



CAMBRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

KANKE ROAD, RANCHI

REVISION ASSIGNMENT

Subject: English Core (301)

Class: XI

Maximum Time Allotted: 1 Hour 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (5 MARKS)

1) Read the passage carefully and write its summary in not more than 50 words. (5 marks)

In recent weeks, booksellers in Australia and Europe have raised concerns about unusual, bulk purchases of books, amid reports that artificial intelligence companies are acquiring physical copies to train their datasets.

However, it is the manner of such training that has caused alarm: unsealed documents in a copyright lawsuit against Anthropic revealed that the company was resorting to 'destructive scanning', a process in which books are destroyed after their contents are scanned.

The Guardian reported that Australian booksellers had received requests for books ranging from rare and obscure titles to cheap paperbacks through intermediaries, while Fortune reported a similar incident involving a Dutch bookseller. Several of these books do not have known copies available, making the practice all the more egregious.

In many cases, the purchases are not made directly by AI companies. Instead, intermediaries source books in bulk from booksellers before sending them for digitisation, making it difficult for sellers to know who the eventual buyer is or how the books will be used.

The reports build on earlier findings about Anthropic's Project Panama. In January, The Washington Post reported that the company had bought millions of physical books, removed their bindings and scanned them to build a massive collection of high-quality training data for its models.

The new reports suggest that a practice once visible mainly through court filings and investigative reporting is now becoming visible further up the supply chain, with booksellers noticing unusual demand. We explain.

Why books?

Conventional use of the terms AI and generative AI refers to a subset of artificial intelligence called large language models (LLMs). These models learn statistical patterns from enormous volumes of text input and generate textual (or visual) output based on the quality of data fed into them.

While the competition in recent years has largely centred on acquiring maximum computing power and accessing the chips that drive them, the scramble for physical books reflects a growing demand for another critical resource: high-quality training data.

For years, frontier AI companies have relied heavily on text scraped from the public internet. But as AI-generated content has proliferated online and copyright disputes have made large-scale web scraping increasingly contentious, companies have begun looking elsewhere for reliable, human-written material. Books offer long-form, edited text across a wide range of subjects, much of which is either unavailable or difficult to obtain in digital form.

SECTION B: LITERATURE (30 MARKS)

The Portrait of a Lady - Khushwant Singh (15 marks)

- 2) Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. (1 x 4 = 4 marks)

"She was always beautiful. She hobbled about the house in spotless white with one hand resting on her waist to balance her stoop and the other telling the beads of her rosary."

- a) Who is being described in the extract?
- b) Why did she keep one hand on her waist?
- c) What does the rosary reveal about her personality?
- d) Find a word from the extract that means "walked with difficulty".

- 3) Answer any two of the following in 40-50 words each. (2 x 3 = 6 marks)

- a) Why did the grandmother accompany the author to school in the village?
- b) How did their relationship change after they moved to the city?
- c) Why was the grandmother unhappy with the education given at the English school?

- 4) Answer the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

The grandmother represents dignity, faith, selflessness and emotional strength. Discuss her character with suitable examples from the chapter.

The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse - William Saroyan (15 marks)

- 5) Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. (1 x 4 = 4 marks)

"My cousin Mourad was considered the natural descendant of the crazy streak in our tribe."

- a) Who is the speaker of the above line?
- b) Why was Mourad considered to have inherited the "crazy streak"?
- c) From whom had Mourad inherited this characteristic?
- d) Mention one incident that shows Mourad's unusual nature.

- 6) Answer any two of the following in 40-50 words each. (2 x 3 = 6 marks)

- a) Why was Aram surprised to see Mourad riding a beautiful white horse?
- b) What was the Garoghlanian family famous for?
- c) Why did John Byro not accuse the boys of stealing his horse?

- 7) Answer the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

"The story presents a conflict between temptation and family honour." Explain how Aram and Mourad deal with this conflict.

SECTION C: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (5 MARKS)

- 8) Classified Advertisement (5 marks)

You are the Cultural Secretary of Cambrian Public School, Kanke Road, Ranchi. The school requires a trained, part-time dance instructor for its cultural programmes. Draft a classified advertisement in not more than 50 words, stating the essential qualifications, experience and contact details.

Attempt all sections within the maximum allotted time of 1 hour 30 minutes.
