11 th form (listening) Listening Script: Natural Disasters

“Natural disasters are powerful, often unexpected events that cause widespread destruction and impact human lives. They include phenomena such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. Each type of disaster has unique causes and effects, but they all share a common threat: the potential to devastate communities.

Earthquakes occur due to movements within the Earth’s crust, usually along fault lines. When tectonic plates shift suddenly, they release seismic energy, causing the ground to shake. In densely populated areas, earthquakes can destroy buildings, infrastructure, and lead to significant loss of life. Some regions, such as Japan and California, have implemented advanced building codes and early warning systems to minimize damage, but predicting the exact timing of an earthquake remains challenging.

Hurricanes, also known as cyclones or typhoons depending on their location, form over warm ocean waters and can last for several days. These storms bring heavy rainfall, strong winds, and storm surges that flood coastal regions. Scientists have noticed an increase in hurricane intensity, partly due to climate change, as rising ocean temperatures fuel these storms. While meteorologists can forecast hurricanes days in advance, evacuation and preparation are still essential for communities in high-risk areas.

Flooding is one of the most frequent and deadly natural disasters, often triggered by heavy rainfall, melting snow, or dam failures. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable, as concrete and asphalt prevent water from draining, increasing the likelihood of flash floods. Flood management strategies include building levees, creating retention basins, and restoring wetlands, which can naturally absorb excess water.

Wildfires, on the other hand, can start naturally through lightning strikes or be caused by human activity, such as discarded cigarettes or unattended campfires. In dry, windy conditions, wildfires can spread rapidly, endangering entire communities and ecosystems. Recent years have seen an increase in wildfires, especially in regions with prolonged droughts. Fire management teams now use technology like satellite monitoring and controlled burns to help prevent or control wildfires.

The aftermath of these disasters can leave long-lasting effects. Survivors may suffer from mental health issues due to trauma, and rebuilding efforts can take years. While scientists and governments work to improve disaster prediction and response, natural disasters remain a potent reminder of the forces beyond human control.”

Task 1: True/False (12 sentences)

 1. Earthquakes can be predicted with precise timing.

 2. Hurricanes are known as typhoons in certain regions.

 3. Rising ocean temperatures contribute to stronger hurricanes.

 4. Flooding is mainly caused by forest fires.

 5. Urban areas are more prone to flash floods due to their infrastructure.

 6. Wildfires can only start from human activity.

 7. Droughts have contributed to an increase in wildfires.

 8. California and Japan have advanced building codes to reduce earthquake damage.

 9. Storm surges during hurricanes can flood coastal regions.

 10. Flood management includes strategies like building skyscrapers.

 11. Fire management teams do not use satellite monitoring for wildfires.

 12. Rebuilding after natural disasters is often quick and easy.

Task 2: Multiple Choice (6 questions with options)

 1. What primarily causes earthquakes?

 • A. Volcanic eruptions

 • B. Movements within the Earth’s crust

 • C. Rising sea levels

 • D. Wind patterns

 2. How can communities reduce damage from hurricanes?

 • A. By building dams

 • B. Through early evacuation and preparation

 • C. By planting more trees

 • D. By avoiding coastal areas entirely

 3. What makes urban areas vulnerable to flash floods?

 • A. Their proximity to rivers

 • B. Concrete and asphalt preventing water drainage

 • C. High population density

 • D. Higher average temperatures

 4. Which natural disaster is often intensified by prolonged droughts?

 • A. Earthquakes

 • B. Hurricanes

 • C. Wildfires

 • D. Floods

 5. What tool is used in fire management to monitor wildfires?

 • A. Flood basins

 • B. Wind turbines

 • C. Satellite monitoring

 • D. Earthquake sensors

 6. What is a common effect on survivors after a natural disaster?

 • A. Improved physical health

 • B. Increased wealth

 • C. Mental health issues

 • D. Higher job satisfaction