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Read the rules and regulations carefully before the test:

1. Switch off your mobile phone and electronic devices.

2. Manage your time strictly to **20 minutes** per passage, reading questions first to guide your skimming and scanning for answers, always paying close attention to word limits and matching synonyms.

3. Read the instructions thoroughly before answering the questions.

4. Read the questions carefully to avoid silly mistakes.

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Academic Reading Practice Test 25

Population Viability Analysis

Part A

To make political decisions about the size and kind of forest in a region, it is essential to comprehend the implications of those decisions. Population viability analysis (PVA) is a tool for estimating the effect of forests on the ecosystem. It is a tool that predicts the possibility of extinction of a species in a certain area over a period of time. It has been used successfully in the United States to provide input on resource exploitation decisions and to help wildlife managers. There is now a huge possibility for using population viability to aid wildlife management in Australia's forests.

A species vanishes when the last person dies. This observation is a helpful starting point for any talk of destruction, as it highlights the part of **luck and chance** in the process of destruction. To make a prediction about destruction, we need to comprehend the methods that contribute to it, these are the four wide types discussed below.

Part B

Early attempts to assume population viability was based on population uncertainty — whether a person will survive from one year to the next is frequently a prospect. Some couples can produce multiple pups in the same year, while others will not produce anything in the same year. Small populations will fluctuate greatly due to the inconsistency of birth and death, and these likely fluctuations will, on average, cause species extinction even as the population size increases. Considering only this uncertainty of reproductive ability, extinction is not possible if the number of people in a population is over 50 and the population is expanding.

A small amount of breeding cannot be avoided by small populations. This is especially true if there are very few genders. For example, if there are only 20 persons in a race and only one man, then all future persons in that species must be descended from that one man. For most animal species, such individuals are probably not able to survive and reproduce. This increases the chance of breeding extinction.

Variation in a species is the raw material from which natural selection operates. Without genetic variation, a species cannot adapt to environmental changes, predators, or diseases. Loss of genetic variation from population decline may contribute to extinction.

A recent study shows that other aspects need to be considered. Australia's environment is highly volatile from year to year. These changes add another degree of uncertainty. Disasters such as fire, flood, drought, or epidemics can reduce the population to a small part of their average level. When these uncertainties are included, the population needed to survive for centuries may increase by thousands.

Part C

Besides these processes, we also need to consider population distribution. A species in five isolated areas faces less extinction risk than one large group of 100 individuals.

Where trees are cut down, forest-dwelling animals are forced to flee. Ground-dwelling plants can return within a decade, but arboreal marsupials (tree-dwelling animals) have not returned to pre-logging densities in over a century. Continued deforestation reduces animal populations. No matter the model, reducing population size reduces genetic variation and increases extinction risk. Thus, increasing land use in any region scientifically increases the chance of extinction for forest-dependent species.

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IELTS Reading Questions – *Population Viability Analysis*

Questions 1–5

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage?

Write

YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1. Population viability analysis (PVA) is a tool for assessing the impact of forests on the ecosystem.
2. There is now less possibility for using population viability to aid wildlife management in Australia's forests.
3. Early tries to assume population viability was based on population uncertainty
4. Destruction of the species in a particular area is a natural thing.
5. All pairs can produce multiple babies in the same year.

Questions 6–10

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS/NUMBERS** from the passage for each answer.

6. Extinction is not possible if the number of people in a population is over _____ and the _____ is expanding.
7. If there are only 20 persons in a race and only one man, then all future persons in that species must be _____ from that one man
8. Variation in a _____ is the raw material from which natural choice operates.
9. Loss of genetic variation associated with population reduction may contribute to the chance of _____.
10. Australia's environment is highly _____ from year to year.

Questions 11–13

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C, or D

11. Disasters such as fire, flood, drought, or epidemics can reduce the population to a

A. small part of their low level

B. small part of their high level

C. small part of their average level

D. huge part of their average level

12. Ground-dwelling plants can return within

A. a century

B. 10 years

C. 20 years

D. a decade

13. Reducing the size of the population reduces the genetic variation of the

A. species

B. population

C. plants

D. trees

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Answers for IELTS Academic Reading Practice Test 25

1. **Yes**	2. **No**	3. **Yes**	4. **Not Given**
5. **No**	6. **50, Population**	7. **Descended**	8. **Species**
9. **Extinction**	10. **Volatile**	11. **C. small part of the average level**	12. **D. a decade**
13. **B. population**			

How many questions did you get right?

Correct Answers (Out of 13)	Your Next Step
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