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## Mock Exams for CSS-2026 English Essay

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### Disaster Management in Pakistan: Challenges and Way Forward

#### • Outline:

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Attention grabber

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Thesis Statement

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### • Essay

When nature attacks without warning, it tests not only a state's resilience but also the strength of its institutions and preparedness. From the devastating earthquake of 2005 to the floods of 2022, Pakistan has found itself at the mercy of

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natural disasters that shakes our economy, displace millions and exposes the governance weaknesses.

Disasters whether natural or man-made are unavoidable but their impact can be reduced by early planning and response - Despite having NDMA, Pakistan's disaster management remains largely reactive and not preventive.

Inadequate infrastructure, poor coordination, lack of awareness and limited resources are the hurdles in way to progress. While Pakistan has made progress in institutionalising disaster management, it faces structural and operational challenges that must be solved by comprehensive policy making, capacity building and technological advancement to secure a safer and sustainable future.

Disaster Management extends far beyond just emergency response - It is an ongoing cycle of prevention, preparedness and recovery. According to UNDRR, disaster management is not only about saving lives during crises, but also about reducing vulnerabilities before a disaster strikes. For example, Japan's strict enforcement of building codes and their early warning systems enable it to manage the

earthquakes that can be devastating if a country is not prepared. Similarly, Bangladesh which was one of the disaster prone nation, has reduced the deaths that were related to cyclone by early warnings and community-based disaster management programs. However, Pakistan still continues to lack in adopting such models. Its policy often activated after a disaster, rather than minimizing risks before its occurrence.

Geographically, Pakistan's location makes it one of the disaster-prone countries. As we've seen the 2005 earthquake that took around 80,000 lives and left millions of people homeless. And the unpredicted rains of 2010 caused floods that affected 20 million people. And recently in 2022, the floods were the worst climate induced disasters of the decade according to UN, that displaced 30 millions people and billions of dollars loss in Pakistan's economy. Other than floods and earthquakes, Pakistan also faces droughts in Balochistan, glacial outbursts during heatwave in urban areas. Pakistan is in top ten disaster-vulnerable countries in the world and it needs an

efficient and forward-looking disaster management system

Pakistan has taken admirable step in building a formal disaster management framework. The 2005 earthquake lead to the creation of National Disaster Management Ordinance, NDMO that was later replaced by National Disaster Management Act in 2010.

This act established a system where NDMA is at federal level, PDMA for provincial level and DDMA is for local level. These institutions were tasked with making disaster management policies and risk-reduction strategies. But despite the institutional structure, the effectiveness of these institutions remain questionable.

The challenge is the disconnection of different tiers of disaster management system. The NDMA, though functioning as the national coordinating body, lacks the operational synergy with provincial and district authorities. During 2022 floods, delayed coordination also delayed the timely response and thus the evacuation and relief efforts. According to the World Bank's report on Pakistan's disaster management, while institutional frameworks exist on paper,

execution remains weak due to limited autonomy and poor interagency collaboration. This structural problem forces us on more reactive measures rather than preventive.

Another major challenge is the shortage of financial & human resources. Pakistan allocates a big portion of its annual budget to disaster preparedness, focusing mainly on post-disaster relief operations. The NDMA depends on donor assistance from international agencies like UNDP and Asian Development Bank for emergency funds. This overreliance on ~~outside~~ external support limits national sustainability. Also, the local disaster management authorities lack trained people to manage emergencies. In many rural districts, disaster response teams exist only on paper. This institutional weakness undermines the country's ability to respond when a disaster strikes.

Poor infrastructure is also a major problem. The unplanned urbanization along the river banks, deforestation and poor enforcement on building code and made cities and villages more likely to get affected from

## natural disasters

Community awareness is also alarmingly low in Pakistan. According to a report, 70 percent of people in Pakistan are unaware of disaster response and protocols. This absence of grassroots-level knowledge causes panic and chaos during emergency.

The growing impact of climate change has made disaster management even more complex. Rising temperatures, monsoon and glacial melting are intensifying the disasters. The 2022 floods were a direct consequence of climate change. ~~However~~

The socio-economic consequences of inadequate disaster management are intense. Each disaster reverses years of a country's development progress, pushing people back into poverty. The 2010 floods wiped nearly one-fifth of Pakistan's agricultural output. Roads, schools, hospitals and bridges are often destroyed. ~~and~~ Beyond material losses, the trauma inflicted on displaced communities is immense. Thus, the failure of to manage disasters creates a

cycle of poverty, displacement and dependency.

Despite these challenges, there is a clear pathway toward improvement. The first requirement is to shift from a reactive to a preventive management. NDMA must be empowered with greater autonomy, professional experts and financial resources. A disaster management fund should be established to ensure immediate resources for emergency preparedness and response.

Early warning systems are another critical area of reforms. Pakistan can use modern technology, satellite monitoring, AI and data mapping to predict hazards accurately. In 2011, the successful use of technology and mobile alerts saved lives during earthquake in Japan. In Pakistan, partnerships with telecom companies can ensure timely alerts.

In conclusion, disaster management in Pakistan stands at a critical point. While progress has been made in institutional setup, implementation remains weak. Pakistan must

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strengthen its institutions, modernize its technology, engage communities and enforce laws. Only by such efforts, Pakistan can protect its people and economy.