

**PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICAN INSOLVENCY LAW AND PRACTICE 2022**

**Practice Assessment: Paper 1 Date: 6 – 7 October 2022**

**Time limit: 24 hours (from 13:00 on 6 October to 13:00 on 7 October 2022)**

**EXAMINERS**

**Ms R Bekker Prof A Boraine Prof J C Calitz Prof H Coetzee Ms N Harduth**

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**It is imperative that all candidates read and take cognisance of the examination instructions on the next page.**

**All candidates are expected to comply with ALL the instructions.**

**INTRUCTIONS**

1. This assessment paper will be made available at **13:00 (1 pm) SAST on Thursday 6 October 2022** and must be returned / submitted by **13:00 (1 pm) SAST on Friday 7 October 2022**. Please note that assessments returned late will not be accepted.

2. All assessments must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format, using a standard A4 size page and an 11-point Avenir Next font (if the Avenir Next font is not available on your PC, please select the Arial font). This document has been set up with these parameters – **please do not change the document settings in any way**. **DO NOT** submit your assessment in PDF format as it will be returned to you unmarked.

3. No limit has been set for the length of your answers to the questions. Please be guided by the mark allocation for each question. More often than not, one fact / statement will earn one mark (unless it is obvious from the question that this is not the case). Candidates who include very long answers in the hope it will cover the answer the examiners are looking for, will be appropriately penalised.

4. You must save this document using the following format: **studentID.Paper1Formative**. An example would be something along the following lines: 202122-336.Paper1Formative. **Please also include the filename as a footer to each page of the assessment** (this has been pre-populated for you, merely replace the words “studentID” with the student number allocated to you). Do not include your name or any other identifying words in your file name. **Assessments that do not comply with this instruction will be returned to candidates unmarked**.

5. The assessment can be downloaded from your student portal on the INSOL International website. The assessment must likewise be returned via your student portal as per the instructions in the Course Handbook for this course. If for any reason candidates are unable to access their student portal, the answer script must be returned by e-mail to david.burdette@insol.org.

6. Due to the high incidence of load shedding currently taking place across South Africa, candidates are required to determine whether any load shedding is scheduled during the examination period and, if so, to make alternative arrangements to write elsewhere if at all possible.

7. Enquiries during the time that the assessment is written must be directed to David Burdette at david.burdette@insol.org or by WhatsApp on +44 7545 773890. Please note that enquiries will only be responded to during office hours.

8. While the assessments are open-book assessments, it is important to note that candidates **may not receive any assistance from any person** during the 24 hours that the assessment is written. **Answers must be written in the candidate’s own words; answers that are copied and pasted from the text of the course notes (or any other source) will be treated as plagiarism and persons who make themselves guilty of this will forfeit the assessment and disciplinary charges will follow**. When submitting their answers, candidates will be asked to confirm that the work is their own, that they have worked independently and that all external sources used have been properly cited.

9. Once a candidate’s assessment has been uploaded to their student portal (in line with the instructions in the Course Handbook), a confirmatory e-mail will be auto-generated confirming that the assessment has been uploaded. If the confirmatory e-mail is not received within five minutes after uploading the assessment, candidates are requested to first check their junk / spam folders before e-mailing the Course Leader to inform him that the auto-generated e-mail was not received.

10. If a candidate is unable to complete this practice assessment, please note that the practice assessments (mock examinations) are not compulsory and no further opportunity will be provided to complete it. The marking guide for the two practice assessments (Paper 1 and Paper 2) will be uploaded to the course pages after Paper 2 has been written and submitted.

11. You are required to answer this paper by typing the answers directly into the spaces provided (indicated by text that states [Type your answer here]). For multiple-choice questions, please highlight your answer in yellow, as per the instructions included under the first question.

12. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to sections are references to sections of the Insolvency Act 1936.

