

## APPENDIX 2

### Interview Questions and Prompts for Pilot interview

#### Interview Questions

1. Can you explain what do you understand by group learning?

**Prompt: To see whether the participant's understanding of group learning matches with cooperative group learning. Explore their understanding of key elements in group learning, e.g. positive interdependence, individual accountability etc**

2. Tell me about your group assignment.
3. What is required in group work?
4. Tell me how you all work together for the assignment?

**Prompt: To understand their group learning experiences, what is the task and what do they need to do.**

5. You mentioned you were doing ..., can you tell me when did you learn from that, where you used to apply it?
  - a. Gather key information
  - b. Identifying key issues
  - c. Generate ideas
  - d. Deciding
  - e. Evaluate
  - f. Communicate
  - g. Analysing
  - h. Arguing
  - i. Explain
  - j. Debate
  - k. Reasoning
  - l. Researching
  - m. Reading
  - n. Reflecting

**Prompt: To understand their words that capture critical thinking processes**

6. Do you think you have learned more from the group compared to doing it alone?

**Prompt: Some may not be a fan of group work/group learning, to probe reasons for preference.**

7. Did you feel that cooperative/ group learning :
- a. reinforced your personal learning.
  - b. increased your level of performance.
  - c. increased your level of ability
  - d. encouraged critical thinking and problem solving skills
  - e. stimulated self confidence
  - f. Motivating one another
  - g. Encouraged interdependency
  - h. Encouraged individual accountability.

**Prompt: To understand their perceived benefits of doing group work/group learning.**

8. What are the benefits you gained from the group learning experience then?

Do you think these can be gained by studying all by yourself alone?

**Prompt: To see they reiterate critical thinking and problem solving skills and as well as their preferences on learning individually or in a group.**

9. What do you understand by critical thinking and problem solving skills?

**Prompt: To see how participants explain their understanding about the two skills above.**

10. Do you feel cooperative learning/ group learning is an appropriate method for promoting critical thinking and problem solving skills? Why/Why not?

**Prompt: See if the interviewee can expand upon this.**

11. How do you go about solving a problem?

**Prompt: To understand the process of deriving a solution, it may display critical thinking processes.**

- a. Getting ideas from group members
- b. Solve the problem yourself
- c. Have an orderly way of deriving the solution.
- d. Discussing with others
- e. Listening and digesting what is heard/learned
- f. Debate and compromise with ideas
- g. Evaluating others' arguments
- h. Researching the subject matter etc.