

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER DECEMBER, 2015

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

Give a critical assessment of the main competing theories that have been raised by scholars to account for the origins of agriculture in early pre-colonial West Africa. **[25 marks]**

Question 2

In addition to agriculture and metal-working, exchange systems are said to have been of great significance to the growth of the domestic economies of most societies in sub-Saharan Africa (A. G. Hopkins, 1973). Discuss the major factors that were responsible for the development of exchange relations in early pre-colonial West Africa. **[25 marks]**

Question 3

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

Question 4

Discuss the reasons that were responsible for the growth of trans-Atlantic commerce that involved the sale of West Africans into slavery in the Americas. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

Examine the role played by Sir George Goldie and the Royal Niger Company in the colonization of the Niger Delta by the British at the end of the 19th century. **[25 marks]**