

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 2010
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)
- (25 marks)**

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

| SWAZILAND | | ANGOLA | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Urban Place</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Urban Place</i> | <i>Population</i> |
| 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 |

QUESTION 2

Compare and contrast Western urbanization and the urbanization process taking place in developing countries. (25 marks)

QUESTION 3

With reference to African countries south of the Sahara, discuss the main problems that arise due to rapid urban growth. (25 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS**QUESTION 4**

'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 5

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

QUESTION 6

- (a) Provide three definitions of the concept of globalization (9 marks)
 - (b) State TWO global economic organizations in which Swaziland is a member and briefly describe their major functions. (4 marks)
 - (c) Explain the merits and demerits of being part of the global economy for a country like Swaziland. (12 marks)
- (25 marks)**