

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION: MAY 2006
BASS II.

TITLE OF PAPER : URBAN AND ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY
COURSE NUMBER : GEP 229
TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS (TWO FROM EACH SECTION)
2. ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH EXAMPLES AND LARGE CLEARLY DRAWN DIAGRAMS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

ALLOCATION OF MARKS : ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 25 MARKS

THIS PAPER MUST NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A: ANSWER ANY **TWO** QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

- (a) Briefly describe the Rank Size Rule. (6 marks)
- (b) Table 1 shows urban areas in Swaziland and their population sizes. Based on the table, calculate the expected population sizes of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th ranked cities using the Rank Size Rule. (4 marks)
- (c) Plot the data provided in Table 1 to produce a curve comparing ranks of the cities and their population sizes and make a general comment on what is portrayed by the graph. (5 marks)
- (d) Comment on the applicability of the Rank - Size Rule in Swaziland and provide evidence to support your argument. (10 marks)
- (25 marks)**

QUESTION 2

With reference to African countries south of the Sahara, discuss the main problems that arise due to rapid urban growth. (25 marks)

QUESTION 3

Compare and contrast Western urbanization and the urbanization process taking place in developing countries. (25 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY **TWO** QUESTIONS

QUESTION 4

'Transport cost rates are not always proportional to distance'. Discuss the validity of this statement by citing factors that influence transport cost rates. (25 marks)

QUESTION 5

- (a) Discuss the factors that influence exploitation of mineral resources in African countries south of the Sahara. (15 marks)
- (b) Discuss briefly, the major threats to the mining industry in Africa south of the Sahara. (10 marks)
- (25 marks)**

QUESTION 6

- (a) Critically assess the strategies the Government of Swaziland is implementing to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country. (15 marks)
- (b) Identify and explain factors that may pose a threat to the retention of FDI in Swaziland and the country's eligibility to global markets. (10 marks)
- (25 marks)**

Table 1 Swaziland Urban Areas and their Population, 1997.

Urban Area	Population Size
Simunye	9 535
Mhlume	7 661
Big Bend	9 374
Lavumisa	1 117
Bulembu	2 443
Mankayane	1 040
Thabankulu	2 551
Hlatikulu	2 076
Tshaneni	2 250
Siteki	4 157
Bhunya	2 650
Piggs Peak	4 581
Nhlangano	6 540
Mbabane	57 992
Manzini	78 734
Ngwenya	8842
Vuvulane	3 594

Central Statistical Office (1997).