UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 2012
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 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 in 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	
Urban Place	*Population*	*Urban Place*	*Population*
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
Source: CSO, 1997		Hypothetical	**(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)