13. Prior to being populated with your answers, this assessment consists of **15 pages**.

**ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 1**

Questions 1.1 – 1.20 are multiple-choice questions designed to assess your ability to think critically about the subject. Please read each question carefully before reading the answer options. Be aware that some questions may seem to have more than one right answer, but you are to look for the one that makes the most sense and is the most correct. When you have a clear idea of the question, find your answer and mark your selection on the answer sheet by highlighting the relevant paragraph **in yellow**. Select only **ONE** answer. Candidates who select more than one answer will receive no mark for that specific question.

**Question 1.1**

In terms of the Insolvency Act, “property” of an insolvent estate includes:

1. Immovable property situated in the Republic of South Africa.
2. Movable property situated in the Republic of South Africa.
3. Immovable property situated outside the Republic of South Africa.
4. Movable property situated outside the Republic of South Africa.
5. The contingent right of a fideicommissary heir or legatee.

**Select the correct answer**:

1. (1) and (2) are correct.
2. (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) are correct.
3. (1), (3) and (4) are correct.
4. (1), (2), (3) and (4) are correct.

**Question 1.2**

**Select the correct answer**:

The effect of the sequestration of the estate of a natural person debtor is that:

1. the debtor remains owner of his or her property and only the control of his or her estate passes to the Master and then to the trustee.
2. the debtor is divested of his or her estate, which estate vests in the Master until a trustee has been appointed, whereupon the estate will vest in the trustee.
3. the debtor is divested of his estate which estate will vest in the Master until the final liquidation and distribution account has been approved.
4. The debtor is divested of his estate which estate will vest in the division of the High Court that granted the sequestration order.

**Question 1.3**

**Select the correct answer**:

Section 12 of the Trust Property Control Act 1988 provides that trust property –

1. forms part of the trustee’s insolvent estate.
2. does not form part of the trustee’s personal estate.
3. does not form part of the trustee’s personal estate, save as far as the trustee is also a trust beneficiary.
4. vests in the Master and, after their appointment, in the trustee of the insolvent estate.

**Question 1.4**

The following assets **will** form part of the insolvent estate of a natural person debtor:

1. The family home.
2. Clothing and bedding of the insolvent.
3. Household furniture.
4. Antique furniture.
5. Property of third parties.
6. Tools and other means of subsistence as the creditors or the Master determine.

**Select the correct answer**:

1. (1), (2), (3), (4) and (6) are correct.
2. (2), (3), (5) and (6) are correct.
3. (1), and (4) are correct.
4. (1), (4) and (5) are correct.

**Question 1.5**

Indicate which of the following estates **cannot** be sequestrated:

1. The insolvent estate of a deceased person.
2. The estate of an individual incapable of handling their own affairs;
3. A partnership.
4. A company.

**Question 1.6**

Which of the following courts **has jurisdiction** to issue a sequestration order?

1. A Magistrate’s Court.
2. A Small Claims Court.
3. A High Court.
4. A Criminal Court.

**Question 1.7**

Indicate the **incorrect** statement:

1. A provisional sequestration order may not be appealed.
2. A provisional sequestration order may not be rescinded.
3. An order refusing acceptance of a voluntary surrender of an estate may not be appealed.
4. There is no provision for the suspension of a provisional sequestration order by the court.

**Question 1.8**

Indicate the **correct** statement:

1. The grounds for setting aside a sequestration order or a winding-up order are found in the common law.
2. A sequestration order may be set aside based on the common law, but a final winding-up order may be set aside only on statutory grounds contained in the Companies Act 2008.
3. A sequestration order may be set aside on the grounds contained in the Insolvency Act but the grounds for setting aside a final liquidation order are found in the common law.
4. The grounds for setting aside a sequestration order or a winding-up order are contained in the Insolvency Act and the Companies Act 1973, respectively.

**Question 1.9**

Select the **correct** answer:

Claims submitted for proof against an insolvent estate must-

1. Be liquid.
2. Be proved before the estate can be finally distributed.
3. Be secured claims
4. Only be proved at the first meeting of creditors.
5. Both (a) and (b) are correct.
6. Both (c) and (d) are correct.

**Question 1.10**

Indicate whether the following statement is **true or false**:

Section 44(7) of the Insolvency Act provides for the examination of a claim before it is proved.

