



FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT: MODULE 1

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY LAW

This is a formative assessment relating to Module 1 and is designed to provide candidates on the Foundation Certificate course with some direction and guidance as to the form and content of assessments on the course as a whole. The submission of this assessment is not compulsory and the mark awarded will not count towards the final mark for Module 1 or the course as a whole. However, students are encouraged to submit this assessment as part of their orientation for the submission of the formal (summative) assessments for all the modules on the course.

The Marking Guide for this assessment will be made available on the web pages for Module 1 as well as the Course Administration page for this course after the submission date of 15 October 2023.

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.assessment1formative]. An example would be something along the following lines: 202223-336.assessment1formative. 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. 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 October 2023. The assessment submission portal will close at 23:00 (11 pm) BST (GMT +1) on 15 October 2023. 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

It should be relatively easy to develop a single system to deal with cross-border insolvency since all jurisdictions have more or less the same local insolvency law rules.

- (a) This statement is true since all countries have implemented the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency.***
- (b) This statement is untrue since there are huge differences in both the approach and insolvency legislation of various jurisdictions.***
- (c) This statement is true since all systems have at least the same general insolvency concepts.***
- (d) The statement is true since the historical roots of all insolvency systems are the same.***

Question 1.2

The Statute of Ann, 1705 was a very important piece of legislation for the development of English insolvency law.

- (a) This statement is true since this Act introduced imprisonment of debt.***
- (b) This statement is untrue because it dealt with the distributions of the proceeds derived from the proceeds of selling the assets of the estate.***
- (c) This statement is true since it introduced the notion of discharge.***

(d) This statement is true since it introduced fraudulent conveyances into English law.

Question 1.3

The purpose of the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide (2004) has direct application in all the member States of the UN.

(a) This statement is true because UNCITRAL's model legislative guidelines apply automatically to all member States.

(b) This statement is true because all member States supported its automatic implementation in their respective jurisdictions.

(c) This statement is untrue because the Legislative Guide serves merely as soft law and contains best practice to be considered when countries revise their own insolvency legislation.

(d) This statement is untrue since the Legislative Guide is only available for use by developing countries when reforming their own insolvency laws.

Question 1.4

Modern rescue proceedings have replaced liquidation as an insolvency procedure in most systems.

(a) This statement is true since business rescue is important for socio-economic reasons.

(b) This statement is true because liquidation is viewed as a medieval and outdated process.

(c) This statement is untrue since there is still a need for both liquidation and rescue procedures in insolvency systems.

(d) This statement is untrue since some systems have no formal rescue procedure.

Question 1.5

The principles and requirements for avoidable dispositions and executory contracts are the same in all jurisdictions - hence these do not pose problems in a cross-border insolvency matter.

(a) The statement is untrue, the requirements and principles do differ and pose problems in a cross-border case.

(b) This statement is untrue because the insolvency laws of the State where the original insolvency order is issued will apply to all the other States involved in the matter.

(c) This statement is untrue since avoidable dispositions and executory contracts do not pose any problems in a cross-border case.

(d) The statement is untrue since avoidable dispositions and executory contracts may be disregarded in a cross-border case.

Question 1.6

The domestic corporate insolvency statute of a country makes no mention of the possibility of a foreign element in a liquidation commenced locally. The country has ratified a regional treaty on insolvency proceedings that contain provisions on concurrent insolvency proceedings over the same debtor in a neighbouring treaty state.

In a local liquidation commenced under the domestic corporate insolvency statute, to what law can the local court refer in order to resolve an international law issue that has arisen because of concurrent insolvency proceedings in the neighbouring state?

(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

Which one of the following documents mandates co-operation or communication between courts in concurrent insolvency proceedings on the same debtor, which are being conducted in different nation states?

(a) ALI / III Global Guidelines Applicable to Court-to-Court Communication in Cross-Border Cases (2012).

(b) EU Cross-Border Insolvency Court-to-Court Communications Guidelines (2014).

(c) UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency (1997).

(d) JIN Guidelines for Communication and Cooperation between Courts in Cross-Border Insolvency Matters (2016).

Question 1.8

Latin and Middle America states have ratified various multilateral conventions and treaties that address international insolvency issues. While they promote unity of proceedings in the treaty states where a debtor has a single commercial domicile, they acknowledge the possibility of concurrent proceedings.

Which of the following conventions and treaties does not provide for judicial co-operation where there are surplus funds remaining in a proceeding in one treaty state and there are concurrent insolvency proceedings over the same debtor in another treaty state?

(a) Montevideo Treaty on International Commercial Law (1889).

(b) Montevideo Treaty on International Commercial Terrestrial Law (1940).

(c) Montevideo Treaty on International Procedural Law (1940).

(d) Havana Convention on Private International Law (1928).

Question 1.9

The Council Regulation on Insolvency Proceedings (European Insolvency Regulation) (2000), which applies in all European Union member states except Denmark, was reviewed after a decade's operation. An amended European Insolvency Regulation (EIR) Recast (2015) was adopted in 2015 and took effect in June 2017.

