

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER, 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: ECONOMIC HISTORY OF AFRICA IN EARLY HISTORICAL
TIMES

COURSE CODE: HIS631

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS
2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 100 MARKS

DO NOT OPEN PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION.

1. Give a critical analysis of the ways in which D.W. Phillipson (1977), Philip Curtin *et al* (1978), J.E. Parkington (1981) David Birmingham (1983) Robert Harms (1989), John Masson (2011) and Paul Abiero Opondo (2011) present the relationship between the environment, technology and hunter- gatherer and fishing economies in pre- colonial Africa.

2. EITHER (a) "The Pressure of climate which forced the people of North Central Africa to modify their food- gathering processes slowly led to the development of agriculture," (David Birmingham; 1983: 8) In the light of this verdict discuss the ways in which climatic changes shaped economic developments and population movements in Africa during the Iron Age.

OR (b) "A result of iron technology and the banana". Comment on this verdict in relation to Bantu migrations in Africa. Support your response with five scholars' views.

3. Give a critical analysis of the ways in which various scholars have presented the relationship between climate, irrigation technology and pre- colonial economies in Africa.

4. "Ecological differentiation was the first factor which led to regular trading contacts in West- Central Africa." Joseph C. Miller (1983) Discuss the validity of this statement with reference to the development of trade in pre- colonial West- Central Africa.

5. How has the role of women been presented in studies on pre- colonial economies in Africa? Support your response with views from three scholars.

6. Drawing examples from various pre-colonial societies, comment on Martin Hall's argument that: "Although the ecology of the subcontinent defined the possibilities open to farmers at any particular time, their ability to modify their surroundings and change the character of their economy was constantly changing the ecological parameters."

END OF QUESTION PAPER