1. True
2. False

**Question 1.11**

Indicate whether the following statement is **true or false**:

Only the Master of the High Court may preside at a section 417 (of the Companies Act 1973) enquiry.

1. True
2. False

**Question 1.12**

A common requirement for all the prescribed statutory voidable dispositions is that a disposition of his or her property by a debtor will become voidable where one creditor is preferred above others.

Select the **correct** answer:

* + 1. The statement is correct, since sections 26 to 31 of the insolvency Act prescribe this requirement in all instances.
		2. The statement is correct since the requirement is limited to only one preferred creditor.
		3. The statement is not correct since the preference of one creditor above others is not prescribed in the case of dispositions for value, as dealt with in section 26 of the Insolvency Act.
		4. The statement is correct since this requirement is also prescribed for the common law *actio Pauliana* and was taken up as such in the Insolvency Act.

**Question 1.13**

Where the court orders the setting aside of a statutory voidable disposition, such as a disposition without value or a voidable preference, the court will order restitution of the disposed property and, where it is no longer available in the hands of the recipient, the court may order the recipient to return the value of such property as it was on the date of the disposition by the debtor.

Select the **correct** statement:

* + 1. The statement is correct since section 32 of the Insolvency Act provides for the return of the value of the property at the date of the dispositions, as mentioned in the statement above.
		2. The statement is not correct since the court may only order the return of the disposed property.
		3. The statement is not correct since section 32 of the Insolvency Act provides for the return of the value of the property at the date of the court order setting aside the disposition.
		4. The statement is not correct since section 32 of the insolvency Act requires that the court must declare that the trustee is entitled to recover the property itself, or the value thereof at the date of disposition, or at the date on which the disposition was set aside, whichever is the greater.

**Question 1.14**

Where the trustee or liquidator of an insolvent estate decides not to continue with an unexecuted / uncompleted contract entered into by the insolvent party prior to commencement of sequestration of liquidation, the solvent party may, in terms of the general rule applicable to this situation, claim specific performance against the insolvent estate.

Select the **correct** statement:

* 1. The statement is not correct since in terms of the general rule specific performance cannot be claimed in such an instance, even though the trustee or liquidator’s repudiation of the contract amounts to breach of contract.
	2. The statement is correct since specific performance is always available to the solvent party in a case of breach of contract by the trustee or liquidator.
	3. The statement is correct since case law has confirmed that the solvent party may claim specific performance in these circumstances.
	4. The statement is correct since the election of the trustee or liquidator in fact amounts to cancellation of the contract.

**Question 1.15**

X purchases a car from W on 10 May 2022 in terms of an ordinary credit sale agreement. Although the last instalment is only due to be paid on 10 November 2022, by agreement ownership in the car had already passed on delivery. The estate of X is sequestrated on 7 July 2022.

Select the **correct** answer:

* 1. W may reclaim the car if he has not been paid in full.
	2. W has lost ownership of the car since it is a credit sale in terms of the common law.

* 1. W enjoys a tacit hypothec that secures the balance of this claim.
	2. W enjoys a preferential claim against the estate of X regarding any damages that he may have suffered.

**Question 1.16**

Alpha Limited has recently been placed under business rescue in terms of an order of court as contemplated in section 131 of the Companies Act 2008. Mr Thobejane is an employee of Alpha Limited (in business rescue). He is concerned that his employment with Alpha Limited is about to come to an end by virtue of the commencement of business rescue proceedings. He approaches you for advice.

Which of the following statements **correctly** describes the position of employees during business rescue proceedings?

1. During a company's business rescue proceedings, employees of the company immediately before the beginning of those proceedings continue to be so employed on the same terms and conditions, except to the extent that changes occur in the ordinary course of attrition, or the employees and the company agree on different terms and conditions of employment, in accordance with applicable labour laws
2. During a company's business rescue proceedings, the business rescue practitioner can unilaterally vary the employment terms and conditions of the employees of the company immediately before the beginning of those proceedings, subject to the approval of the company's creditors at the first meeting of creditors
3. During a company's business rescue proceedings, all employment contracts that existed immediately before the beginning of those proceedings are automatically suspended
4. All of the above

**Question 1.17**

Which of the following statements is / are **correct** in relation to compromises between a company and its creditors in terms of section 155 of the Companies Act 2008?

