

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 2008
BASS II

TITLE OF PAPER : URBAN AND ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

COURSE NUMBER : GEP 229

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS (TWO FROM EACH SECTION)
2. ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH EXAMPLES AND LARGE CLEARLY DRAWN DIAGRAMS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

ALLOCATION OF MARKS : ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 25 MARKS

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

SECTION A**ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS****QUESTION 1**

- (a) Define the concept of a primate city and explain how an urban place becomes a primate city. (5 marks)
- (b) With reference to Table 1, calculate the extent of dominance of Manzini and Luanda on the urban systems of Swaziland and Angola respectively using:
- (i) The two - city index (8 marks)
- (ii) The multi - city index (consider the top four cities) (8 marks)
- (c) According to your calculations, which is a primate city between Manzini and Luanda? Explain your answer. (4 marks)

Table 1 Major Urban Places and their Population Sizes in Swaziland and Angola

SWAZILAND		ANGOLA	
<u>Urban Place</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Urban Place</u>	<u>Population</u>
Manzini	78 000	Luanda	2 400 000
Mbabane	57 000	Lobito	730 000
Simunye	9 500	Gabela	535 000
Mhlume	7 600	Benguela	307 000
Nhlangano	6 500	Lubango	126 000
Piggs Peak	3 300	Malanja	115 000

(25 marks)**QUESTION 2**

With the help of examples, explain any **four** approaches used in the classification of cities in the world. (25 marks)

QUESTION 3

- (a) Briefly explain the dimensions of the low income housing problem in Swaziland. (5 marks)
- (b) Critically explain the various approaches African countries have implemented to develop low income housing in urban areas. (20 marks)
- (25 marks)**

SECTION B

ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 4

- (a) Using examples, describe Rostow's model of economic development. 15 marks
- (b) Using Swaziland as an example, explain the strengths and weaknesses of Rostow's model of economic development. 10 marks
(25 marks)

QUESTION 5

'Transport cost rates are not always proportional to distance'. Discuss the validity of this statement by citing factors that influence transport cost rates. **(25 marks)**

QUESTION 6

- (a) Discuss the factors that influence exploitation of mineral resources in African countries south of the Sahara. (15 marks)
- (b) Discuss briefly, the major threats to the mining industry in Africa south of the Sahara. (10 marks)
(25 marks)