

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER - MAY 2005 B.Sc
--

- Title:** AGRICULTURAL GEOGRAPHY
- Course Number:** GEP 314
- Time Allowed:** Three (3) Hours
- Instructions:**
1. Answer Three (3) Questions.
 2. Question One (1) is compulsory
 3. Choose Two (2) other questions from Section B.
 4. Where appropriate, illustrate your answer with examples.
- Marks Allocation:** Question One carries Forty (40) marks and the other Questions are Thirty (30) marks each.

This paper is not to be opened until permission has been granted by the Invigilator.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY SECTION**QUESTION 1**

Using appropriate diagrams:

- (a) Explain how commercial farmers are expected to locate and operate their agricultural production. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain how and why subsistence farmers may locate and operate their production differently from commercial farmers. (20 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS**QUESTION 2**

'Based on theory, the Decision Making Unit (DMU) in the production process is the farmer at household level. In practice, things may be different'. Using examples, discuss the validity of the above statement. (30 marks)

QUESTION 3

Using diagrams and confining your discussion to crop theory, explain the improvements made on the theoretical structure on von Thünen's (1826) model. (30 marks)

QUESTION 4

Explain why value and perishability continue to influence present-day trade despite advances in transportation and food preservation methods. (30 marks)

QUESTION 5

'Economic theories assume that farmers will adjust their inputs in response to price changes and shift from one enterprise to another as relative product prices change.' Using examples, explain why this may not always be true. (30 marks)