

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER MAY, 2018

TITLE OF PAPER : ECONOMIC HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA SINCE 1900

COURSE CODE : HIS 316/IDE H316

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

Discuss the economic reasons that encouraged European governments to adopt protectionist policies and to use colonial rule as a tool for protecting specific areas of economic interest in West Africa towards the end of the 19th century. **[25 marks]**

Question 2

Describe the major changes made to the transportation and communications network in West Africa at the beginning of colonial rule. Why did the colonial powers find it necessary to transform West Africa's transport and communications network? **[25 marks]**

Question 3

Critically examine the Eurocentric explanation for the absence of a settler plantation economy in West Africa. What economic considerations can you give to account for the colonial powers' reluctance to establish white owned farms in colonial West Africa?

[25 marks]

Question 4

Discuss the sequence of events that led to the decision by West African farmers to hold their cocoa in the Gold Coast and Nigeria in the 1930s. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

Describe the state of the West African Economy at the time of independence. What major obstacles did the new governments in West Africa encounter in their efforts to develop the economies of their countries after sixty years of neglect? **[25 marks]**