



SUMMATIVE (FORMAL) ASSESSMENT: MODULE 1
(INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY LAW)

This is the **summative (or formal) assessment** for **Module 1** of this course and is compulsory for all registered candidates on the Foundation Certificate. The mark awarded for this assessment will determine your final mark for Module 1. 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.
2. All assessments must be submitted electronically in MS Word format, using a standard A4 size page and a 11-point 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. 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).
4. You must save this document using the following format: **[studentID.assessment1summative]**. An example would be something along the following lines: 202122-545.assessment1summative. **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 ID 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. Before you will be allowed to upload / submit your assessment via the portal on the Foundation Certificate web pages, you will be required to confirm / certify that you are the person who completed the assessment and that the work submitted is your own, original work. Please see the part of the Course Handbook that deals with plagiarism and dishonesty in the submission of assessments. **Please note that copying and pasting from the Guidance Text into your answer is prohibited and constitutes plagiarism. You must write the answers to the questions in your own words.**
6. The final submission date for this assessment is **15 November 2021**. The assessment submission portal will close at **23:00 (11 pm) GMT on 15 November 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 **9 pages**.

Commented [DB1]: Please do me the courtesy of reading and following the instructions! I had to do this for you?!

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1 (multiple-choice questions) [10 marks in total]

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

Unlike (former) continental insolvency rules, the English insolvency laws provided for a rather liberal discharge of debt provision since 1570. Select the **most accurate response** to this statement from (a) – (d) below.

- (a) This statement is correct since the English insolvency system was viewed as a pro-creditor system since its early development.
- (b) This statement is correct since the English insolvency system, unlike continental systems, never provided for imprisonment for debt of insolvents and preferred to treat debtors in a humane way.
- (c) This statement is incorrect since a statutory discharge of debt was only introduced in 1705 in England.**
- (d) This statement is incorrect since most of the continental insolvency rules provided for a liberal discharge of debt even before English law considered the introduction of such a dispensation.

Question 1.2

English insolvency law was not affected by the Covid-19 pandemic to date. Select the **most accurate response** to this statement from (a) – (d) below.

- (a) This statement is correct since the UK decided to merely provide financial aid to financially troubled entities and individuals.
- (b) This statement is correct since the legislative reform process in the UK is too slow to effect amendments to an elaborate piece of legislation such as its Insolvency Act of 1986.
- (c) This statement is correct since the English insolvency law already provided special rules to deal with extreme socio-economic situations like those brought about by global disasters such as the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (d) The statement is incorrect since the UK did review parts of its insolvency rules and amended some, amongst other things, to deal with the negative economic fall out of the pandemic.**

Question 1.3

Since the Dutch insolvency system is rather outdated when compared with English or American insolvency / bankruptcy laws, it does not provide for a modern scheme of arrangement that could be used to reorganise or rescue a company in distress. Select the **most accurate response** to this statement from (a) – (d) below.

- (a) This statement is correct since the Dutch insolvency system does not provide for a discharge of debt and without such a dispensation in place, a scheme of arrangement will not be functional.
- (b) This statement is correct since the Dutch government has not approved such legislation yet.
- (c) This statement is incorrect since the Dutch in fact introduced new legislation in this regard in 2000 already.
- (d) This statement is incorrect since the Dutch quite recently adopted legislation in this regard and it became operational on 1 January 2021.

Question 1.4

There is no real need for the reform and establishment of a more uniform set of cross-border insolvency rules since the courts of the various States around the globe are well-equipped to deal with such issues by way of judicial discretion and since the broad rules of local insolvency legal systems are largely the same. Select the **most accurate response** to this statement from (a) – (d) below.

- (a) This statement is correct since courts cooperating across jurisdictional borders are familiar with global insolvency principles.
- (b) This statement is correct since courts across the globe are inclined to apply comity as a principle to assist foreign estate representatives to deal with cross-border insolvency matters in a coherent way.
- (c) The statement is not correct since both local insolvency systems as well as cross-border insolvency rules differ quite significantly in many respects.
- (d) This statement is correct since apart from the wide discretion that judges in general have, the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency has been adopted by the majority of UN Member States, hence these rules are well-known to judges across the globe.

