**The City School**

**North Nazimabad Boys Campus**

**Blog Worksheet Grade 9,10**

**Passage 1**

**Electronic Book Readers**

A new phenomenon is springing up nowadays in railway stations, in airport queues and on

buses. It is the sight of people engrossed, not in a newspaper or paperback novel, but rather

an electronic book reader (e-reader). Are downloaded e-books a passing fad or are they here

to stay?

One attraction of e-books is that some of them are free. Others can be downloaded at a

much cheaper price than the bookshop price, and for avid readers this is an obvious

advantage because the money saved can be spent on other things, perhaps new clothes

or days out. There is no need to make time-consuming trips to bookshops, which is a real

hassle, especially for parents with children to bundle into the car or bus. Instead, books can

be paid for and downloaded from the comfort of your own living room. E-readers don’t take up

much space, which makes a huge difference to people whose living space might be limited,

for example, families with several young children vying for space for toys, games and all the

paraphernalia of family life. Moreover, e-readers are extremely portable; instead of having to

choose which book to take with you to read on the train, or having to narrow your choice to

three or four books to fit into your holiday suitcase, you can have the delightful experience of

carrying hundreds on your e-reader.

E-readers are a blessing to short-sighted or visually-impaired readers because, as with all

computer screens, the size of the print can be increased; no more squinting at the pages of

a book or, worse, having the frustrating experience of not being able to read the book at all.

Lights can also be attached to e-readers, and this is generally conducive to keeping eyes

healthy. Users of e-readers can personalise their reading in the same way that people often

personalise their mobile phones, as e-readers can be purchased with covers in a variety

of materials and colours. While those who are generally wary of technology complain that

e-readers are mere gimmicks, teachers and parents, who often regret that children don’t read

enough, hope that the novelty value of e-readers will lead to increased reading and improved

examination results. Gone is the need for bookmarks and the frustration of losing the place in

your book, as e-readers remember where you stopped reading and take you automatically to

that point when you open up to start reading again.

However, e-readers have their critics too. There are those who say that e-readers will bring

about the closure of libraries, which will be a great loss to society as a whole. Although

downloaded books are cheap or even free, the initial cost of e-readers is high, as they are

essentially computer-based, and computers are expensive. This is all very well for those who

can afford it, but it is socially divisive because not everyone can. If e-readers do bring about

the closure of libraries, some people – those who can afford neither books nor the technology

to read e-books – will have little opportunity to read at all.

And what about the sheer, aesthetic pleasure of owning books? Many people delight in

holding, and just possessing, their favourite books. Snuggling up on the sofa with an e-reader

pales into insignificance when compared with doing so with a ‘real’ book. When people are

moved to tears or to fury by characters or plots in a book, they instinctively tell their friends

about it, and often books change hands and are temporarily swapped. This delight is denied

to readers of e-books. Furthermore, students are not able to annotate e-books and use them

for cross-reference in their studies in ways which are possible with books.

When buying e-books from home, readers have to know what they are looking for, whereas

browsing in a bookshop allows readers to stumble on books they might otherwise never have

come across. It would be a great pity if bookshops had to close because they were unable

to compete with e-readers, either because the customers didn’t come any more, or because

they were reluctant to pay the higher prices inevitably charged for books as opposed to

e-books. Moreover, jobs would be axed if bookshops closed. Will society have to pay too high

a price for this latest technology? Perhaps it is too early to tell.

**Section 1: Reading for Ideas**

Read Passage 1 in the insert and answer **all** the questions below in the order set.

**1 (a) Notes** [12 marks]

**Identify and write down** the points in the passage which tell us the advantages and

disadvantages of e-readers.

**USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM PARAGRAPH 2 TO PARAGRAPH 6 INCLUSIVE**.

At this stage, you need NOT use your own words. To help you get started, the first point

in each section of notes is done for you. You will be awarded up to 12 marks for **content**

points.

**MAIN POINTS**

**Advantages of e-readers**

• *Free books can be downloaded*

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**Disadvantages of e-readers**

• *E-readers will bring about the closure of libraries*

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 **(b) Summary** [10 marks]

**Now use your notes to write a summary** in which you state the advantages and

disadvantages of e-readers, as described in the passage.

This time, you will be awarded up to 5 marks **for using your own words** wherever

possible and **for accurate use of language**.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must be no longer

than **150-180** words, including the 10 words given below. Begin your summary as follows:

*These days, people are reading more and more e-books because .................................*

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