

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

## THE DEATH OF THE BOOK

- I In February 2009, Amazon launched the Kindle-2 – an upgraded version of the first electronic reader, introduced in 2007. The Kindle is a handheld device on which you can read digitised books, or e-books. These books can be bought from an online store and downloaded onto the device in less than 60 seconds.
- II The improved Kindle has several attractive features. The screen is not illuminated, thus reducing glare. Electronic ink looks similar to ink on paper, making reading easier. A web browser facilitates access to websites. The five-way controller, used for note-taking and highlighting text, is useful for students. New audio features allow you to listen to stories via speakers or headphones.
- III Although the Kindle-2 has its own unique features, all electronic readers share one main advantage: they are light and portable, when compared to the weight and bulk of printed books.
- IV When considering the convenience of electronic readers, it is not surprising that many people are concerned about the future of the publishing industry. Will e-books eventually replace traditional books?
- V Perhaps not, since electronic readers also have drawbacks. First, these devices aren't cheap. Besides, downloading an e-book costs about \$10. Some titles are more expensive than the paperback version! Second, black-and-white e-books cannot compete with the colour of print. Furthermore, you don't actually own a downloaded e-book. You only have the right to store it, whereas printed books can be lent or resold.
- VI Printed books have power. They have aesthetic value, they're social and we have a cultural affinity for them. Reading a book is a sensory experience, too. Journalist Sarah F. Sullivan says she loves the smell of a book and "the sensation of flipping through the pages".
- VII So is the novel dying out? Not according to famous author Stephen King. While King enjoys the new technology, he still chooses to read mostly in print.

### 1. Choose the correct answer.

1. With a Kindle-2, you can't ... .  
a. listen to audio books  
b. take notes and highlight texts  
c. write a digitised book
2. Electronic readers ... .  
a. first came onto the market in 2009  
b. have both advantages and disadvantages  
c. are not available in online stores
3. Sarah F. Sullivan is an example of someone who ... .  
a. believes in the power of printed books  
b. thinks that books connect us to our past  
c. is concerned about the future of traditional books

### 2. Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning.

1. Journalist Sarah F. Sullivan says she loves the smell of a book and "the sensation of flipping through the pages".  
Journalist Sarah F. Sullivan says she loves to .....
2. Will e-books eventually replace traditional books?  
Will traditional books ..... ?
3. You only have the right to store it, whereas printed books can be lent or resold.  
You only have the right to store it, whereas you .....

### 3. Answer the question according to the information given in the text.

Why are publishers worried about the future of printed books?

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.....

### 4. Choose the best meaning for each word.

1. launched (paragraph I)  
a. stopped      b. introduced      c. threw
2. glare (paragraph II)  
a. cost      b. size      c. bright light
3. portable (paragraph III)  
a. easy to carry  
b. too heavy to lift  
c. nice to look at
4. drawbacks (paragraph V)  
a. dangers      b. benefits      c. disadvantages

### 5. Write a composition of about 100-150 words. Choose one option.

1. If you used electronic textbooks at school, what would you enjoy and not enjoy about them?
2. Describe one of your favourite books.

# Extra Exam Practice 4

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1. 1. c    2. b    3. a
2. 1. smell a book and to flip through the pages  
2. eventually be replaced by e-books  
3. can lend or resell printed books
3. Possible Answers:  
Electronic readers are more convenient than printed books. / Electronic books are lighter than printed books. / Electronic books have many unique and attractive features. / Printed books are heavier and less convenient than electronic books.
4. 1. b    2. c    3. a    4. c
5. Accept all logical and grammatically correct answers.