a universe for characters, one that felt believable and complicated. But the complexity of life at the moment is such that no writer is able to keep up. The novel once had a dream of itself as this universal art form that could describe to the world to everybody in a way that everybody could understand, and that no longer rings true."

Of course, for those who simply wish to write, the digital arena offers unprecedented empowerment. As the cult science fiction and fantasy novelist Neil Gaiman told me, today is "an amazing time to be a young author... if I were starting out right now, writing short stories or whatever, I would build my little off-the-peg website, no need for a publisher at that stage, maybe never." Yet, he conceded, online authorship is also a difficult game to come into cold for those who have hopes of doing more than seeing their words appear on a screen. "People come to me and they ask, how do I get 1.5m people reading my blog? And it's like, you need to start it in 2001 and try not to miss a day for the first eight years." In print, you're struggling to be heard above 132,999 other voices. Online, the figure is a thousand times greater. However, the American author Don DeLillo said, "Here's a stray question. Will language have the same depth and richness in electronic form that it can reach on the printed page? Does the beauty and variability of our language depend to an important degree on the medium that carries the words? Does poetry need paper?" He left it unanswered. But we shall find out soon enough.

31. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

    A. Digital books appear together with other digital texts.

    B. Digital books coexist with other mediums.

    C. Only digital books are consumed with perfect sequence.

    D. Digital books are instantly accessible.

32. The relationship between Paragraph Two and Paragraph Three is that _____.

    A. each presents one side of the picture

    B. one generalizes, the other exemplifies

    C. one is the logical result of the other

    D. one further strengthens the argument of the other

33. We can infer that authors of digital novels tend to _____.

    A. read and think rather than sit staring at a screen

    B. create characters that everybody can understand

    C. feel threatened as world-makers as well as story-tellers

    D. live simple lives

34. Neil Gaiman thinks that _____.