

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER, 2012

TITLE OF PAPER : ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA TO 1900

COURSE CODE : H315/IDE H315

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. ANSWER TWO (2) QUESTIONS**
- 2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS**

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BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question 1

The shift from foraging to agricultural production is said to have significantly transformed human society and the ecology. Yet there is no widely agreed upon explanation for why (as opposed to how) it occurred. Discuss two competing theories for the origins of agricultural systems in early pre-colonial West Africa. [25 marks]

Question 2

Discuss the reasons that were responsible for the development of trade 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-Saharan 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]

Question 5

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