Question 1.5

Universalism has become the main approach regarding the application of cross-border insolvency rules around the globe since the majority of States follow a strict adherence to comity. Select the **most accurate response** to this statement from (a) – (d) below.

- (a) The statement is not correct because very few States allow insolvent estate representatives to deal with assets of a foreign debtor situated in their own jurisdiction without some form of a (prior) local procedure to recognise the foreign insolvency proceeding.

(b) The statement is correct because universality has become the norm in the majority of States in cross-border insolvency matters since the introduction of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency in 1997.

(c) The statement is correct because the prevalent approach of modified territoriality amounts to a universal embracement of universalism amongst the majority of States around the globe.

(d) The statement is not correct because important international policy-making bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group and the United Nations still support strong territoriality in cases of cross-border insolvency cases.

Question 1.6

A number of initiatives have been pursued in international insolvency in order to stimulate debate and to develop international best practice standards. Which of the following statements is **most accurate** regarding the World Bank's *Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor / Debtor Regimes*?

(a) They were developed in 2000 and are the international best practice standards for insolvency regimes.

(b) They were recently revised in 2021 and, together with the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide, form the international best practice standard for insolvency regimes.

(c) They were recently revised in 2020 and, together with the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency, form the international best practice standard for insolvency regimes.

(d) They were initially released in 2011 and are the international best practice standards for insolvency regimes.

Question 1.7

Which of the following **does not** focus on communication among States in international insolvencies?

(a) ALI - III Global Guidelines for Court-to-Court Communications in International Insolvency Cases.

(b) The JIN Guidelines.

(c) The JIN Modalities.

(d) The Nordic Convention 1933.

Question 1.8

Which of the following **best describes** the fundamental legal issues that arise in an international legal problem?

(a) Choice of forum, choice of law, and choice of jurisdiction.

(b) Choice of forum, recognition and effect accorded foreign proceedings in the same matter, and choice of law.

(c) Choice of effect, choice of recognition, and choice of law.

(d) Choice of forum, recognition and effect accorded foreign proceedings in the same matter, and choice of parties.

Question 1.9

Which of the following statements **best describes** the *UNCITRAL Practice Guide on Cross-Border Insolvency Cooperation*?

(a) It is not intended to be prescriptive and is intended to provide information for insolvency practitioners and judges on practical aspects of co-operation and communication in cross-border insolvency cases to illustrate how the resolution of issues and conflicts that might arise in cross-border insolvency cases could be facilitated by cross-border co-operation.

(b) It is prescriptive and provides information for insolvency practitioners and judges on practical aspects of co-operation and communication in cross-border insolvency cases to illustrate how the resolution of issues and conflicts that might arise in cross-border insolvency cases must be facilitated by cross-border co-operation.

(c) It is prescriptive and provides information for judges on practical aspects of recognition and enforcement in cross-border insolvency cases.

(d) It is not prescriptive and provides information for judges on practical aspects of recognition and enforcement in cross-border insolvency cases.

Question 1.10

What **best describes** the overriding objective of the ALI - III Global Guidelines for Court-to-Court Communications in International Insolvency Cases?

(a) To interfere with the independent exercise of jurisdiction by the relevant States' courts and ensure an effective outcome.

(b) In urgent situations only, to interfere with the independent exercise of jurisdiction by the relevant States' courts in order to ensure an effective outcome.

(c) To enhance co-ordination and harmonisation of insolvency proceedings that involve more than one State through communications among the States involved.

(d) To enhance co-ordination and harmonisation of insolvency proceedings that involve more than three States through communications among the States involved.

Marks awarded 8 out of 10

QUESTION 2 (direct questions) [10 marks]

Question 2.1 [maximum 3 marks]

Briefly indicate three significant (historical) developments regarding debt collection procedures in English law that shaped the way of thinking concerning modern insolvency law.

