

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2008**

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

**COURSE CODE : H302/IDE H302**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS :**

- 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS  
CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE 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 one**

Give a critical assessment of the theories that have been raised by scholars to account for the origins of agriculture in pre-colonial West Africa.

### **Question two**

Discuss the reasons that were responsible for the growth of trans-Atlantic commerce that involved the sale of West African slaves to the Americas.

### **Question three**

Using Sir George Goldie's Royal Niger Company as an example, explain how the activities of European traders paved the way for the scramble and colonization of West Africa.

### **Question 4**

It was European interests and not West African needs that determined changes in economic relations between the two regions. How valid is this assessment of West Africa's economic links with Europe before 1900?

## **SECTION B**

### **Question five**

Analyze the causes of the partition and scramble for Africa at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Question six**

Examine the different explanations that have been given for the absence of white settler plantations in British West Africa.

### **Question seven**

With reference to any cash crop, assess the role of European trading firms in the marketing of peasant produce in colonial West Africa.

### **Question eight**

Do you agree with the view that the integration of West Africa into the international economy during the colonial period increasingly led to the region's dependence on Western capitalism?