



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: 202223-363.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 2022. The assessment submission portal will close at 23:00 (11 pm) GMT on 15 November 2022. 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 10 pages.**



**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

**Civil Law and English (Common) Law countries have the same historical roots. Select from the following the best response to this statement.**

- (a) This statement is untrue because English Insolvency Law developed from Roman law principles, and Civil Law Systems were based on the statute of Marlborough of 1267.**
- (b) This statement is untrue since Civil Law developed from early Roman law principles relating to debt recovery and English Insolvency Law developed via legislation, especially from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards.**
- (c) This statement is true since, on a principle basis, the developments of insolvency law as a system is the same in all systems.**
- (d) The statement is true since both systems developed from a pro debtor approach towards the notion of over-indebtedness.**

Question 1.2

**Both Civil Law and English Law systems in general allowed for a rather liberal discharge of debt for over-indebted debtors right from the inception of these systems. Select from the following the best response to this statement.**

- (a) This statement is untrue since in both systems the notion of discharge only developed at a later stage.**
- (b) This statement is true since in both systems insolvency and rehabilitation procedures developed with discharge as a way of departure.**
- (c) This statement is untrue since discharge of debt never became part of any of these systems.**

**(d) This statement is true since creditors in both systems had an accommodative approach towards over-indebted debtors.**

Question 1.3

**England and America each have their own single unified piece of insolvency legislation which apply to both personal and corporate insolvency. Select from the following the best response to this statement.**

**(a) This statement is true since England has the unified 1986 Insolvency Act and the USA has the 1978 Bankruptcy Code. Both Acts cover personal and corporate insolvency.**

**(b) This statement is untrue since in England the Insolvency Act 1986 deals only with personal insolvency.**

**(c) This statement is untrue because the USA has separate Acts dealing with corporate liquidation and rescue.**

**(d) The statement is true since in England its companies' legislation deals with corporate insolvency and rescue.**

Question 1.4

**There are no good reasons to distinguish between insolvency rules pertaining to individuals (consumers, natural person debtors, also referred to as personal insolvency) and those insolvency rules applying to corporations or companies since in both instances the applicable insolvency rules are intrinsically collective in nature. Select from the following the best response to this statement.**

**(a) The statement is true since global insolvency law systems provide exactly the same rules to cover all aspects of insolvency in both instances, ie personal insolvency and corporate insolvency.**

**(b) The statement is untrue since there are pertinent differences in the treatment of certain aspects in insolvency of an individual and that of a company, like the fact that individuals are not "dissolved" after their estate assets have been liquidated as is the case once the assets of a company have been liquidated and it is finally wound up.**

**(c) The statement is untrue since insolvency law rules are not collective in nature.**

**(d) The statement is true since insolvent companies usually survive their liquidation and may continue to conduct business after the debt has been discharged through the liquidation process.**

Question 1.5

**All countries have one and the same set of rules to apply in the case of recognition of a foreign insolvency order. Select from the following the best response to this statement.**

- (a) The statement is untrue since the systems differ and some countries have no formal cross-border insolvency rules in place at all.**
- (b) This statement is true because all member states of the UN have adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.**
- (c) This statement is true because the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency applies directly to all UN member States.**
- (d) This statement is true since the International Court of Justice has a set of global cross-border insolvency principles that apply globally.**

Take care to highlight an answer for each question

Question 1.6

**The domestic corporate insolvency laws of a particular country make no mention of the possibility of a foreign element in a liquidation commenced locally. There is also no locally applicable treaty or convention on insolvency proceedings in place.**

**In a local liquidation commenced in that country, to what other area of domestic law can the local court refer in order to resolve an insolvency related international law issue that has arisen because of concurrent insolvency proceedings over the same debtor in a different country?**

- (a) Public International Law.**
- (b) UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law.**
- (c) World Bank Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor Rights Systems.**
- (d) Private International Law.**

Question 1.7

**Private international law raises questions of the conclusive effect of a foreign judgment and the enforcement of a foreign judgment. A German court has issued a**

***judgment in a German insolvency which has a connection with England. The foreign insolvency office holder seeks recognition and enforcement in an English court of the insolvency order made in the German insolvency proceedings.***

