

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2009**

**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**

Analyze the different competing interpretations of the origins of agricultural production in early pre-colonial West Africa. [25 marks]

### **Question two**

Discuss the reasons for the development of trade in early pre-colonial West Africa. What features can be used to distinguish local trade from long distance trade? [25 marks]

### **Question three**

Discuss the different strategies employed by the British in their efforts to abolish the slave trade in the 19th century. How did the other European countries react to such efforts? [25 marks]

### **Question four**

How correct is the view that economic rather than humanitarian reasons were largely responsible for Britain's decision to abolish the slave trade? [25 marks]

## **SECTION B**

### **Question five**

Discuss the main features of the economic policies implemented by the British and French in their West African colonies between 1900 and 1939.

### **Question six**

With reference to the marketing system of cocoa in colonial Ghana and Nigeria, examine and explain the cocoa hold ups of the 1930s

### **Question seven**

Do you agree with Michael Crowder that the economic policies implemented in colonial West Africa were meant to benefit the metropolitan powers?

### **Question eight**

Analyze the policies adopted by governments in independent West Africa to transform their economies.