

二、 阅读理解（40分）

Directions: In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of 15 multiple-choice questions and 5 short-answer questions. Please read the passages and then write your answers on the answer sheet.

Passage One

After a number of false dawns, books are, finally, starting to go digital. The translation of books into digital formats means the destruction of boundaries. Bound, printed texts are discrete objects: immutable, individual, lendable, cut off from the world. Once the words of a book appear onscreen, they are no longer simply themselves; they have become a part of something else. They now occupy the same space not only as every other digital text, but as every other medium too. Music, film, newspapers, blogs, videogames—it's the nature of a digital society that all these come at us in parallel, through the same channels, consumed simultaneously or in seamless sequence.

There are new possibilities in this, many of them marvelous. As the internet has amply illustrated, words shorn of physical restrictions can instantly travel the world and be searched, shared, adapted and updated at will. Digital culture is one vast forum for debate, selection, promotion and distribution. As Angus Donald—whose writing career began in 2009 with the publication of *Outlaw*—described the experience of becoming a writer to me: “I find myself as a sort of president of a club of like-minded individuals. I'm matey, elder-brotherly and in regular contact with anyone who wants to communicate with me. I write a blog on a weekly basis, I have two Facebook pages for my books and I go to pretty much any events that invite me...”

Donald has embraced technology, but there are plenty of authors who take a dimmer view. “When it comes to the world of the internet and blogging and Facebooking and what have you, I'm profoundly sceptical,” Philip Pullman, author of the bestselling *His Dark Materials* trilogy, told me. “I daresay it manages to connect with a large number of people, but I strongly resent the time it takes up. In the little time that I have ‘spare,’ I don't want to sit tapping at a keyboard and staring at a screen, I want to read and think.”

An author, etymologically, is a person who originates something—an idea that's implicit in the word “novel” itself. Yet the notion of authors as world-makers as well as story-tellers is increasingly under threat. As the comic novelist Julian Gough told me: “One of the jobs novels used to do was to create