***Which of the following statements, concerning the request for recognition and enforcement in England, is true?***

***(a) The English Court hearing the request for recognition and enforcement may apply the EU Recast Insolvency Regulation (2015).***

***(b) It is relevant factor for the English Court hearing the matter to consider whether Germany has adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency 1997, or not.***

***(c) The English Court will be able to consider the request based on its 2006 Insolvency Regulations (the adopted UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency) and / or common law principles.***

***(d) The German order will be automatically recognised in England due to a cross-border insolvency treaty between England and Germany.***

Question 1.8

***Which of the following best describes international insolvency law?***

***(a) It is public international law governing insolvency law between States.***

***(b) It is private international law governing insolvency law between States.***

***(c) It may involve aspects of both public international law and private international law.***

***(d) It involves a simple classification within either public international law or private international law.***

Question 1.9

***To date, the most successful soft law approach to international insolvency law issues has been the Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency. Select from the following the best response to this statement.***

***(a) This statement is untrue because not all States have adopted the Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency.***

***(b) This statement is untrue because of the requirement for reciprocity in relation to the Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency.***

**(c) This statement is true because the Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency creates regulations which binds each State and has been the most influential response to international insolvency law issues.**

**(d) This statement is true because the Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency has been adopted by numerous States and is gaining momentum as an influential response to international insolvency law issues.**

Question 1.10

**Latin American States have some of the most long-lasting multilateral agreements regarding international insolvency issues. Select from the following the best response to this statement.**

**(a) This statement is untrue because the Bustamante Code was concluded in 1928, which was only a few years before the Nordic Convention of 1933.**

**(b) This statement is untrue because North America was not a party to these agreements.**

**(c) This statement is true because agreements such as the Escazú Agreement have been extremely long lasting.**

**(d) This statement is true because of agreements such as the Montevideo Treaties and Havana Convention on Private International Law.**

Marks awarded 8 out of 10

QUESTION 2 (direct questions) [10 marks]

Question 2.1 [maximum 3 marks]

**Briefly indicate the historical roots of the various insolvency law systems to be found in African jurisdictions.**

*The history of the insolvency law systems found in various African jurisdictions is, in large part, dependent upon the legal and insolvency law systems observed in and by the countries by which they were colonized. Accordingly, in countries that were colonized by the British (including Nigeria, Kenya, Botswana and Zambia), their insolvency law systems find their history in the English common law system, whereas in countries that were colonized by France and Portugal, the history of their insolvency law systems is founded upon civil law principles. There is scope to elaborate and provide some examples. In some countries, where there was the governance by and influence of multiple colonial powers, such as South Africa and Namibia, there features a mixed system of both civil and English common law.*

2.5



Question 2.2 [maximum 3 marks]

**Indicate what important events and / or developments gave rise to some insolvency law reform in Eastern Asia and provide two examples of such reform initiatives.**

*There was significant insolvency law reform in certain Eastern Asian jurisdictions following a significant financial crisis in 1998, which particularly impacted the economies of Indonesia and Thailand. For example, in the wake of this financial crises, Thailand reviewed and reformed its insolvency law regime. Additionally, Singapore has reformed its insolvency legislation to promulgate a unified statute, which governs both corporate and personal insolvency and restructuring.*

3

Question 2.3 [maximum 4 marks]

**Briefly indicate the various initiatives undertaken to assist with the resolution of international insolvency issues between North America and Canada and the success or otherwise of these initiatives.**

*In an effort to assist with the resolution of issues in international insolvencies between North America and Canada, there have been various initiatives undertaken by stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, the Courts and various industry professional bodies. These initiatives include the implementation of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency in both jurisdictions and bilateral cooperation between the two. The development of the (i) NAFTA Guidelines Applicable to Court-to-Court Communications in Cross-Border Cases (iii) Principles of Cooperation among the NAFTA Countries has also assisted in the resolution of cross-border insolvency issues. Additionally, parties to cross-border insolvency disputes involving concurrent proceedings in the United States and Canada have designed and agreed *ad hoc* Protocols and Cross-Border Insolvency Agreements to promote coordination and cooperation between, *inter alia*, office-holders and the Courts, which also demonstrably assist in the context of these insolvency situations, as was seen in the use of an insolvency Protocol in *Re Nortel Networks Corporation* [2016]ONCA33.*

