

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

B. Stat. First Year
Semester I: 2025–2026
Remedial English

Date: 12. 09. 2025

Time: 2 hours

Full Marks: 50

(1) Attempt any one of the following, limiting yourself to around 200 words.
(14 × 1)

(a) “We live in an age of distraction.” — Write an essay exploring how constant notifications and multitasking affect our focus and creativity.

(b) “Dreams are the seeds of reality.” — Write a speech for a student gathering on the importance of imagination in shaping future achievements.

(c) “Is technology making us more connected or more isolated?” — Write an essay debating the paradox of modern communication.

(d) “Books are mirrors; you only see in them what you already have inside.” — Write an essay reflecting on how personal experience influences one’s interpretation of literature.

(2) Choose the most appropriate word or phrase to complete each sentence. (8 × 2 = 16)

1. Hardly _____ the bell rung when the students rushed out of the hall.

(a) had (b) has (c) have (d) having

2. No sooner had the meeting begun _____ the fire alarm went off.

(a) then (b) when (c) than (d) as

3. Rarely _____ such a complex theory explained with such clarity.
(a) one hears (b) does one hear (c) hears one (d) did one hear
4. Had I known about the traffic, I _____ earlier.
(a) would leave (b) would have left (c) had left (d) will leave
5. The manager demanded that every employee _____ on time.
(a) is (b) were (c) be (d) was
6. She spoke as though she _____ everything about the case.
(a) knows (b) know (c) knew (d) knowing
7. Little _____ he realise that the decision would change his life.
(a) does (b) did (c) had (d) has
8. The report must be completed by Friday, _____ you may face penalties.
(a) in case (b) otherwise (c) unless (d) or

(3) Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word in brackets. (5 × 2 = 10)

1. His sudden outburst was completely out of _____ with his usual calm nature. (character)
2. The new policy has stirred much _____ among the public. (controversial)
3. Her essay was praised for its originality and _____ of thought. (profound)
4. The atmosphere in the courtroom grew increasingly _____ as the verdict approached. (tense)
5. We admired her for the quiet _____ with which she endured repeated setbacks. (resilient)

(4) Attempt any one of the following, limiting yourself to around 150 words.
(10 × 1)

(a) Write a formal letter to the Examination Controller of your university, requesting a re-evaluation of your answer script, while maintaining a respectful yet firm tone.

(b) Write a letter to a younger cousin who has just moved abroad for studies, advising them on balancing independence with responsibility, but in a warm, non-patronising way.

(c) Write a letter to a close friend confessing a mistake you made that affected your relationship, seeking reconciliation without sounding defensive.