

SUMMATIVE (FORMAL) ASSESSMENT: MODULE 8E

SINGAPORE

This is the **summative (formal) assessment** for **Module 8E** of this course and must be submitted by all candidates who **selected this module as one of their elective modules**.

The mark awarded for this assessment will determine your final mark for Module 8E. In order to pass this module, you need to obtain a mark of 50% or more for this assessment.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT

Please read the following instructions very carefully before submitting / uploading your assessment on the Foundation Certificate web pages.

- 1. You must use this document for the answering of the assessment for this module. The answers to each question must be completed using this document with the answers populated under each question.
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- No limit has been set for the length of your answers to the questions. However, 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).
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- 6. The final submission date for this assessment is 31 July 2021. The assessment submission portal will close at 23:00 (11 pm) GMT on 31 July 2021. No submissions can be made after the portal has closed and no further uploading of documents will be allowed, no matter the circumstances.
- 7. Prior to being populated with your answers, this assessment consists of **8 pages**.

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS	Commented [DB1]: 36.5 out of 50 = 73%
QUESTION 1 (multiple-choice questions) [10 marks in total]	Commented [DB2]: 10 out of 10
Questions 1.1. – 1.10. 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	
Which of the following is not one of the objectives of the IRDA?	
(a) To establish a regulatory regime for insolvency practitioners.	
(b) To introduce a new omnibus legislation that consolidates the personal and corporate insolvency and restructuring laws.	
(c) Adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.	
(d) To enhance Singapore's insolvency and restructuring laws .	
Question 1.2	
Who may apply to court to stay or terminate the winding up of a Company?	
(a) A creditor.	
(b) A contributory.	
(c) The liquidator.	
(d) Any of the above.	
Question 1.3	
Which of the following factors may enable a foreign debtor to establish a "substantial connection" to Singapore?	
(a) The debtor has chosen Singapore law as the law governing a loan or other transaction.	
(b) The centre of main interests of the debtor is located in Singapore.	
(c) The debtor has substantial assets in Singapore.	
(d) Any of the above.	

Question 1.4

What percentage of each class of creditors must approve a scheme of arrangement for it to be binding?

(a) Over 50% in number.

(b) 50% or more in number.

- (c) Over 75% in number.
- (d) 75% or more in number.

Question 1.5

Which of the following in respect of the automatic moratorium under Section 64(1) of the IRDA is incorrect?

- (a) The automatic moratorium lasts for 30 days.
- (b) The automatic moratorium may be extended.

(c) The automatic moratorium can be obtained without filing an application to Court.

(d) The debtor has to either propose or intend to propose a scheme of arrangement.

Question 1.6

Which of the following does not lead to the discharge of a judicial management order?

(a) A receiver is appointed over the assets of the company.

- (b) The creditors decline to approve the judicial manager's proposals.
- (c) The judicial manager is of the view that the purposes specified in the judicial management order cannot be achieved.
- (d) The judicial manager has acted or will act in a manner that would be unfairly prejudicial to the interests of creditors or members of the company.

Question 1.7

Which of the following is one of the three aims of a judicial management?

(a) To allow the directors to oversee the restructuring of the company.

(b) Preserving all or part of the company's business as a going concern.

- (c) As a means for the secured creditors to realise their security.
- (d) To liquidate the company in a fast-track and cost-efficient manner.

