripting the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission (Water is Life Mission). Answer in about 40 words. 2

(ii) Based on the information given in the visual, choose the option that BEST sums up the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission. 1

(a) A fluctuating trend between 2014 and 2019, followed by a nosedive between 2020 and 2021 and a projected sharp rise between 2021-2024

(b) Zig-zag progress between 2014 and 2019, followed by a steady rise between 2020 and 2021 and an expected steep rise between 2021-2024

(c) Slow but steady progress between 2014 and 2019, followed by a sharp rise between 2020 and 2021 and an expected sharp rise between 2021-2024

(d) A slow decline between 2014 and 2019, followed by a slight rise between 2020 and 2021 and then a projected sharp rise between 2021 and 2024.

(iii) Why do you think the achievements of the Jal Jeevan Mission since 2019, have been termed as 'phenomenal progress'? 1

(iv) Complete the sentence.

The phrase 'a matter of shame' (Paragraph 2) refers to _____.

(v) What do the expressions 'missionary zeal' and 'a hawk's eye' suggest about the government's attitude to the Jal Jeevan Mission? Answer in about 40 words. 2

(vi) Identify the citizen who is yet to get a piped water connection. 1

(a) "Finally, my children can drink safe water from a tap at my home."

(b) "Our household was covered in the first phase of the Jal Jeevan Mission."

(c) "I hope I will survive long enough to get a connection of tapped water at my home."

(d) "People from the neighbouring households come to our house to fetch tapped drinking water for their households."

(vii) How might the Jal Jeevan Mission have been impacted if it was not allocated the budget of 3.6 lakh crore rupees? 1

(viii) The concluding sentence of the passage highlights the _____ that has ensured the _____ of the Jal Jeevan Mission. 1

(a) purpose, success

(b) technology, monitoring

(c) vision, design

(d) mechanism, effectiveness

CREATIVE WRITING SECTION (18 Marks)

Q3. You are Vijay Dhawan, a student of Florence Nightingale Convent, Rajiv Nagar, Aurangabad. Your school is planning an Inter-House poster making competition to commemorate the Earth Day. As the secretary of the school's environment club, write a notice informing students of classes IX-XII about the competition. 4

OR

Water supply will be suspended for eight hours (10 am to 6 pm) on 25th December for cleaning of the water tank. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words advising the residents to store water for a day. You are Karan/Karuna, Secretary, Janta Group Housing Society, Palam Vihar, Kurnool. Don't forget to regret.

Q. 5 You are Nidhi Aggarwal, Secretary of Shakespearewalla, the Literary Club of your school. The literary club has produced some great theatre actors in the past and has a phenomenal repertoire of dramas. Now, it is putting up the famous Shakespeare play "The Taming of the Shrew". The principal of your school has asked you to draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Mr Ruskin Bond to be the Chief Guest at the event. Write the invitation inventing necessary details as required. 4

OR

Your friend, P.V. Nithish, has invited your family to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You have your board examination on the day of the wedding. Since, south Indian weddings are traditionally morning events, you will not be able to attend the event. Write a formal reply in about 50 words to the family expressing your regret. You are Sushmitha Nair, M-114, Fort Road, Chennai.

Q5. As Madhurima Vyas, you are M.A. English with flair for creative writing and an excellent command over the language. Write an application-cum-biodata for the post of Trainee Editor in response to the following advertisement. 5

SITUATIONS VACANT

A textbook publisher is looking for Trainee Editor with excellent command over English and Science for its offices at Noida. Apply with a detailed resume and a recent passport-size photograph within ten days to:

BOX NO. 92257

The Hindustan Times

New Delhi

OR

There is a flood of advertisements on television channels these days. Useless commodities and even superstitious beliefs are promoted through glamorous and exaggerated presentations. Write a letter to the editor of 'The New Indian Express' about the negative influence such advertisements have on the minds of the people. You are Rayna/Ram of Mayur Vihar, Lucknow.

Q6. India is emerging as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The number of tourists has definitely picked up after the pandemic. The government of India is making sustained efforts in projecting India as a great tourist destination but the citizens also need to understand their duties. Utilising the given cues, write an article on "India as the Popular Choice of Foreign Visitors" as Lakshya Sen. 5

Hints:

- India-the best destination for tourists
- tourist industry-seeing a new influx
- pollution, crimes, etc. hinder the growth
- strengthening the efforts of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), NGOs
- e-visa facility
- medical tourism, eco-tourism
- generate jobs for local people, local culture, food, handicrafts, etc.

OR

You have attended a workshop on personality development for students. Many eminent personalities had been present. Write a report on how the workshop proved to be beneficial. You are Rashi/Rishabh of Class XII. Take help from the given cues.

