

# IELTS LISTENING- 1783 Laki Eruption: Global Impact S72T3



IELTS listening 1783 Laki Eruption: Global Impact listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Natural Disasters & Environmental History subject..

ADAM: So, Michelle, shall we make a start on our presentation? We haven't got that much time left.

MICHELLE: No, Adam. But at least we've done all the background reading. I found it really interesting – I'd never even heard of the Laki eruption before this.

Shop for bestsellers

ADAM: Me neither. I suppose 1783 is a long time ago.



[Attempt Free Listening Test..](#)

MICHELLE: But it was a huge eruption and it had such devastating consequences.

ADAM: I know. It was great there were so many primary sources to look at. It really gives you a sense of how catastrophic the volcano was. People were really trying to make sense of the science for the first time.

MICHELLE: That's right. But what I found more significant was how it impacted directly and indirectly on political events, as well as having massive social and economic consequences. **Q21**

ADAM: I know. That should be the main focus of our presentation.

MICHELLE: The observations made by people at the time were interesting, weren't they? I mean, they all gave a pretty consistent account of what happened, even if they didn't always use the same terminology.

ADAM: Yeah. I was surprised there were so many weather stations established by that time – so, you know, you can see how the weather changed, often by the hour. **Q22**

## PART 3 Questions 21-30

### Questions 21-24

Choose the correct letter, **A, B or C**.

**21** Why do the students think the Laki eruption of 1783 is so important?

**A**  It was the most severe eruption in modern times.

**B**  It led to the formal study of volcanoes.

**C**  It had a profound effect on society.

**22** What surprised Adam about observations made at the time?

**A**  the number of places producing them

**B**  the contradictions in them

**C**  the lack of scientific data to support them

**23** According to Michelle, what did the contemporary sources say about the Laki haze?

**A**  People thought it was similar to ordinary fog

**B**  It was associated with health issues.

**C**  It completely blocked out the sun for

**24** Adam corrects Michelle when she claims that Benjamin Franklin

**A**  came to the wrong conclusion about the cause of the haze.

**B**  was the first to identify the reason for the haze.

**C**  supported the opinions of other observers about the haze.

MICHELLE: Right. Writers at the time talked about the Laki haze to describe the volcanic fog that spread across Europe. They all realised that this wasn't the sort of fog they were used to – and of course this was in pre-industrial times- so they hadn't experienced sulphur-smelling fog before.

ADAM: No, that's true.

MICHELLE: Reports from the period blamed the haze for an increase in headaches, respiratory issues and asthma attacks. And they all describe how it covered the sun and made it look a strange red colour. **Q23**

ADAM: Must have been very weird.

MICHELLE: It's interesting that Benjamin Franklin wrote about the haze. Did you read that? He was the American ambassador in Paris at the time.

ADAM: Yeah. At first no one realised that the haze was caused by the volcanic eruption in Iceland.

MICHELLE: It was Benjamin Franklin who realised that before anyone else. **Q24**

ADAM: He's often credited with that, apparently. But a French naturalist beat him to it – I can't remember his name. I'd have to look it up. Then other naturalists had the same idea – all independently of each other.

MICHELLE: Oh right. We should talk about the immediate impact of the eruption, which was obviously enormous- especially in Iceland, where so many people died.

ADAM: Mmm. You'd expect that- and the fact that the volcanic ash drifted so swiftly – but not that the effects would go on for so long. Or that two years after the eruption, strange weather events were being reported as far away as North America and North Africa. **Q25/26**

MICHELLE: No. I found all that hard to believe too. It must have been terrible- and there was nothing anyone could do about it, even if they knew the ash cloud was coming in their direction.

MICHELLE: We should run through some of the terrible consequences of the eruption experienced in different countries. There's quite a varied range.

ADAM: Starting with Iceland, where the impact on farming was devastating.

MICHELLE: Mmm. One of the most dramatic things there was the effect on livestock as they grazed in the fields. They were poisoned because they ate vegetation that had been contaminated with fluorine as a result of the volcanic fallout. **Q27**

ADAM: That was horrible. In Egypt, the bizarre weather patterns led to a severe drought and as a result the Nile didn't flood, which meant the crops all failed.

MICHELLE: It's so far from where the eruption happened and yet the famine there led to more people dying than any other country. It was worse than the plague. **Q28**

### Questions 25 and 26

Choose **TWO** letters, **A-E**.

Which **TWO** issues following the Laki eruption surprised the students?

**A** how widespread the effects were

**B** how long-lasting the effects were

**C** the number of deaths it caused

**D** the speed at which the volcanic ash cloud spread

**E** how people ignored the warning signs

### Questions 27-30

What comment do the students make about the impact of the Laki eruption on the following countries?

Choose **FOUR** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-F**, next to **Questions 27-30**.

#### Comments

**A** This country suffered the most severe loss of life.

**B** The impact on agriculture was predictable.

**C** There was a significant increase in deaths young people.

**D** Animals suffered from a sickness.

**E** This country saw the highest rise in food prices in the world.

**F** It caused a particularly harsh winter.

#### Countries

**27** Iceland

**28** Egypt

**29** UK

**30** USA

ADAM: OK. Then in the UK the mortality rate went up a lot- presumably from respiratory illnesses. According to one report it was about double the usual number and included an unusually high percentage of people under the age of 25. **Q29**

MICHELLE: Mmm. I think people will be surprised to hear that the weather in the USA was badly affected too. George Washington even makes a note in his diary that they were snowbound until March in Virginia. That was before he became president.

ADAM: Yes, and there was ice floating down the Mississippi, which was unprecedented. **Q30**

MICHELLE: Astonishing, really. Anyway, what do you think ...

[Attempt Free Listening Test..](#)

Learn From Experienced Teacher Best IELTS.

Small Batch Size, Flexible Time.



8439000086

8439000087

7055710004

IELTS Simulation 323 GMS Road, Near Ballupur Chowk, Dehradun, India

[Chat on WhatsApp](#)

email: info at ieltsband7.com



IELTS LISTENING – Balloons and Airships S40T4  
July 11, 2025  
In 'IELTS Listening Practice – Free PDF & Online Tests'



IELTS LISTENING – Nanotechnology: technology on a Small Scale S17T4  
July 2, 2025  
In 'IELTS Listening Easy Demo for All'



IELTS LISTENING-The Impact of Oceans on the World's Climate S69T4  
October 31, 2025  
In 'IELTS Listening Easy Demo for All'

IELTS SIMULATOR

Type to start searching...

Search

IELTS SIMULATOR 323 GMS Road, Near Ballupur Chowk, Dehradun, India.

8439000086

8439000087

7055710003

7055710004

You Tube

instagram

email: info at ieltsband7.com