Question 1.8	
Which one of the following is not a corporate rescue mechanism in Singapore?:	
(a) Informal creditor workouts.	
(b) Judicial Management.	
(c) Receivership.	
(d) Scheme of arrangement.	
Question 1.9	
Which one of the following countries is not one of the jurisdictions that Singapore has modelled its insolvency laws on?	
(a) England and Wales.	
(b) Brunei.	
(c) The USA.	
(d) Australia.	
Question 1.10	
Which one of the following points regarding the landmark decision of <i>Re Zetta Jet Pte Ltd</i> is not correct ?	
(a) The High Court did not grant full recognition of the US Chapter 7 proceedings.	
(b) The US bankruptcy proceedings continued in breach of the Singapore injunction.	
(c) This is the first reported decision where a Singapore court has been faced with the question of public policy in an application for recognition of a foreign insolvency proceeding.	
(d) The Court held that the omission of the word "manifestly" from Article 6 of the Singapore Model Law meant that the standard of exclusion on public policy grounds was higher than in jurisdictions where the Model Law had been enacted unmodified.	
10 marks	
QUESTION 2 (direct questions) [10 marks]	Ca
Question 2.1 [maximum 4 marks]	
Explain the elements of two types of impeachable transactions under Singapore insolvency law and what defences there may be to the two you have identified.	
[Answer:	
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The two type of Impeachable transaction under Singapore Insolvency Law are Undervalue transaction and unfair preferences. The key elements of both the kinds of transactions are mentioned below:

1. Undervalue transactions:

Elements:

The transaction will be considered as undervalue if:

- The bankrupt makes a gift or enters ia not transaction without any consideration; or
- The consideration for the transaction is marriage; or
- The consideration for the transaction is significantly less in money or value.
- The company become insolvent as a result of that undervalue transaction.

Defences:

- The transaction took place prior to relevant period (i.e., 3 years in the case of undervalue transaction)
- The transaction was performed in the ordinary course of business.
- It is necessity for the bankrupt to perform the transaction and no other option to secure the asset or property.

2. Unfair preference

Elements:

The transaction will be considered as unfair preference if,

- Party involved in the transaction is bankrupt's creditor or surety or guarantee,
- Due to transaction, Person stand in a better position than they would have.
- The bankrupt is influenced by a desire to prefer the other party to bring them in a better position on bankruptcy.

Defences:

- The transaction was performed prior to the relevant period (i.e., in case of associate person/ related party it is 2 years before the application date or the date of bankruptcy; or 1 year in case of non-related party/ not an associate).
- The transaction was performed in good faith and in ordinary course of business.
- The party who acquired such property bought it in good faith for value and without notice of the undervalue or unfair preference.]

Conflates the elements with the defences because falling outside of the clawback period goes towards elements. Also the transaction needed to have been carried out when insolvent or resulted in insolvency. **3 marks.**

Question 2.2 [maximum 2 marks]

What is the objective and significance of the JIN Guidelines?

[Answer:

The supreme court of Singapore adopted JIN guidelines for communication and corporation between courts in cross-border insolvency matters. The adoption of JIN guidelines allows foreign representatives to apply to the High courts of Singapore for recognition of the foreign proceedings. It also provides for international co-operation and communication between courts and representatives, and for concurrent insolvency proceedings.]

What is the significance of JIN? 1 mark.

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Question 2.3 [maximum 4 marks]

How can a bankrupt obtain

(i) an annulment; and

(ii) a discharge

of his bankruptcy under the Singapore IRDA?

[Answer:

The bankrupt can obtain:

- An Annulment:
 - a. If the application was filed within 12 months of the bankruptcy order was passed. Provided court leave is given for application to be made later.
 - b. On filing of such application, Court may annul a bankruptcy if the order was not made on grounds existing at the time.
 - c. The debts and expenses of the bankruptcy was paid or secured to the satisfaction of the court.
 - d. Distribution of the assets will take place in Malaysia or majority creditors are Malaysia residents and distribution takes place there.

(ii) <u>A discharge</u>

- a. Bankrupt will apply to the court for an order of discharge any time after the bankruptcy order is made.
- b. The application will be served to every creditor who filed a claim in the bankruptcy process and court will hear any creditor before making an order for discharge.]

Who else can apply for discharge and what are the orders that the Court can make?

3 marks.

QUESTION 3 (essay-type questions) [15 marks in total]

Question 3.1 [maximum 8 marks]

Write a brief essay on

(i) the restrictions on ipso facto clauses; and

(ii) wrongful trading

under the Singapore IRDA.