1. A proposal for a compromise in terms of section 155 is adopted by the creditors of the company, or a class of creditors, if it is supported by a majority in number representing at least 75% in value of the creditors or class present and voting in person or by proxy.
2. Section 155 does not apply where a company is under business rescue proceedings.
3. A liquidator, where a company is being wound up, may propose an arrangement or a compromise of the company's financial obligations.
4. All of the above statements are correct.

**Question 1.18**

Select the **correct** answer:

What are the aims or goals of the business rescue process as set out in Chapter 6 of the Companies Act 2008?

1. The development and implementation of a business rescue plan to rescue the financially distressed company, which plan has the aim of allowing the company to continue in existence on a solvent basis.
2. To provide a better return for the financially distressed company's creditors or shareholders than would result from the immediate liquidation of the company.
3. Both statements (a) and (b) are correct.
4. None of the above statements are correct.

**Question 1.19**

**Select the correct answer**:

1. Only the provisions of the Companies Act 2008 apply to the liquidation of solvent companies.
2. Only the provisions of the Companies Act 2008 and the Companies Act 1973 apply to the liquidation of solvent companies.
3. Some provisions of the Insolvency Act also apply to the liquidation of solvent companies.

**Question 1.20**

**Select the correct answer:**

1. A voluntary winding-up by the company is possible only if the company has no unpaid debts.
2. In a solvent voluntary winding-up by the company, the shareholders have the right to appoint the liquidator.
3. From the moment of commencement of a solvent voluntary winding-up by the company, the company stops being a juristic person.
4. A company can be put into insolvent liquidation even if its assets exceed its liabilities.

**QUESTION 2**

What is the legal position after sequestration regarding debts that were due to an insolvent debtor before their sequestration? **(3)**

[After sequestration, debts that were due to the insolvent debtor need to be paid to the trustee of the insolvent estate. Section 22 of the Insolvency Act provides that if payment is made directly to the insolvent, the obligation is not terminated unless the debtor can prove that he or she was *bona fide* and had no knowledge of the sequestration.]

**QUESTION 3**

Explain the difference between the “advantage for creditors” requirement in voluntary surrender and compulsory sequestration. **(2)**

[In compulsory sequestration, only a reasonable prospect that sequestration will be to the advantage of creditors is required. However, for voluntary surrender proof of such advantage is required.]

**QUESTION 4**

Write a short note on the different manners in which a witness to an insolvency enquiry may be subpoenaed. **(5)**

[A witness may be subpoenaed to an insolvency enquiry in the following ways:

The Master may summon the insolvent, the trustee or any other who may be able to give any information concerning the insolvent to appear before the Master, a magistrate or an officer as applicable.[[1]](#footnote-1)

An officer who presides at a meeting of creditors may also summon ant person who is believed on reasonable grounds to be or have been in possession of any property which belongs to the insolvent estate before sequestration or to the spouse of such insolvent person or who may give any material information concerning the insolvent. The officer may also summons any person who is believed to have in his/her possession any book or document relating to the insolvent estate[[2]](#footnote-2)]

**QUESTION 5**

List the three steps that must be taken to determine whether a specific provision of the Insolvency Act applies to the liquidation of a company. **(3)**

[1. Determine whether the provision is capable of application in a winding-up;

2. Determine whether the matter is specifically provided for by the Companies Act] 1973;

3. Determine whether does the provision apply to the mode of liquidation that is being dealt with.

**QUESTION 6**

What is the effect of the sequestration of a partnership estate on the individual partners in their personal capacities? **(2)**

[Sequestration affects partnerships negatively because the sequestration of the individual estates of the partners leads to the withdrawal of such partner's contribution which dissolves the partnership relationship.]

