

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANAITIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2011**

**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**

Give a critical assessment of the competing theories that have been raised by scholars to account for the origins of agriculture in early pre-colonial West Africa. [25 marks]

**Question 2**

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

**Question 3**

Give a detailed account of the reasons that were responsible for the origins and growth of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. [25 marks]

**Question 4**

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 5**

In what ways did European commercial activities in West Africa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century pave the way for the partition and eventual colonization of the region? [25 marks]

**Question 6**

With reference to any cash crop, assess the role of European trading firms in the marketing of peasant produce in colonial West Africa. [25 marks]

**Question 7**

Colonial economic policies in West Africa were meant to promote economic growth in the metropolitan countries rather than the colonies themselves. Discuss. [25 marks]

**Question 8**

Discuss the successes and failures of the economic policies implemented by West African governments since independence. [25 marks]