[Answer:

(i) <u>The restriction on ipso facto clauses:</u>

Previously under Singapore insolvency law, there were no restriction on the exercise of ipso facto clauses. The IRD Act, 2018 introduced a new provision restricting the operation of ipso facto clause in certain circumstances. Section 440 of the IRD Act, 2018

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Commented [DB4]: 8 out of 15

restricts the ipso facto clauses once any proceeding relating to any application under judicial management of scheme of arrangement are commenced by the company. The section 440 does not prevent any other contractual right from being exercised due to any other reason. This makes ipso facto clause restrictive in nature and it may not be possible to execute ipso facto clause applicable for company in insolvency. Restriction in ipso facto clause also helps the insolvent company a relief for better restructuring. How so please explain? Section 440 does not prevent the termination of contact on ground other than ipso facto clause.

Section 440(5) also provides certain exceptions which can be executed even during the insolvency. These exceptions are:

- 1. Any eligible financial contract as may be prescribed. This is very important for financiers contracting with Singapore companies.
- Any contract that was created to provide licenses, permits, or approvals issued by government or a statutory body.
- 3. Any contract that is likely to affect the national interest, or economic interest of Singapore.
- 4. Any commercial charter of a ship
- 5. Any agreement within the meaning of the convention as defined in Section 2(1) of the international interest in Aircraft Equipment Act.
- 6. Any agreement that is the subject of a treaty to which Singapore is a party.

(ii) Wrongful trading

Section 239 of the IRD Act, 2018 introduces the new concept of wrongful trading. The courts are empowered to pass an order that any person who was knowingly party to the company trading wrongfully, is personally responsible for the debts and liabilities of the company. However, a company or any individual person is interested in becoming party in carrying a business with company can make a declaration before the court and mention about the transaction after which the said transactions will be considered as an ordinary course of business and will not be constituted as wrongful trading. The applicability of the section does not require any criminal liability before taking any effect. Also, wrongful trading is defined as the incurrence of debt or liabilities without a reasonable prospect of meeting them in full when the company is insolvent or becomes insolvent as a result of such debt.

There are certain elements which makes a person personally liable under section 239 of the IRD Act, 2018.

- 1. Person or party knew that the company was trading wrongfully; or
- 2. As an officer of the company, ought, in all circumstances, they understand the company was trading wrongfully.]

How is this different from insolvent trading?

Overall the answer would have been enhanced with more analysis and commentary. 5 marks.

Question 3.2 [maximum 7 marks]

Write a brief essay in which you discuss the differences between a judicial management and liquidation.

[Answer:

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There are few differences between Judicial Management and Liquidation. The liquidation of an insolvent company can be performed by way of a creditors' voluntary liquidation or through compulsory liquidation. How about out of court JM?

1. Creditors' voluntary liquidation

A creditors' voluntary liquidation is initiated by the company itself by passing a special resolution for voluntary liquidation and convening a creditors' meeting. The company will nominate a person to act as liquidator. If the nomination is rejected by its creditors, the creditors can nominate and choose a liquidator. A creditors' voluntary liquidation can be converted into a compulsory liquidation by an application to the Singapore court.

2. Compulsory liquidation

In a compulsory liquidation, the company, its creditors (including contingent or prospective creditors), members or directors, can apply to court for a winding up order. The court may appoint the Official Receiver or an approved provisional liquidator after the making of a winding up application and before the making of a winding up order. A winding up order may be granted if the court is satisfied that the company is unable to pay off its debts. Typically, this will be deemed as such if:

- a creditor has served a statutory demand on the company for a sum in excess of SGD 10,000 and the company neglected for 3 weeks to pay the sum or to secure or compound for it to the reasonable satisfaction of the creditor
- the creditor can prove to the court that the company is unable to pay its debts (including contingent and prospective debts if any), or
- there is an unsatisfied judgement, decree or order against the company.