Hints:

- workshop conducted
- attended by 35 participants
- renowned personalities participated
- discussion on concerned topic
- workshop-highly beneficial

LITERATURE SECTION: 40 Marks

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x6=6)

*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.*

- i. What is aunt Jennifer's death symbolic of?
- ii. Read the statement given below:
Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment.
Choose the option that best explains the above statement, as per the extract.
 - (a) Aunt Jennifer's hands are terrified, but when she is dead, her tigers will roam free.
 - (b) Aunt Jennifer knits her desires, but is overpowered by the wedding ring she wears.
 - (c) Aunt Jennifer's tigers are proud and unafraid, but she is mastered by ringed ordeals.
 - (d) Aunt Jennifer makes panels of tigers when she has time from her responsibilities.
- iii. Is the society in any way affected by Aunt Jennifer's death?
- iv. The expression 'terrified hands' is an example of which literary device?
- v. Which of the following best explains the main idea of the extract?
 - (a) Death is an easy escape from all worries, fears and troubles.
 - (b) Marriage for some people is a tale of endless and unspeakable misery.
 - (c) Aunt Jennifer's fingers will be liberated from the weight of her wedding ring after death.
 - (d) Aunt Jennifer prefers death to life because death is a greater leveller and liberator.
- vi. Where did Aunt Jennifer make the tigers? And what will happen to them after her death?

OR

*No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
And then next day as I come back into the sane,
I wonder how I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.*

- (i) What spirit is lacking in the countryside?
- (ii) The above lines show that the speaker is
 - (a) very rich and charitable
 - (b) very kind and compassionate

- (c) very practical and strong-willed
- (d) very mean and selfish

- (iii) How does the poet express his concern for the country people?
- (iv) What does the voice of the country complain?
- (v) What does the poet mean when he says, 'And the next day as I come back into the sane'?
- (vi) Which of the following uses the word 'stroke' in the same way as it is used in the extract?
 1. One stroke of this tiny brush will make your brow shine.
 2. By computerizing its operations, the company trebled its output at one stroke.
 3. One stroke of this club and you are gone, Will!
 4. With one stroke of his pen, the governor signed the bill into law.

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

Q8. Read the given extracts below and answer the following questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x6=6)

Saul Bellow, who has consented to be interviewed on several occasions, nevertheless once described interviews as being like thumbprints on his windpipe. Yet despite the drawbacks of the interview, it is a supremely serviceable medium of communication. "These days, more than at any other time, our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews," Denis Brian has written. "Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence."

- (i) What does the phrase 'thumbprints on his windpipe' mean in the context of the extract?
- (ii) How would you describe Denis Brian's opinion on interviews? Choose the most appropriate option.

1.	2.	3.	4.
appeasing	Utilitarian	approving	praising

- (a) Options 1 & 2 (b) Options 3 & 4 (c) Options 2 & 3 (d) Options 1 & 4

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately

Denis Brian states that the interviewer occupies a position of power and influence as _____

(iv) Find evidence from the extract to support the view that interviews present a clear picture.

(v) The author's chief purpose in the extract is to

- (a) emphasize the importance of the art of interview.
- (b) highlight the drawback of the interview as the form of journalism.
- (c) quote some well-known authorities in support of his criticism of the interview as a literary genre.
- (d) Cite some ideas that are different from the ideas of Umberto Eco.

(vi) In today's world, how interviews are a better source of information than biographies or autobiographies?

OR

"She thinks money grows on trees, don't she, Dad?" said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father's chair. Their mother sighed. Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings. The delicate-seeming bow and the crooked back. The evening had already blacked in the windows and the small room was steamy from the stove and cluttered with the heavy-breathing man in his vest at the table and the dirty washing piled up in the corner. Sophie felt a tightening in her throat. She went to look for her brother Geoff.

(i) Choose the correct option about Sophie's family based on the extract given above.

- (a) Sophie's parents' marriage was an example of harmony and affection.
- (b) Sophie's relation with her parents was warm and friendly.
- (c) Sophie's mother was subdued while her father was detached.
- (d) Sophie and her brother didn't like to stay with their parents.

(ii) Choose the option that supports the contention coming through Derek's dialogue, "She thinks money grows on trees, don't she, Dad?".

- (a) Derek thought his sister to be unreasonable at times.
- (b) Derek had no faith in Sophie's abilities to open a boutique.
- (c) Derek thought of his sister as someone who was not realistic.
- (d) Derek was not at all happy about Sophie's habit of day-dreaming.

(iii) Select an evidence from the extract that leads to an inference that Sophie's mother was fatigued and burdened.