The Act of Elizabeth 1570; The Statute of Ann 1705; the Cork Report which led to the promulgation of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Rather than listing legislation, it would be beneficial to explain the developments that occurred and how they shaped modern insolvency law. It would be beneficial to instead consider the significant historical developments such as discharge which has shaped modern insolvency concepts of fresh start, the abolishment of imprisonment for debt and the modern insolvency concept that insolvency is not a criminal act, and the introduction of formal insolvency proceedings and the modern management of insolvency processes.

.5

Question 2.2 [maximum 3 marks]

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, States across the globe had to introduce measures to deal with the negative economic fall out of this pandemic. Briefly indicate three insolvency and insolvency-related measures so introduced in the UK.

A new moratorium, a new restructuring plan based on a scheme of arrangement and the ban on ipso facto clauses.

Further elaboration would improve the mark for this sub-question. While it does say 'briefly', the sub-question is for 3 marks.

1.5

Question 2.3 [maximum 4 marks]

Briefly explain the concept of treaties and "soft law" and indicate how these may be used to establish cross-border insolvency rules in States.

Treaties are legal instruments that bind all the members that sign such treaty. Furthermore, such treaty will influence the national law of every country; thus, becoming part of the hard law of such jurisdiction. On the other hand, soft law is comprised of principles, agreements, and declarations that are not legally enforceable. Hard law such as treaties will shaped the domestic law of a country; however, the soft law such as the UNCITRAL Model law will affect the hard law of a jurisdiction.

Further elaboration would improve the mark for this sub-question. While it does say 'briefly', the sub-question is for 4 marks.

2

Marks awarded 4 out of 10

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

Question 3.1 [maximum 5 marks]

Briefly discuss the various possible different sources of insolvency laws in any State and how they may interact with each other.

There are several sources that are relevant in any jurisdiction in terms of insolvency law. For instance, international treaties and conventions, the UNCITRAL Model law on Cross-Border Insolvency Law, EU law in case of European Member States, Private International Law, and comity of law.

Your answer could have instead been structured to discuss the sources of law across all States and to recognise how and why there may be differences between certain States. It would be beneficial to discuss insolvency legislation as either a code or multiplicity of legislation, common law in common law countries as filling any gaps in law, and general law and its relevance and impact upon insolvency law.

.5

Question 3.2 [maximum 5 marks]

A number of difficulties arise in cross-border insolvencies, including as a result of differences in laws between States. Harmonisation of insolvency laws is pursued. In an attempt to bring the “cross-border” aspects and the “insolvency” aspects together, Fletcher asks three very pertinent questions. Discuss these pertinent questions / issues raised by Fletcher.

Fletcher has asked three questions; the first one questions in which legal systems the insolvency proceedings have been opened. Indeed, insolvency proceedings might have started in other countries different from the company’s headquarters or centre of main interest. The second question states which law will be utilised during the proceedings to regulate different aspects of the debtor. Indeed, the debtor might have several assets around the world; therefore, under which law will these assets be treated? The third question is concerned with the international consequences of proceedings being held in a specific forum; thus, how will the judgement be recognised and enforced in other countries where the assets are held?

This answer displays a satisfactory understanding. To improve your responses, ensure they are commensurate with the mark allocation – while Q 3.2 asks for a brief note, it is for 5 marks.

2.5

Question 3.3 [maximum 5 marks]

It is said that “co-ordination agreements are sometimes known as Protocols or Cross-border Insolvency Agreements. Their growing acceptance internationally is evident in the work by the ALI-III in their *Guidelines Applicable to Court-to-Court Communication in Cross-Border Cases*; by UNICTRAL in their *Practice Guide on Cross-border Insolvency Agreements*; and by the Judicial Insolvency Network in their *Guidelines for Communication and Cooperation between Courts in Cross-Border Insolvency Matters...*”

It is also said that “While court approval of such agreements for the purposes of co-ordinating insolvency proceedings is encouraged by the MLCBI, they in fact pre-date the Model Law.”

Briefly discuss a prominent case law example for this last quotation.

The relevant case law in terms of cooperation and coordination is the Maxwell Communication Corporate plc which involved two insolvency proceedings brought in the United States and the other in the United Kingdom. Both proceedings had two different insolvency practitioners who were in charge of the debtor. However, judges in the US and the UK decided that an insolvency agreement between both practitioners would be helpful for the debtor. As a result, the insolvency agreement set out two important goals — maximising the value of the debtor’s estate and harmonising the proceedings in order to reduce the expenses and prospective conflicts of law.

