**Newsweek to end its print edition**

The world-famous current affairs magazine "Newsweek" has announced it will stop printing its publication at the end of the year and will become online-only. The magazine was established in 1933 and has been in print for the past 80 years. However, rising costs of publishing and a fall in the number of advertisers willing to buy space in newspapers and magazines mean a move to a digital version. The number of subscribers has also halved from its 2001 heyday of over 3 million to 1.5 million today. The transition has been in the works for a number of years. In 2010, Newsweek merged with the Internet news site "The Daily Beast" which has over 15 million visitors a month.

The switch to an online-only format is expected to revive Newsweek's fortunes. It was in serious trouble in 2010 when its revenue dropped nearly 40 per cent in two years. It was saddled with debt and its owner, The Washington Post Company, sold the company for just $1.00. The Daily Beast's editor Tina Brown now runs both publications. She said profit had to come before "the romance of print". She told reporters: "We must sustain the journalism that gives the magazine its purpose - and embrace the all-digital future. This decision is not about the quality of the brand or the journalism - that is as powerful as ever. It is about the challenging economics of print publishing and distribution."

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word ‘news’?
3. Where do you get your news from mainly?
4. What do you think of Newsweek's decision?
5. Is there any need for news magazines in today's digital age?
6. Are newspapers already out of date by the time they are published?
7. What advantages does print have over the Internet?
8. Is it better to subscribe to magazines or surf the Internet for free?
9. What is the best source for news in the world and why do you think so?
10. What do you think of the name "The Daily Beast" for a news site?
11. Did you like reading this article?
12. Is news reporting in your country of a high quality and very objective?
13. How important is looking at, reading about, or listening to news to you?
14. Why do so many newspapers and news channels report on bad news so often?
15. How could Newsweek have been sold for $1?
16. What do you think of English-language newspapers?
17. What do you think of "the romance of print"? Is there something appealing about a real newspaper as opposed to a computer screen
18. How important is journalism?
19. How important is freedom of the press?
20. What questions would you like to ask The Daily Beast editor Tina Brown?