(iv) Explain the expression, "Sophie felt a tightening in her throat."

(v) Complete the given statement with ONE word only. A poverty-stricken life left Sophie _____.

(vi) Why did Sophie examine her mother's condition so closely?

Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two. (1x4=4)

"Because we are born into this community, we are never given any honour or dignity or respect; we are stripped of all that. But if we study and make progress, we can throw away these indignities. So, study with care, learn all you can. If you are always ahead in your lessons, people will come to you of their own accord and attach themselves to you. Work hard and learn." The words that Annan spoke to me that day made a very deep impression on me. And I studied hard, with all my breath and being, in a frenzy almost. As Annan had urged, I stood first in my class. And because of that, many people became my friends.

- (i) Select the option that BEST describes the speaker in the above extract.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
marginalized	practical	idealistic	curious	aggressive

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 4 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 4 and 5

- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

It is evident the narrator wants that her community people _____.

- (iii) What role does Annan play in Bama's life?

- (iv) How can education transform the lives of the people of the narrator's community?

OR

MR LAMB: Look, boy, look... what do you see?

DERRY: Just... grass and stuff. Weeds.

MR LAMB: Some call them weeds. If you like, then.... a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there.... weeds. I grow weeds there. Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower'? Where's the difference. It's all life growing. Same as you and me.

DERRY: We're not the same.

MR LAMB: I'm old. You're young. You've got a burned face, I've got a tin leg. Not important. You're standing there....I'm sitting here. Where's the difference?

- (i) Like the play, the given extract is a study in contrasts. What does Mr. Lamb seek to do by bringing up distinctions?

- (a) To explain that weeds are important and should be valued and cared for as much as flowers.
(b) To emphasize that distinctions are made by man to serve specific purposes and uses.
(c) To highlight that labels are arbitrary and essentially reflect a common life experience.
(d) To remind Derry that the only difference that matters is that of attitude and experience.

- (ii) How would you describe Derry's tone when he says, "We're not the same"?
- (iii) Why do you think the playwright has used ellipsis (...) four or five times in the extract?
- (iv) Complete the following statement appropriately:
Although they convey a powerful message, Mr Lamb's words fail to _____ Derry, at least in this extract.

Q10. Attempt ANY FIVE of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (2x5=10)

- (i) "You realise the true value of a thing only after losing it." Comment on this statement in the light of the story, 'The Last Lesson'.
- (ii) There is a saying 'Kindness pays, rudeness doesn't'. In the story, 'The Rattrap' Edla's attitude towards life differed from her father's. How do the values of kindness and compassion help her transform the peddler?
- (iii) We smile when we meet someone and do the same while saying goodbye. The poet also smiles as she bids farewell to her mother and assures her that they would meet again. But her smile is neither genuine, nor sincere. Bring out the significance and irony of the smile of the poet at the airport.
- (iv) 'Prose writing is not and cannot be the true pursuit of a genius', says the author. Explain the statement with reference to the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes'.
- (v) Getting rid of fear is an extremely difficult task. Elucidate with reference to the chapter "Deep Water".
- (vi) What examples does Keats use to describe that there is more to beauty than that from nature in 'A Thing of Beauty'?

Q11. Attempt ANY TWO of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)

- (i) "Students on Ice" is a programme that prepares global citizens. Discuss.
- (ii) Answer the question in the context of the following line from "The Tiger King". 'You may kill even a cow in self-defence.' Do you agree with the given statement? Does it have any association with the killing of the tigers by the Tiger King?
- (iii) How was the General in the palm of Sadao's hand?

Q12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

Child labour is illegal in our nation. Then why do some parents still send their children to work at their early stage? In Jung's Lost Spring, remembering the following line from the lesson:

"None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light."

As citizens of India, what do you think is our duty? What steps can youngsters like you take to reduce the scourge of poverty?

Discussing this with your friend, add your friend's views, write a conversation for the same.

OR

The lesson 'Indigo' records how Gandhi showed patriotism as not merely proclaiming love for the nation in slogans and songs; it entails respect for the values and laws of a nation and above all love for its people in deeds. Express your views regarding the need for inculcating patriotism in youth today and how it has changed in its essence.

Q13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

Imagine Zitkala-Sa and Bama meet each other. They both share their experience of being from marginalized communities. They reflect on instances of oppression they faced and how those instances proved to be the source of strength to fight against such oppression.

Write down their interaction in a creative way, with reference to their experiences

OR

You have received a letter from your friend asking you how you would have treated the 'enemy' had you been in Dr. Sadao's place. Write a suitable reply to him/her.

NAME- MITU MAJUMDAR

PGT ENGLISH