*Prior to the initiatives outlined above, there were also efforts made to agree a bilateral insolvency treaty between the governments of Canada and the United States, however, those efforts did not materialize.*

**More detail would have improved the mark awarded for this sub-question.**

3

Marks awarded 8.5 out of 10

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

Question 3.1 [maximum 5 marks]

***It is said that one of the difficulties in designing a proper cross-border insolvency dispensation is the fact that domestic insolvency laws and approaches towards insolvency in various jurisdictions are not the same and in fact sometimes differ vastly. Discuss the possible historical reasons for the difference in approaches regarding the treatment of voidable dispositions, given the way such rules developed in English law and civil law jurisdictions respectively. In your answer you must provide a context or framework for the treatment of these rules in insolvency systems and indicate why these rules are important in insolvency.***

*The rules governing the treatment of voidable dispositions in English law and civil law jurisdictions differ according to the historic underlying principles, which are distinct to each of these legal systems. In the civil law system, an action in actio Pauliana provides the historical basis for creditors to challenge voidable dispositions on the basis of fraudulent conveyance, whereas in English law, the Act of Elizabeth provided the historical an action to set aside a voidable preference. These rules are important to claim assets that may have been unfairly distributed for the benefit of the insolvent estate, which ultimately ensures that there is fairness and equity among creditors. These measures also assist to unwind fraud that may, in the corporate insolvency context, have been perpetrated against the entity by a shareholder, officer or director. You also needed to provide a context or framework for the treatment of these rules in insolvency systems. This could have been done by briefly explaining the nature of voidable dispositions.*

3.5

Question 3.2 [maximum 5 marks]

***A Dutch commentator on international insolvency law defines international insolvency law as that part of the law that:***

***“[i]s commonly described in international literature as a body of rules concerning certain insolvency proceedings or measures, which cannot be fully enforced, because the applicable law cannot be executed immediately and exclusively without consideration being given to the international aspect of a given case.”***

***However, the author concedes that this definition has limitations. Briefly discuss the reasons why the definition is perceived to have limitations.***

*This definition is perceived to have limitations because it is widely recognized that international insolvencies are necessarily subject to the national legal regime for insolvencies in the home jurisdiction and in the other jurisdictions in which recognition of and assistance from foreign legal systems may be required. In the context of modern business and trade, international transactions, and the relative ease with which debtors may hold assets across borders, international insolvencies are required to*

*engage with foreign insolvency laws and measures and the national regimes, which vary to enforce*

There is some scope to elaborate

4.5

Question 3.3 [maximum 5 marks]

***Briefly discuss treaties or conventions as a source for cross-border insolvency law. In your answer you should also indicate if these are viewed as a successful way in establishing such rules by providing examples in this regard.***

*Treaties are a means by which various jurisdictions may coordinate and standardize the substantive and procedure rules for the administration of insolvency regimes to promote universality. To this end, states may agree binding obligations between them as to the treatment of issues including jurisdiction, the recognition of office holders, procedure and the enforcement of order made in member jurisdictions. For example, the Nordic Convention on Bankruptcy between Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, provides that the proper law of the insolvency proceedings as being that of the jurisdiction in which the insolvency order was made. The Nordic Convention is widely regarded as a success, however, there are not many other successful international conventions on insolvency.*

More detail would have improved the mark awarded for this sub-question.

3.5

Marks awarded 11.5 out of 15

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

***Flor Prim Pty Ltd (FPPL) is a company incorporated with its head office and significant operations in Encanto as well as being registered as a foreign company in Asgard, where it also carries on business. FPPL therefore carries on business in more than one State. Lobo Lending Ltd (Lobo) is incorporated and has its head office in Asgard.***

***FPPL is managing to meet its debts as they fall due in Encanto. However, due to various staffing issues combined with market turndown in Asgard, FPPL is struggling financially in Asgard. FPPL has fallen behind with payments due and owing to Lobo. FPPL's CEO approaches Lobo to discuss possible informal payment arrangements.***

***If you require additional information to answer these questions, briefly state what it is and why it is relevant.***

Question 4.1 [Maximum 5 marks]

***What are the main differences between "formal" insolvency proceedings and "informal" insolvency arrangements? What key advantages and disadvantages should***

**Lobo consider regarding any informal out-of-court workout arrangement it could enter with FPPL, compared with its formal debt recovery options?**

