

2014 CNIE Preparatory Assignment
for Candidates Planning on Attempting the 2014 CNIE

Message to Candidates and Sponsors

This is the first year that the CNIE Preparatory Assignment (“**Assignment**”) was introduced in response to requests for increased exposure to and experience with competency-based assessments. The Assignment consisted of two case study questions, one consumer-based and one corporate-based.

Completing these case studies and receiving feedback provides candidates with:

- practice in answering questions similar to those found on the CNIE;
- exposure to the assessment principles used;
- a preliminary indication on progress in responding to comprehensive competency-based questions; and
- an indication with respect to the amount of additional studying and preparation needed to be successful on the CNIE.

The case studies were reviewed by a team of assessors experienced in the competency-based assessment process used for the CNIE.

Candidates have been provided with feedback on their performance; however, the case studies have not been graded on a pass/fail basis, and the final assessment is not recorded in the candidate’s file. The feedback is intended to provide the candidates with valuable additional information to gauge their level of preparedness to write the CNIE and help direct efforts for candidates planning to challenge the 2014 CNIE.

After completing the review it was noted that many candidates copied and pasted excerpts from the BIA, Directives, cases and course material in their responses. It would be advisable for the candidates to answer the case studies under exam like conditions to gain maximum benefit from the Assignment.

Reviewers also noted the following weaknesses exhibited by the majority of candidates. Specifically, candidates need to demonstrate clear understanding:

- that there needs to be an advantage for the creditors to accept a proposal rather than opt for a bankruptcy, usually represented by financial terms in a proposal that are greater than the recovery in a bankruptcy;
- of how to calculate the results of a vote in a proposal;
- as to who is a ‘related party’ (i.e. aunt, director/shareholder of the debtor company) and the voting restrictions on proposals, inspector appointments, affirmation of trustee;

- when providing responses which include timing of an action or payment, indication of the point of reference for the starting of the time frame. Note: immediately after court approval, payment of all section 136 wage claims; payment of source deductions within 6 months of court approval;
- about student loans and when such loans are dischargeable, i.e. more than 7 years from end of study date;
- about Third Party fee guarantees (i.e. disclosure and documentation requirements);
- when asked to comment on the effect of “the liabilities” on discharge the candidate must comment on each liability and comment on whether or not the liability has an effect on discharge. Identification of some liabilities that have an effect on discharge without discussion of others will not be assessed as “demonstrated competence”. The Assessors cannot draw any conclusions from a non-response. A similar situation arises when discussing obligations to file tax returns;
- by not making contradictory statements. Assessors will not assess a candidate who did so as “demonstrating competence”.

Although candidates were able to identify issues, many candidates lacked the ability to analyze the issue thoroughly, make useful recommendations and define a path towards implementation, i.e. to address the “so what?” in these situations. Recitation of the BIA rules without application to case facts does not demonstrate competence. Candidates are also reminded of the critical importance of understanding what is required in a response and checking to make sure that they have, in fact, responded comprehensively.

The reviewers firmly believe that candidates will continue to adjust to the competency-based approach to assessment. This adjustment, however, will only occur if candidates use the Competency Profile to guide their preparation. Failure to do so will not only impact the ability to provide sufficient breadth in responses (as identified under each of the competency areas), but may lead to failure in the provision of adequate depth (with respect to level of competence expected for each of the competencies identified in the profile).

We trust the feedback will be useful to the candidates in assessing their degree of preparedness and their strategy regarding their on-going learning progress in the CQP. Candidates are advised to review this feedback with their sponsors.

The key dates to be aware of in terms of proceeding to the 2014 CNIE are:

- July 3, 2014 Latest date for application to attend the CNIE tutorial
- July 3, 2014 Latest date for submitting applications to register for the 2014 CNIE