

In Renaissance England, for example, many more people could read than could write, and within reading there was a distinction between those who could read print and those who could manage the more difficult task of reading manuscript. An understanding of these earlier periods helps us understand today's 'crisis in literacy' debate.

There does seem to be evidence that there has been an overall decline in some aspects of reading and writing – you only need to compare the **tabloid newspapers** of today with those of 50 years ago to see a clear decrease in vocabulary and simplification of **syntax**.

The ability to write fluent letters has been **undermined** by the telephone and research suggests that for many people the only use for writing, outside formal education, is the **compilation** of shopping lists.

1. In Renaissance England, the best readers were those able to read _____.
Your answer:

2. The writer uses the example of _____ to illustrate the general fall in certain areas of literacy.

Your answer:

3. It has been shown that after leaving school, the only things that a lot of people write are _____.
Your answer:

Hoàn thành bảng từ vựng sau:

Sort elements

tabloid newspaper

syntax

undermine something

a compilation of something

hủy hoại, làm suy yếu	
báo lá cải	
tập hợp	
cú pháp	