

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2005**

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA**

**COURSE CODE** : **H302/IDE H302**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS** :  
1. **ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS, CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE (1) FROM EACH SECTION.**  
2. **ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

**SECTION A****QUESTION 1**

Critically analyze the different schools of thought that explain the origin of domesticated food production in West Africa. What impact did the Neolithic Revolution have on pre-colonial societies of West Africa?

**QUESTION 2**

What factors facilitated the development and growth of the Trans-Saharan trade? Assess the impact of this trade on pre-colonial West African Societies.

**QUESTION 3**

"It is necessary to understand the reasons for the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in order to explain resistance to it". Assess the validity of this assertion.

**QUESTION 4**

What measures were taken by West Africans to challenge the loss of their independence? Why did these measures fail?

**SECTION B****QUESTION 5**

Discuss the major characteristics of colonial economic policy in British West Africa.

**QUESTION 6**

Using examples, assess the role played by West African initiative and bravery in the decolonization process of the region.

**QUESTION 7**

What progress, if any, has post-colonial Nigeria made in achieving agricultural sufficiency?

**QUESTION 8**

Trace the history of the formation of ECOWAS and examine the role it has played in the promotion of economic cooperation and development in post-colonial West Africa.