

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION DECEMBER, 2018

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

COURSE CODE: HIS315/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 BE
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

Question 1

“The development of agriculture in early pre-colonial West Africa was a result of geographical and ecological change in the region than a process of imitating other regions.” How valid is this explanation for the development of pre-colonial West Africa’s agricultural system? [25 marks]

Question 2

Why were early pre-colonial West African societies able to develop a distributive system that allowed the exchange and transfer of products between the different geographical belts of the West Africa region? In your answer, you should include the types of trading patterns that developed as a result of West African involvement in exchange relations. [25 marks]

Question 3

Discuss the factors that were responsible for the development of an exchange system that connected West Africa’s economic system with the economies of societies north of the Sahara desert between the 3rd and 4th centuries. [25 marks]

Question 4 (a)

Discuss the set of economic circumstances that led to the development of the trans-Atlantic trade that involved the sale of West Africa humans rather than raw materials to European traders during the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries [25 marks]

OR

Question 4 (b)

According to A.G. Hopkins, the British abolished the slave trade primarily because “the industrial capitalism of the nineteenth century began to replace the purely commercial capitalism of the eighteenth century.” How accurate is this characterization of Britain’s decision to end the slave trade at the beginning of the nineteenth century? [25 marks]

Question 5

Using specific examples, discuss the economic considerations that encouraged Europeans to colonize specific areas of interest in West Africa at the end of the 19th century. [25 marks]