

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2010**

TITLE OF PAPER : ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA

COURSE CODE : H302/IDE H302

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION.**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

Question one

Give a critical assessment of the theories that have been raised by scholars to account for the origins of agriculture in early pre-colonial West Africa. What impact did agricultural production have on these societies?

[25 marks]

Question two

Do you agree with Adu Boahen's statement that "the development of the Trans-Saharan trade was historically inevitable"?

[25 marks]

Question three

How correct is the view that the British decided to abolish the slave trade because "it had become more profitable to seek in West Africa raw materials and markets rather than slaves"?

[25 marks]

Question four

"It was European interests and not West African needs that determined changes in economic relations between the two regions." How valid is this assessment of West Africa's economic links with Europe before 1900?

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Question five

Using specific examples, explain how legitimate trade paved the way for the colonization of West Africa at the end of the 19th century. [25 marks]

Question six

Do you subscribe to the view that the British and French colonial economic policies in West Africa were meant to benefit the metropolitan powers? [25 marks]

Question seven

Examine the different explanations that have been given for the absence of white settler plantations in British West Africa. [25 marks]

Question eight

Assess the performance of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in promoting development among member states. [25 marks]