*Formal insolvency proceedings involve the commencement proceedings pursuant to insolvency laws and may include person bankruptcy, corporate winding-up and liquidation proceedings and, in some jurisdiction. corporate recovery proceedings. Informal insolvency proceedings involve the direct engagement between debtors and creditors and, although nevertheless subject to the relevant insolvency laws of the jurisdiction, provide Lobo and FPPL with a wider scope to agree the terms of any arrangement. Lobo may wish to consider the advantages of an informal arrangement, for example, such a arrangement may be less costly than a court process, it may also preserve confidentiality regarding its financial difficulty in Asgard, whereas a court process would become public. If knowledge of these difficulties becomes know, this may cause reputational and further financial damage to FPPL. Additionally, if a formal process is commenced against FPPL, it may face the prospect of winding-up in Asgard, notwithstanding the solvency of its Encanto operation, which may be recognized in foreign jurisdictions.*

It would be beneficial to also consider matters such as the absence of moratorium and the inability to bind dissenting creditors in an informal workout. Also, it is made more complex by FPPL carrying on business in more than one State because it is more complicated and costly to monitor the other creditors.

3.5

Question 4.2 [Maximum 5 marks]

**Assume that instead of the scenario described above, Lobo obtained a formal court order against FPPL for a court-supervised insolvency proceeding in Asgard. The Asgardian insolvency representative then discovered there was already a concurrent insolvency proceeding commenced against FPPL in Encanto. Detail difficulties that may arise for the insolvency representative pertaining to co-operation and co-ordination and the international insolvency instruments that have been developed to assist with respect to those difficulties. In your answer make sure to comment as to whether the development of these international insolvency instruments is important and why, or why not.**

*In order to properly advise, it is important to firstly ascertain whether both jurisdictions have implemented the UNCITRAL Model Law on Insolvency and, additionally, whether the jurisdictions are subject to any bilateral or multilateral treaties or conventions on international insolvency, which may assist in the administration, recognition and the enforcement of the concurrent court supervised liquidation proceedings in both jurisdictions. Inevitably, the Asgardian insolvency representative will find it difficult to properly deal with the affairs and assets of FPPL in circumstances where there may be another insolvency representative in respect of the company in Encanto. Additionally, there may be overlapping and indeed contradictory action taken between each of the representatives. International insolvency instruments will undoubtedly assist the*

*Asgardian representative to efficiently seek recognition of the liquidation order in Encanto or vice versa to enable the representative to identify, preserve and take in the assets of FPPL in both jurisdictions and to take all steps necessary to realize assets for the benefit of creditors. For example, if the UNCITRAL Model Law has been implemented, the national laws of each jurisdiction will provide a procedural mechanism for recognition of the home state as Encanto and a stay of the proceedings in Asgard. Such a step would, for example, enable the officeholder in the home state to take over the management of and securing the business operation in Encanto particularly as the business continues as a going concern and potentially seeking to enter into an arrangement with Lobo in Asgard.*

This question required you to detail difficulties that may arise for the insolvency representative pertaining to co-operation and co-ordination and the international insolvency instruments that have been developed to assist with respect to those difficulties. This required discussion of different laws, and territorial approaches, together with consideration of international insolvency instruments developed to assist liquidators appointed in concurrent insolvency proceedings. It is good that you raise the MLCBI. Reference to article 27 is warranted. Reference to additional international insolvency instruments is also warranted.

3.5

Question 4.3 [Maximum 5 marks]

***Assume that instead of the hypothetical facts mentioned above, FPPL is an incorporated company with offices in the UK, and throughout Europe and other non-European countries. Lobo is its major creditor and is incorporated in a country in Europe. An insolvency proceeding against FPPL was opened in the UK by a minor creditor on 30 June 2022. A month later, Lobo was considering also opening proceedings in another country in Europe. Discuss whether the European Insolvency Regulation Recast would apply with respect to the UK commenced insolvency proceedings, and the consequences of same. In answering this question set out what further information, if any, you might need.***

Take care to provide an answer to all sub-questions.

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Marks awarded 7 out of 15

\* End of Assessment \*

**TOTAL MARKS AWARDED 35/50**

**A good paper that correctly identifies many of the issues raised and satisfactorily substantiates several answers.**