

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER, 2013

TITLE OF PAPER : ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA TO 1900

COURSE CODE : H315/IDE H315

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS**

- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**

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

Question 1

Critically analyze J. Desmond Clark's explanation that the agricultural systems of early pre-colonial West African societies owe their origins to external influences. **[25 marks]**

Question 2

Discuss the reasons that were responsible for the growth of an exchange system in West Africa before the development of the Trans-Saharan trade. **[25 marks]**

Question 3

Would you agree with Adu Boahen and Michael Tidy's statement that the development of the Trans-Saharan trade "was historically inevitable"? **[25 marks]**

Question 4

Explain how European economic interests and their experience with West African coastal societies prompted the development and growth of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade between the 15th and 18th centuries. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

Assess the impact of the Trans-Saharan and Trans-Atlantic slave trades on the West African economy. **[25 marks]**