**QUESTION 7**

Briefly explain the effects of the publication of a notice of surrender (in the voluntary surrender of a debtor’s estate). **(3)**

[The effects of the publication of a notice to surrender are:

1. all sales which are in execution will be stayed meaning that the sheriff will not be able to pay any proceeds from sales to judgment creditors.;
2. The Master may appoint a *curator bonis* to temporarily control such estate. This means that the Master has discretion to decide whether or not a *curator bonis* should be appointed.
3. Publication of the such notice constitutes of an act of insolvency if the debtor does not proceed with the application, fails to lodge a statement of affairs as required or lodges an incomplete or defective statement of affairs.]

**QUESTION 8**

Mrs A was an employee of the Vaal University. On 1 September 2022 her estate was sequestrated. A month later she took early retirement and became entitled to an amount of R2 million as pension in return for the services she provided to the University. **Advise** Mrs A, who approaches you for legal advice. She wants to know whether the pension she became entitled to will fall into her insolvent estate. **(2)**

[My advice to Mrs A is that her pension money will not form part of the insolvent estate. According to section 2397) of the Insolvency Act, the insolvent may for his/her own benefit recover any pension to which he/she may be entitled for services rendered.]

**QUESTION 9**

Section 63 of the Long-Term Insurance Act 1998 affords protection of policy benefits under life insurance policies where the protected person’s estate is sequestrated. **Write an essay** in which you analyse the relevant provision. Also refer to relevant case law. **(10)**

[Section 63 of the Long terms Insurance Act 1998 provides for the protection of life insurance policy. This provision has been in existence for 3 years and the policy does not serve as security for a debt of debotrs. Upon his or death if survived by family members, the money will be payable to them. Pieterse v Shrosbee.

The policy must have been acquired for a period of 5 years. Any person claiming protection must prove on balance of probabilities , that he is protected under this section.

**QUESTION 10**

With reference to the relevant provisions of the Insolvency Act, **write an essay** in which you discuss the effect of sequestration on the execution of judgments and other civil proceedings. **(6)**

[According to section 20(1) of the Insolvency Act, the effect of sequestration on judgments is that judgments are stayed as soon as the sheriff becomes aware of the sequestration unless the courts orders otherwise. The court may order that the execution be continued if necessary and expedient to the creditor. Proceeds needs to be paid to the master or trustee.]

**QUESTION 11**

**Write an essay** on the remuneration of business rescue practitioners, making specific reference to the issue of remuneration agreements (sometimes referred to as “success fee” or “contingency fee” agreements) concluded between business rescue practitioners and third parties, and provide insight, with reference to case law, as to whether such agreements are prohibited or contrary to public policy. **(10)**

[Section 143 of the Companies Act deals with the remuneration of the business rescue practitioner.

The practitioner is entitled to charge according to the tariff prescribed in 143(6). The practitioner can also propose an agreement with the company providing for further remuneration. wo be calculated on contingency basis. Such agreement needs to be approved at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such proposed agreement. Without approval, the fee is invalid.

In Montic Diary v Mazars, the court held that once a business rescue practitioner application to discontinue the proceedings and placing the company in liquidation, any payment thereafter will de considered as void disposition in terms of 341(2). If the practitioners' fees are fully paid, the will rank in priority before the secured and unsecured creditors.]

**QUESTION 12**

**Write a brief note** on what happens to the solvent partners’ estates and the partnership estate where the estate of a partner is sequestrated? **(4)**

[Where one of the partners is insolvent, the insolvency of one of the partners to a partnership dissolves the partnership however, the partnership itself does not become sequestrated. The effect of sequestration of one partner's estate is that the partnership will terminate and will thereafter be wound-up]

**QUESTION 13**

In 2010, Mr X and Mr Y entered into a civil partnership in terms of the Civil Union Act 2006. On 1 March 2011, Mr X donated certain immovable property to Mr Y. Soon thereafter, the property was registered in Mr Y’s name in the Deeds Office. On 1 February 2022, Mr X’s estate was finally sequestrated. Two months before his sequestration, Mr X donated his Land Rover Defender to Mr Y. Mr Y approaches you for advice.

Answer the questions below.

