

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2014

COURSE TITLE : **ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA**
SINCE 1900

COURSE CODE : **H316/IDEH316**

TIME ALLOWED : **TWO (2) HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS : **ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS**

ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

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

Question 1

Discuss the main economic objectives for the establishment of colonial rule in British and French West Africa. Why did it become necessary for the colonial governments in West Africa to develop new forms of transport and communication in order to achieve these objectives? [25 marks]

Question 2

“The African Peasant and not the European planter was to be the basis of for the exploitation of West Africa,” (Michael Crowder: 1980).

Explain the significance of Michael Crowder’s observation with regards to the absence of a white settler dominated economy in Colonial West Africa. [25 marks]

Question 3

Explain how European commercial interests or trading companies operating in West Africa were able to establish a virtual monopoly over the export and import sector of the colonial economy between 1900 and 1945. [25 marks]

Question 4

Describe African reaction to the cocoa buying agreement introduced by the British in their West African colonies of the Gold Coast and Nigeria in the 1930s. [25 marks]

Question 5

Discuss the successes and failures of the economic policies implemented by governments in West Africa after independence. [25 marks]