

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2006

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

EITHER (a) “The history of Mali makes it clear that the empire prospered under strong and wise leaders and it weakened and crumbled under inept one”. Assess the validity of this assertion.

OR

(b) What role did **trade** and **Islam** play in the rise of the ancient kingdom of Ghana, Mali and Songhay?

QUESTION 2

Would you agree with Sir Reginald Coupland that the slave trade was abolished for humanitarian reasons?

QUESTION 3

Critically analyze the various schools of thought advanced to explain the colonisation of West Africa.

QUESTION 4

“A means of eliminating abuses of the brokerage system and providing more payment to the farmers”. Was this an adequate justification for the introduction of the 1937 buying agreement? Discuss the response of West Africans to the 1937 buying agreement.

SECTION B

QUESTION 5

Critically examine the various measures adopted by colonial governments in West Africa to create labour.

QUESTION 6

With reference to the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, critically examine British Colonial Economic Planning in West Africa in the post World War II period.

QUESTION 7

Trace the historical root of the underdevelopment of the West African region to the time of independence.

QUESTION 8

Assess the performance of ECOWAS in promoting development in member countries.