

Assignment MST-016

for

**M.Sc. (Applied Statistics)
(MSCAST)**

Valid from January 2026 to December 2026

SCHOOL OF SCIENCES

Indira Gandhi National Open University
New Delhi - 110068

Dear Learner,

Welcome to the M.Sc. (Applied Statistics) Programme.

As per the university guidelines, you need to complete the assignment for each theory course. Note that there are no assignments for lab courses in the MSCAST programme, namely, MSTL-011, MSTL-012, MSTL-013, MSTL-014, and MSTL-015. You should remember that writing answers to an assignment's questions will improve your writing skills and prepare you for the term-end examination.

It is compulsory to submit the assignments within the stipulated time to be eligible to appear in the term-end examination. You will not be allowed to appear for the term-end examination for a course if you do not submit the assignment for that course by the due date. As per the University guidelines, if you appear in the term-end examination of a course without submitting its assignment, the result of the term-end examination is liable to be cancelled/ withheld.

The assignments constitute the continuous component of the evaluation process and have 30% weightage in the final grading.

Before you write the assignments, you are advised to first go through the self-learning material for that course and then prepare the assignments carefully by following the instructions pertaining to the assignments. Your responses should not be a verbatim reproduction of the textual materials provided for self-learning purposes, but it should be in your own words.

If you have any doubts or problems pertaining to the course material and assignments, contact the programme in charge or the academic counsellor at your study centre. If you still have problems related to this assignment, feel free to contact the course coordinator.

Wishing you all the best in successfully completing the programme.

(Dr. Prabhat Kumar Sangal)
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Mob. No. : 9013873713

Instructions:

- Submit the assignments within the stipulated time. Otherwise, you will not be permitted to appear for the term-end examination.
- Solve the latest assignments uploaded for the current year/session.
- Read the instructions related to the assignments mentioned in the Programme Guide.
- Use only A-4 size paper to write your responses. It is mandatory to write all assignments neatly in your own handwriting. Typed or printed copies of the assignments will not be accepted. Note that you may use the printout only if a question specifically asks for the output of a program in MST-015 and MST-024.
- All questions given in the assignments are compulsory for each course.
- Express your response in your own words. You are advised to restrict your response based on the marks assigned to it. This will also help you to distribute your time in writing or completing your assignments on time.
- Securely fasten multiple pages together (you can staple or tie them) and number them carefully for each assignment separately.
- Do not forget to enclose the assignment question sheet of that course after the cover page of the assignment response (answer sheets). It is not compulsory to write each question separately before answering the question. Mention the question number for each answer.
- The solved assignment must be submitted at the Study Centre allotted to you before the due date set by the University. Please check the IGNOU website for updated information regarding the due date of assignment submission.
- You are advised to mention all information on the first page of the assignment response sheet, given on the next page.
- **Keep a copy of the assignment answer sheets with you before submission for future reference.**

ASSIGNMENT CODE: MST-016/TMA/2026

NAME: _____

ENROLLMENT NO: _____

ADMISSION CYCLE: _____

PROGRAMME CODE: MSCAST

COURSE CODE: MST-016

COURSE TITLE: STATISTICAL INFERENCE

REGIONAL CENTRE CODE: _____

STUDY CENTRE CODE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ID: _____

DATE OF SUBMISSION: _____



School of Sciences

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068 (INDIA)

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

MST-016: Statistical Inference

Course Code: MST-016

Assignment Code: MST-016/TMA/2026

Maximum Marks: 100

Note: All questions are compulsory. Answer in your own words.

1. State whether the following statements are **True** or **False**. Give reasons in support of your answer: **(5×2=10)**
 - (i) The mean square error is calculated when the estimator is unbiased.
 - (ii) If the sample size tends to infinity, the variance of a consistent estimator must tend to zero.
 - (iii) In the method of moments, population moments are equated to corresponding sample moments.
 - (iv) A 95% confidence interval is smaller than a 99% confidence interval.
 - (v) The chi-square distribution is symmetric for all degrees of freedom.
2. A school caretaker looks after 5 children. The ages (in years) of the children are given below: **(20)**

Child	Age (in years)
Meena	5
Aarav	4
Nisha	6
Kabir	4
Pooja	5

- (i) What is the nature (type) of the population of the ages of children?
 - (ii) Construct the sampling distribution of the sample mean for all possible samples of size $n = 2$.
 - (iii) Comment on whether the sampling distribution is approximately normal.
 - (iv) Find the mean and standard error of the sampling distribution.
3. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random sample from a population with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Consider the estimator **(20)**
$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i + 2$$
 - (i) Find the bias of the estimator $\hat{\mu}$.
 - (ii) Find the variance of $\hat{\mu}$.
 - (iii) Hence, calculate the Mean Square Error (MSE) of $\hat{\mu}$.
 4. A survey was conducted to study the preference for online learning among students from urban and rural areas. Out of 300 urban students, 210 preferred online learning, while out of 250 rural students, 150 preferred online learning. Construct a 95% confidence interval for the difference between the population proportions of students preferring online learning in urban and rural areas. **(10)**

5. A researcher wants to compare the average test scores of students taught using Method A and Method B. A random sample of students was selected from each group, and their scores are given below:

Student	Method A	Method B
1	68	72
2	74	75
3	71	78
4	69	70
5	73	76
6	70	74
7	72	77
8	75	79

Assuming that the populations are normally distributed with equal variances. For testing whether there is a significant difference between the mean scores of the two teaching methods at the 5% level of significance **(20)**

- (i) State the null and alternative hypotheses.
- (ii) Name the appropriate t-test and justify your choice.
- (iii) Compute the test statistic and critical value.
- (iv) State your conclusion.

6. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random sample from the **Exponential distribution** with pdf **(20)**

$$f(x; \theta) = \theta e^{-\theta x}, x > 0, \theta > 0$$

- (i) Obtain the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) of θ .
- (ii) Hence, find the maximum likelihood estimate of θ for the observed sample:

2.1, 1.6, 3.4, 0.9, 2.5

7. Describe the following: **(20)**

- (i) t-distribution
- (ii) General procedure of Testing of hypothesis