Which of the following aspects of international insolvency is not addressed in the EIR Recast?

(a) Proceedings to restructure a debtor that is facing the likelihood of insolvency.

(b) Definition of "centre of the debtor's main interests".

(c) A centralised insolvency register of insolvency proceedings opened in member states.

(d) Co-operation and co-ordination provisions applicable to corporate groups.

Question 1.10

An unsecured Creditor is owed monies by the Debtor for services it supplied locally. It has issued proceedings to recover the debt in the local Court. The Debtor has moved its registration and head office to the local country from its original place of incorporation in a foreign country. The Creditor is incorporated and has its head office in that foreign country. The contract to supply, which was created by exchange of emails sent between the head offices, denominates the debt in the currency of the foreign country. The Debtor is being wound-up in the foreign country and the foreign liquidator seeks recognition and a stay in the local Court proceedings. What aspect is an international insolvency issue?

(a) The local Court's jurisdiction over the Debtor.

(b) The standing of the foreign Creditor to sue for its debt in the local Court.

(c) The foreign liquidator's standing to request a stay of the local proceedings.

(d) The fact that the debt owed to the Creditor is in a foreign currency.

Marks awarded: 8 out of 10

QUESTION 2 (direct questions) [10 marks]

Question 2.1 [maximum 2 marks]

Explain what the term "international insolvency law" means.

International Insolvency Law is defined "...in international literature as a body of rules concerning certain insolvency proceedings or measures, which cannot fully be enforced because the applicable law cannot be executed immediately and exclusively without consideration being given to the international aspect of a given case". Wessels, Bob, International Insolvency Law, Kluwer Law International (2006).

This is an authoritative quote. The answer would be improved if it also included information in your own words to indicate your personal understanding of the explanation also.

1.5

Question 2.2 [maximum 5 marks]

Differentiate between the concepts of universality and territoriality in cross-border insolvency.

The concept of universality/universalism proposes that insolvency proceedings that have been initiated in different States should be subject to/ handled using the insolvency law or provisions of one State. In the alternative, territorialism proposes that the law of each State in which insolvency proceedings are initiated should govern the said proceedings in that State without any extraterritorial effect on the ongoing proceedings in another State.

There is scope to elaborate with respect to recognition and effect in that for example, with universalism, recognition and effect requires that other States recognise that one set insolvency proceedings (that all agreed is the appropriate jurisdiction) and recognise it as having extraterritorial effect in their States.

3.5

Question 2.3 [maximum 3 marks]

Describe three recent examples of developments in the Middle East region to reform domestic insolvency laws or to address international insolvency Issues.

The Middle East region, the following developments have recently taken place to reform domestic insolvency laws:

- 1. In 2016, the UAE approved a new bankruptcy law to better deal with corporate insolvencies.**
- 2. In 2018, Saudia Arabia approved a new bankruptcy law.** There is scope to elaborate.
- 3. In 2019, the Dubai International Financial Centre passed a new insolvency law which repealed the previous law that was enacted in 2009. The 2019 law has since been amended in 2022.**

2

Marks awarded 7 out of 10

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

Question 3.1 [maximum 5 marks]

Write a brief note on the differences regarding the objectives of insolvency for individuals and corporations.

In some States, the objective of insolvency for individuals is based in the concept of rehabilitation and ultimately discharge. This concept of rehabilitation usually involves the discharge of some of the debtor's unpaid debts the focus of which is to provide the debtor with a clean slate or a "fresh start" without the obligation to satisfy pre-bankruptcy debts. On the other hand, previously corporations were not thought to be

rehabilitated and as such, they are usually dissolved following the winding-up process. However, the idea and practice of corporate rescue is now becoming more normalised.

This answer displays a satisfactory understanding of the issues. To improve your responses, ensure they are commensurate with the mark allocation – while Q 3.1 asks for a brief note, it is for 5 marks.

3.5

Question 3.2 [maximum 5 marks]

Write a brief note on the difficulties that may be encountered when dealing with insolvency law in a cross-border context relating to pertinent differences in the relevant systems.

The following are difficulties that may be encountered in a cross-border context due to the pertinent differences in the relevant systems:

- (i) the low standard of the domestic insolvency of the relevant States: the laws maybe antiquated and not suited to the realities of modern globalised trade economies which require provisions that address modern needs such as co-operation and co-ordination in cross-border insolvency matters;*
- (ii) the differences in each state's approach to insolvency law: States may have systems geared towards a pro-debtor or pro-creditor approach meaning that the relevant states would prioritise the interests of the opposing parties;*
- (iii) the differences in procedural and substantive law: the fact that insolvency proceedings can concern not only procedural law but to substantive law can naturally cause clashes or difficulties in a cross-border context.*

Further detail would be beneficial. For example, consideration of Westbrook's 9 key issues.