This answer displays a satisfactory understanding. To improve your responses, ensure they are commensurate with the mark allocation – while Q 3.3 asks for a brief note, it is for 5 marks.

2.5
Marks awarded 5.5 out of 15

QUESTION 4 (fact-based application-type question) [15 marks in total]

Rydell Co Ltd (Rydell) is an incorporated company with offices in the UK and throughout Europe. Its centre of main interest (COMI) is in the UK. Rydell supplies engine parts for large vehicles, including airplanes, and has had a downturn in business due to border closures and travel restrictions throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rydell's main creditor is Fernz Co Ltd (Fernz) which is incorporated in a country in Europe that is a member of the EU. Fernz is considering commencing proceedings or pursuing other options with respect to recovering unpaid debts from Rydell.

There are a number of other creditors owed money by Rydell, who are located throughout different countries in Europe which are all members of the European Union.

If you require additional information to answer the questions that follow, briefly state what information it is you require and why it is relevant.

Question 4.1 [maximum 7 marks]

An insolvency proceeding against Rydell was opened in the UK by a minor creditor on 18 June 2020. A month later, Fernz was considering also opening proceedings in another country in Europe which was a member of the European Union.

Discuss if and how the European Insolvency Regulation Recast would apply. Also note what further information, if any, you might require to fully consider this question.

The EU Insolvency Recast ceased to apply in the UK from 31 December 2020. Therefore, if the proceeding was opened on the 18th of June, it would apply. However, the Recast allows for secondary insolvency proceedings to be opened, albeit the proceedings have been brought in the centre of main interests. The secondary proceedings are allowed just if the debtor has an establishment in such a country. An establishment is defined as a place where operations with assets and human activity occur. Therefore, if Fernz would like to open insolvency proceedings in a country of the EU, it has to demonstrate that Rydell has an establishment of such a country

To improve your responses, ensure they are commensurate with the mark allocation – the question is for 7 marks.

4.5

Question 4.2 [maximum 3 marks]

How would your answer to 4.1 differ if the proceedings were opened in the UK on 18 June 2021 instead of 18 June 2020? Also note what further information, if any, might become relevant.

If the proceedings were brought a year later, the EU Insolvency Recast would not apply. However, the centre of the main interests of Rydell is in the UK and the EU Recast states that it should be in the COMI where proceedings should be brought. Therefore, there would not be

any issues since the UK will be the principal jurisdiction where the insolvency matter should be analysed.

This answer displays a satisfactory understanding. To improve your responses, ensure they are commensurate with the mark allocation – the question is for 3 marks. It would be beneficial to consider the MLCBI or what other laws might apply and what further information might be useful.

1.5

Question 4.3 [maximum 5 marks]

Consider an alternative situation now. What if Rydell were unregistered with its COMI in a country in Europe that was a member of the European Union, instead of the UK, and formal insolvency proceedings were opened in the UK on 18 June 2021? What UK domestic laws would be relevant to consider whether the minor creditor could commence those formal insolvency proceedings in the UK?

In such scenario, the UK could not rely on the EU Recast. However, section 221(5) Insolvency Act 1986 provides for a solution for unregistered companies and bestows power to the creditor to make a winding-up petition. There are three requirements set out in such provision; **it would be beneficial to set these out** however, sub-paragraph b would apply which asserts that the petition can be made if the company is unable to pay its debts. Nevertheless, the English courts will assess whether there is sufficient connection to the UK. In the case of Rydell, if its centre of main interests is in another country within the EU and there is no connection whatsoever with the UK, perhaps UK courts will deny the winding-up petition. It should be assessed the connection between Rydell and the UK in order to provide for a suitable solution.

This answer displays a satisfactory understanding. To improve your responses, ensure they are commensurate with the mark allocation – the question is for 5 marks.

3

Marks awarded 9 out of 15
TOTAL MARKS 26.5/50

*** End of Assessment ***