In a compulsory liquidation, the company, its creditors (including contingent or prospective creditors), members or directors, can apply to court for a winding up order. A winding up order may be granted if the court is satisfied that the company is unable to pay off its debts. A voluntary liquidation may proceed by way of a creditors' voluntary liquidation ("CVL") where a company is insolvent. A CVL is initiated by way of the company passing a special resolution that it is wound up voluntarily, if the company's directors believe that the company cannot pay its debts, in full, within 12 months after the commencement of the winding up. Under a CVL, the company must convene a meeting of its creditors (who will have the ability to nominate their chosen liquidator). The company, its directors or creditors can apply to the Singapore High Court to place under judicial management a company which is, or is likely to become, insolvent.

Judicial management is typically used by a company as a tool to restructure its debts to resume business as a going concern. The court, in exercising its discretion to grant a judicial management order, will consider, among others, whether a more advantageous return or realisation of the company's assets when compared to a liquidation scenario will be achieved. When a judicial management order is in force, the judicial manager appointed will replace the company's existing management. The judicial manager will formulate a judicial management proposal for the realisation of assets which must be approved by the company's creditors. During the period of judicial management, a moratorium against legal proceedings is automatically put in place to preserve the company's assets. The judicial management order is made.

In a winding up scenario, directors are required to, among other things, disclose to the liquidator all the movable and immovable property of the company, and how and to whom and for what consideration and when the company disposed of any part thereof, except such

Upon the n directors of the directo rehabilitatic Judicial Ma Judicial ma	as been disposed of in the ordinary course of the company's business. making of a judicial management order, all powers and duties imposed of the company are transferred to the judicial managers. However, it is co ors to continue to work together with the judicial managers to ass on of the company. anagement is a rescue mechanism. In Judicial management, the appo anager is through court and Judicial manager will replace the company's	d upon the common for sist in the intment of s directors	
on the app Appointmen will prevail. the continu approach o	gement and takes over the responsibility for the running of the company. pointment of liquidator, in creditor's voluntary liquidation, is done by ent of liquidator can be modified by the creditor's committee and creditor. I. All the powers of company's directors cease, except in case liquidator uation of such director's power and duties. Also, liquidator in liquid court to appoint director as special manager to assist liquidator in and in the interest of creditors.	company. s decision approves lation can	
	anagement is a creditor in possession procedure. The creditors will vote ing share to approve the rescue plan whereas there is no approval re .]		
All the ans marks.	swer is to set out the elements of each process without actually con	nparing. 3	
QUESTION	N 4 (fact-based application-type question) [15 marks in total]		Commented [DB5]: 11.5 out of 15
Singapore	nergy Corporation Ltd (PEC) is a Cayman-incorporated company liste stock exchange. PEC was formed to become the dominant market platenergy in South East Asia and China. Its primary lines of business are:		
 oil and Cambo 	d gas exploration and production with assets and fields in Malaysia, Tha odia;		
oil and CamboRenew the United	d gas exploration and production with assets and fields in Malaysia, Tha		
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In 2018, PEC wanted to take advantage of an opportunity to expand their water and waste to energy business and raised an additional SGD 1 billion in retail bonds for working capital purposes. Water (and energy needs in general) is of strategic importance to Singapore given its geographical position and many retail investors took up the bond issue. The retail bonds were stated to be specifically subordinated to all other debt of the PEC group.

PEC traded positively throughout 2018 and 2019. However, in late 2019 it started informing some of its bank lenders that they may require waivers on certain terms in the loan and potentially further time to repay certain amounts owing. In early 2020, PEC appointed legal and financial advisors to provide it with advice as to the best steps to take. Shortly thereafter, PEC announced that it had filed for protection under section 211B of the Companies (Amendment) Act 2017. Further to this, PEC Oil and Gas Pte Ltd, PEC Renewables Pte Ltd and PEC WWE Pte Ltd filed for protection under section 211C of the Companies (Amendment) Act 2017.

Into the first six (6) months' extension of the moratorium, the bank lenders decide that they have lost their patience and no longer have confidence in PEC's management. They have therefore decided to apply to court to place PEC under judicial management.

Using the facts above, answer the questions that follow.

