

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER 2019

TITLE OF PAPER : ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA TO 1900

COURSE CODE : IDEH315/HIS315

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS

2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

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

Question 1

Sub-Saharan societies, including societies in early pre-colonial West Africa, began to practice agricultural production out of need rather than imitating their North African neighbours. How valid is this statement in explaining the origins and development of the agricultural systems of West African societies? **[25 marks]**

Question 2

Discuss the major trading patterns of pre-colonial West African societies. **[25 marks]**

Question 3

Critically assess Professor Adu Boahen's statement that the development of the trans-Saharan trade between the 3rd and 4th centuries was historically inevitable. **[25 marks]**

Question 4

Critically examine both the humanitarian and economic reasons that have been advanced to account for the British decision to abolish the slave trade at the beginning of the 19th century. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

How did the activities of European private capital in the Niger Delta pave the way for the scramble for and eventual colonization of West Africa at the beginning of the 20th century? **[25 marks]**