

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

**TITLE OF PAPER : HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA**

**COURSE CODE : H305**

**TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS :**

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

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## **SECTION A**

### **QUESTION 1**

"The pre-colonial Amerindian societies were advanced; economically and socially."  
Use as evidence any two Amerindian empires to support or negate the above statement.

### **QUESTION 2**

Describe the migration of the Aztecs from North America up to Lake Texcoco, and then give a detailed account of events that occurred from the time they arrived in the Mexico valley up to the formation of a powerful Aztec empire in Tenochtitlan.

### **QUESTION 3**

Show how the unification of Spain was crucial in promoting voyages of discovery and conquest by the Spaniards. Using five (5) factors, describe how a small Spanish army easily defeated a huge, formidable army of the Aztecs.

### **QUESTION 4**

Some scholars have argued that colonial administration by the Iberians in Latin America was a 'trial and error affair'. Critically discuss this view using relevant facts from the Spanish administration in Mexico.

## **SECTION B**

### **QUESTION 5**

Discuss any four (4) factors that led to the decolonisation of Spanish America, then use as an example, any country in Latin America and show how its independence was achieved.

### **QUESTION 6**

The nation building process in post-colonial Spanish America proved to be a very difficult one. Explain why such a situation occurred.

### **QUESTION 7**

In the years between 1830 and 1850, Latin America was characterised by economic stagnation. Discuss four (4) factors explaining such a situation. Then use any three (3) factors to explain why the economy experienced a transformation from 1850.

### **QUESTION 8**

Give two causes of the Cuban Revolution of 1959 and then proceed to give a full description of the events that unfolded from the time Fidel Castro took charge of the uprisings up to the Bay of Pigs Invasion during his reign.