3.5

Question 3.3 [maximum 5 marks]

What multilateral steps have been taken in the 21st century to promote harmonisation of domestic insolvency laws? In your opinion, how much impact are these likely to have in addressing international insolvency issues? Include reasons for your opinion.

- 1. The International Bar Association (IBA) contributed to the United Nations Convention on International Trade's (UNCITRAL) project after the failure of its project to draft a Model Bankruptcy Code. This project eventually led to UNCITRAL's Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law which is intended to be a guide for States when developing or amending legislation which touch and concern insolvency.**

2. ***The World Bank presented the Principles for Effective Insolvency and Creditor/Debtor Regimes to act as guiding principles for States who are sometimes required to achieve some form of insolvency reform to secure financial support from the IMF and World Bank.***
3. ***The European Union has conducted a review of the domestic insolvency laws of its Member States and have identified areas in which harmonisation may be achieved.***

I believe this will have a great impact in addressing international insolvency issues because the harmonisation of the domestic insolvency laws will inevitably contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness with which cross-borders matters are dealt. Having standardised aspects of dealing with these matters ensure that the relevant parties know what is to be expected and as such, are able to accurately prepare for the process.

There is scope to consider political pressure, foreign investor pressure and/or loan conditions.

4.5

Marks awarded 11.5 out of 15

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

Nadir Pty Ltd (Nadir) is a company registered in Utopia. Originally it was incorporated in the neighbouring country of Erewhon before moving its registration and head office to Utopia one month ago. Apex Pty Ltd (Apex) is incorporated and has its head office in Erewhon. Apex and Nadir enter into a contract by exchange of emails between their head offices for Apex to supply goods to Nadir in Utopia. Nadir has failed to pay for the goods which have been delivered in accordance with the contract. Apex issues court proceedings against Nadir in Utopia for monies owing for the goods sold and delivered.

Meanwhile, Nadir also owes monies to creditors in Erewhon. One Erewhon creditor obtains a court winding-up order against Nadir in Erewhon and a liquidator is also appointed by that court.

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 5 marks]

Assume the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-border Insolvency has been adopted by Utopia without modification, except as required to domesticate it. For example, the Cross-border Insolvency Act of Utopia names its local laws relating to insolvency and its competent court under the Act. The Erewhon liquidator's investigations detect that Apex is suing Nadir in Utopia. The liquidator would like to stop Apex court action

against Nadir in Utopia. Advise the Erewhon liquidator on the potential relevance of the Cross-border Insolvency Act of Utopia.

Although Erewhon has appointed a liquidator and the liquidator has certain right or duties related to the assets of the debtor. Realistically, the liquidator's success with regards to assets in the state of Utopia will depend on if the winding up proceedings in Erewhon and the liquidator's appointment is recognised in Erewhon. Accordingly, Cross-Border Insolvency Act of Utopia being the domestic insolvency law should be relevant particularly where it has named its competent Court under the Act. Further thereto, it would also be important to know whether the said Act has made any provisions for recognition or enforcement of foreign insolvency proceedings and whether there are any provisions for co-ordination and co-operation in the event that there are concurrent proceedings in different States.

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

3

Question 4.2 [maximum 2 marks]

Would it make any difference to your answer in question 4.1 in the following two alternative scenarios to Apex suing for its debt?

- (a) Apex had filed proceedings to wind-up Nadir, but the matter had not yet been heard.**
- (b) Apex had obtained a court order to wind-up Nadir in Utopia prior to the Erewhon winding-up order.**

No, it would not make any difference to the answer to question 4.1..

Refer to Article 29 on concurrent insolvency proceedings, under which the local proceedings in Utopia maintain pre-eminence over the foreign proceedings in Erewhon.

0.5

Question 4.3 [maximum 8 marks]

NB: This question is not related to Questions 4.1 and 4.2

A court has ordered the commencement of an insolvency proceeding against a corporate debtor in the State of its incorporation and head office. The company has operated business in a number of States and has assets (real property or interest in land, other tangible assets and intangible assets); creditors (including taxation / revenue authorities) and directors in several States.

Select a country for the company's incorporation and, based on the insolvency laws of the country you select and the brief facts provided, describe four key international insolvency issues facing the insolvency representative in this scenario. For each issue,

what domestic laws or international instruments apply to assist the insolvency representative address these four issues?

If the company was incorporated in England, the following are the international insolvency issues facing the insolvency representative :

- i. The forum to exercise jurisdiction of the matter - the Insolvency Act 1986**
- ii. The effect or recognition afforded to foreign proceedings- UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross Border Insolvency**
- iii. The law that will be applied to issues that arise in the matter- the Insolvency Act 1986**
- iv. Co-operation and co-ordination to promote recognition - UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross Border Insolvency**

For an approach more closely applied to the facts, see the 'Model' Answer for four key international insolvency issues raised by the facts and facing the insolvency representative in this scenario. Then apply the current English laws on CBI to such issues.

3

Marks awarded 6.5 out of 15

*** End of Assessment ***

TOTAL MARKS AWARDED 33/50

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