Question 4.1 [maximum 7 marks]

The working group of the bank lenders has asked its advisors to provide it with a written analysis covering the following critical issues for PEC. Please provide analysis on the following issues:

- Confirmation of the purpose of judicial management proceedings and what must be presented to the court in order to obtain a judicial management order; (2 marks)
- Assuming that PEC is placed under judicial management, what requirements must be satisfied in order for PEC to be able to access rescue financing under the IRDA? (2 marks)
- What are the steps that need to be taken in order to place PEC's subsidiaries under judicial management out of court? (3 marks)

[Answer:

Issue: 1

Currently the scheme of arrangement is operating under the supervision of the company's management, but Judicial management may be more useful in cases where the creditors consider the company management to be untrustworthy because judicial management is supervised by an external judicial manager instead by the management of the insolvent company. Bankers must satisfy the court that the making of a judicial management order will cause disproportionately greater prejudice to the said creditor than the prejudice caused to unsecured creditors if the judicial management order is not made.

To obtain a judicial management order, there are few basic requirements which needs to be fulfilled.

- a) Judicial Management application need to be filed by company itself (after attaining members resolution) or by its directors (pursuant to board resolution) or through its creditors, individually or collectively.
- b) Once the application is filed, court will pass order, if the court
 - i) Is satisfied that the company is or will be unable to pay its debts
 - ii) Considers that making a judicial management order will help company in rescue and survival and beneficial to run it as a going concern; or undergoing in judicial management proceedings will give more advantageous realisation of the company's assets than in winding up.

1.5 Marks

Issue: 2

The 2017 Amendments gave the Court power to order a "super priority" for debts incurred by the company in respect of rescue financing. There are 2 requirement that must be satisfied by PEC to be able to access rescue financing. As per section 211E of the companies' act, the court has the power to grant super priority for the financers, if:

- a) The funds provided are necessary for the company's survival or for the whole or any part of the undertaking of that company to remain as a going concern; or
- b) The funds provided are necessary to achieve a more advantageous realisation of the company's assets of a company than on a winding up of that company.

Would have been good to point out the different types of rescue financing and different priorities. **1 Mark.**

Issue: 3

Section 94 of the IRDA now provides that instead of applying to Court for a Judicial Management order, a company can be placed under Judicial Management if a majority of the creditors (in number and value) so approve after requisite notices and documents have been filed and a creditors' meeting called.

Once the company is placed into Judicial Management pursuant to Section 94, it is under the supervision of the Court and in the same manner as a Court-ordered Judicial Management to ensure that there is no abuse. The important steps which need to be placed to keep PEC's subsidiaries under judicial management out of court are:

- a) Subsidiaries are, or likely to become, unable to pay its debts
- b) There is a reasonable probability of achieving purpose and objective of judicial management order.
- c) A resolution of its creditors is obtained.]

3 Marks.

Question 4.2 [maximum 8 marks in total]

As things transpired, PEC was placed under judicial management. Private equity funds are actively talking to PEC's Judicial Managers in order to determine whether or not they might make an investment in PEC, or acquire its assets. One particular private equity fund, Forty Thieves Capital, is particularly interested in acquiring debt relating to the various projects across the oil and gas, renewables and water lines of business with a view to either enforcing over the security of the assets to realise value, or to see if a loan-to-own-type

structure can be successfully implemented. Ideally, they would like to do this outside of the judicial management proceedings.

To try and protect against this risk, PEC has commenced local insolvency proceedings in Malaysia, China and the United States to seek protection for the companies that own assets in each of those jurisdictions.

Taking these additional facts above into consideration, answer the questions below.

Question 4.2.1 [maximum 4 marks]

Do the judicial management moratoria obtained by PEC and its subsidiaries have extraterritorial effect such that assets owned by the group in jurisdictions outside of Singapore will also be protected?

[Answer:

Normally, the moratorium arising from Judicial Management does not have extra-territorial effect; in other words, it is unlikely to be capable of barring foreign proceedings.

