IELTS Reading Practice Multiple Choice

Text

In recent decades, governments and environmental groups have been concerned about the rapid decline of biodiversity across the globe. Species extinction has always been a natural process; however, human activity has accelerated it to an unprecedented rate. One of the key drivers of this crisis is deforestation. The clearing of rainforests in South America and Southeast Asia has destroyed the habitats of countless plants and animals. When forests are removed, not only do individual species disappear, but entire ecosystems collapse, affecting climate regulation and water cycles.

Another factor is pollution. Rivers, lakes, and oceans have absorbed enormous quantities of plastic, industrial waste, and chemicals. These substances poison marine life and eventually enter the human food chain. Recent studies estimate that an average person may ingest thousands of microplastic particles every year. Although the long-term health effects remain uncertain, scientists are deeply worried about potential consequences.

Climate change adds another layer of pressure. Rising global temperatures are shifting weather patterns, causing droughts in some regions and floods in others. Animals and plants are forced to migrate or adapt, and many cannot do so quickly enough. Coral reefs, for instance, are bleaching and dying as ocean temperatures rise, depriving millions of people of a vital source of food and coastal protection.

In response, new technologies have been developed to slow or reverse some of this damage. For example, satellite monitoring allows governments to track illegal logging in real time, while drones can plant thousands of trees in areas that are otherwise inaccessible. In the oceans, robotic devices are being tested to remove plastic waste before it breaks down into microplastics. Meanwhile, biotechnology offers the possibility of reviving endangered species through cloning or gene editing, though ethical concerns remain.

Despite these innovations, experts warn that technology alone cannot solve the biodiversity crisis. Political will, international cooperation, and changes in consumer behavior are equally essential. Some argue that unless humans reduce their demand for meat, palm oil, and disposable products, any technological progress will be quickly cancelled out by continued destruction. Others remain cautiously optimistic, pointing out that awareness of environmental issues has never been greater and that global agreements, such as the Paris Climate Accord, show that countries can unite for a common cause.

Questions (Choose the correct letter, A–D)

1. According to the passage, what is one major consequence of deforestation?

A. Expansion of agricultural land
B. The collapse of ecosystems

C. Creation of new water sources
D. Increase in biodiversity

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2. What concern do scientists have about microplastics?

A. They reduce fish populations immediately.
B. They may pose risks to human health.
C. They are easier to recycle than larger plastics.
D. They only affect developing countries.

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3. Which example of new technology is mentioned in the passage?

A. Robots planting rice in flooded fields
B. Satellites monitoring illegal logging
C. Wind turbines producing renewable energy
D. Artificial reefs built from concrete

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4. What warning do experts give about relying only on technology?

A. It may not be affordable for poorer countries.
B. It can cause ethical problems in biotechnology.
C. It cannot replace necessary political and social changes.
D. It increases the demand for disposable products.