**Question 13.1**

What is the legal position in regard to the immovable property and the Land Rover Defender? Will the assets fall into X’s insolvent estate? Refer to the relevant provisions of the Insolvency Act and other relevant legislation in your answer. **(10)**

[According to section 21 of Insolvency Act, the effect of sequestration of estate of one of tow spouses is that it will vest in the Master and on the Trustee once appointed. All the property of Mr Y will will fall into the sequestrated estate. A trustee must prepare an inventory in terms of section 19 of the Insolvency act.]

Furthermore, in terms of section 21(2) of the Insolvency Act, the trustee will release the property to the solvent spouse, being Mr Y if it is proved:

(a) that is was the property of the spouse before the marriage

(b) that it is property acquired under a marriage settlement;

(c) that it was property acquired during the marriage by a title valid against creditors;

(d) that it is property protected under the Long Term Insurance Act 52 of 1998;

(e) that it was acquired with property under (a) - (d) above or the income or proceeds thereof.]

**Question 13.2**

Advise Mr Y regarding the question as to whether he will be regarded as a “spouse” in terms of the Insolvency Act. **(4)**

[Yes, he will be regarded as a spouse in terms of the Insolvency Act because the term "spouse" includes civil union partners in terms of the Civil Union Act. The term spouse has an extended meaning.[[3]](#footnote-3)]

**QUESTION 14**

Generators Africa (Pty) Ltd, a company that manufactures generators for the lucrative South African market, is placed in liquidation by an order of the High Court on 3 May 2022. One of the company’s employees, Thabo Kekana, approaches you for advice on the effect that the liquidation of the company will have on his contract of employment. Thabo has not been paid since the end of January 2022, his salary being an amount of R10,000 per month. In addition, he has R3,500 leave pay owing to him for the preceding year.

Advise Thabo Kekana regarding the questions below.

**Question 14.1**

What effect will the liquidation of the company have on Thabo’s contract of employment? **(5)**

[The effect of the liquidation on Thabo is that e his contract of employment will be suspended. Thabo will not be required to work during the period of the termination of the contract and will not be remunerated however, he will be entitled to his unemployment benefits in terms of the Unemployment Insurance Act. Thabo's contract may be terminated if the liquidator consults if the business is saved. The contract may be terminated 45 days after the appointment of a final liquidator.]

**Question 14.2**

What possible claims does Thabo have against the insolvent company? Thabo also wants you to explain to him what the nature of these claims will be. **(3)**

[Thabo can claim maximum of three months unpaid salary which is capped at R12 000. This claim is statutory preferent claim in terms of section 98A of the Insolvency Act. The outstanding balance of unpaid salary will fall under concurrent claims.

Thabo can also recover unpaid leave owing to him capped at R4000. The remainder will fall under concurrent claims.

**QUESTION 15**

Joe Bond made a loan of R50,000 to his friend, John Jack. As security, John put up his generator (worth approximately R70,000) as a pledge. The generator was delivered to Joe who kept it on his premises. A few months later, John repaid the remaining balance of the loan (being R45,000) and Joe handed back the generator, the loan now having been settled. However, John’s estate was sequestrated 20 days after he settled the loan with Joe. The trustee appointed in John’s estate now claims the payment of R45,000 back from Joe as a voidable disposition.

Indicate whether the trustee will succeed with his claim against Joe. **(8)**

[In order to the trustee to succeed he would need to prove the following:

* Joe made the disposition of paying John within six months prior to sequestration ; and
* the effect of the disposition was to prefer one creditor above other ; and
* immediately after such disposition Joe's liabilities exceeded the value of his assets.

Surely, the disposition was made 20 days before the sequestration, and it has the effect of preferring John over other creditors. The facts do not speak to the other requirement however if his liabilities immediately exceeded his assets then the trustee will be successful in his claim.]

 **TOTAL MARKS: [100]**

**\*\*\* End of assessment \*\*\***

1. Section 152 of the Insolvency Act [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Section 64 of the Insolvency Act [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Section 21 of the Insolvency Act [↑](#footnote-ref-3)