The exception is the Enhanced Moratorium arising from section 211B of the Companies Act. This may be ordered to apply to extraterritorial acts, so long as the person is in Singapore or within the jurisdiction of the Singapore High Court. This extraterritorial feature is a newer development arising from changes in Singapore's Companies (Amendment) Act 2017, which introduced various enhancements for debt restructuring purposes. The Court has taken a cautious approach to this, indicating that the extraterritorial feature would only be ordered for specific acts or acts of a specific party within the jurisdiction of the Singapore Courts. This feature was recently recognised in an English judgement: *H* & *CS* Holdings Pte Ltd v. Glencore International AG [2019] EWHC (Ch).

Hence, under the new section 211B(5), a moratorium under the new section 211B may be ordered to have extraterritorial effect for PES subsidiaries. The moratorium obtained will apply to acts taking place in Singapore or elsewhere so long as the PES's creditor is in Singapore or within the jurisdiction of the Court. This section specifically applies to a moratorium in respect of a related or subsidiary company ordered under the new section 211C(1) (new section 211C(4)).]

Well done for differentiating between JM and 211B. 3 Marks.

Question 4.2.2 [maximum 4 marks]

What cross-border insolvency laws are available in Singapore to recognise foreign insolvency proceedings? Explain the general requirements in order for a Singapore court to recognise a foreign insolvency proceeding and what the effect will be if the court were to do so.

[Answer:

Previously, Judgement of foreign countries was recognised in Singapore or enforced through common law. There are two statutory registration regimes are in place in Singapore. The first regime is Reciprocal Enforcement of Commonwealth judgements which enables judgments from the United Kingdom and Australia, and certain specific commonwealth countries to be registered in Singapore High Court. The second regime is under the reciprocal enforcement of Foreign Judgement Act, under this only Hong Kong and SAR has been a gazetted country

recognised for registration. Singapore common law recognises certain foreign judgement if below mentions conditions are met:

- a. Judgement should be of fixed sum of money from a foreign court of law and should be capable of recognition.
- b. It should be final and conclusive award by the law of the country and court must have international jurisdiction over parties.

Recently, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross Border Insolvency was adopted with certain modifications in Singapore under new section 354B(1). There are few defenses which are available to resist recognition and enforcement of foreign insolvency proceeding. There are certain defenses available to resist recognition and enforcement of foreign awards.

- a. Under Article 17 of the Singapore Model Law, the Court must grant recognition if the various requirements are met. A foreign proceeding is recognized as a foreign main proceeding, if the foreign proceeding takes place where the debtor has its COMI, or as a foreign nonmain proceeding where the debtor has an establishment there, as defined under Article 2(d). Whether or not the foreign proceeding was properly commenced is not relevant to the granting of recognition.
- b. Under Article 6 of the Singapore Model Law, to which Article 17 is subject, a Singapore court may refuse recognition if such recognition would be "contrary" to the public policy of Singapore. Article 6 of the Model Law on the other hand requires recognition to be "manifestly contrary" to public policy for it to be refused.

In a landmark decision of Re Zetta Jet Pte Ltd, a number of issues were raised but Singapore High Court considered only two main areas:

- i) the determination of the COMI,
- ii) whether recognition would be contrary to public policy.

It was held that the breach of Singapore injunction by the US trustee, the public policy exception was invoked, as to allows recognition would undermine the administration of justice in Singapore.

In case the Singapore court recognise the judgement then they have to give power to the foreign representative r to control the disposition of those assets. It enables the foreign representative to orchestrate a coordinated sale of the debtor's assets where those assets are located across multiple jurisdictions. On the other hand, the Courts may cooperate to the maximum extent possible with foreign courts or foreign representatives, either directly or through a Singapore insolvency officeholder. In doing so, the Courts may communicate directly with, or to request information or assistance directly from, foreign courts or foreign representatives. Likewise, the Singapore insolvency officeholder is entitled to communicate directly with foreign courts or foreign representatives in the exercise of his/her functions.]

3 Marks

* End of Assessment *

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