



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
(All rights reserved)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP  
COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

END OF SEMESTER ONE EXAMINATION FOR LEVEL 300, 2024/2025

COURSE CODE: TEIS 331

COURSE TITLE: ECONOMIC HISTORY OF GHANA: FROM PRE-COLONIAL TIMES  
TO THE END OF COLONIAL PERIOD

DURATION: 2 HOURS

---

*Instruction:* Answer all questions in Section A and any three questions in Section B.

**SECTION A**

[25 Marks]

Answer all the questions in this section.

**INSTRUCTION:** Read the following questions carefully and select the best option from A – D.

1. In which vegetational zone would you find Shea butter trees?
  - A. Coastal belt
  - B. Forest belt
  - C. Savannah belt
  - D. Sudan savanna
  
2. Which vegetational zone supports the cultivation of cocoa?
  - A. Coastal belt
  - B. Forest belt
  - C. Highland belt
  - D. Savannah belt
  
3. Compare the characteristics of farming in the Savannah zone versus the Forest zone.  
What conclusion can you draw?
  - A. Forest zone farming was more diverse due to higher rainfall
  - B. Forest zone was limited to root crops while savannah had more grains
  - C. Savannah zone had more reliable farming due to stable climate
  - D. Savannah zone was more productive in all types of crops

STUDENT'S ID NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which vegetational zone would you judge as having been most significant to pre-colonial Ghana's economy, and why?
  - A. Savannah zone, because it produced most of the exportable goods
  - B. Forest zone, because it produced gold and cocoa which were highly valued
  - C. Coastal zone, because fishing and salt production enabled widespread trade
  - D. All the zones were equally important through interdependence
5. How did pre-colonial Ghanaian farmers address soil fertility challenges in the Forest zone?
  - A. By applying chemical fertilizers
  - B. By irrigating fields with river water
  - C. Through continuous mono-cropping
  - D. Through shifting cultivation and fallowing
6. What relationship existed between religious beliefs and farming practices in pre-colonial Ghana?
  - A. Certain days were considered sacred without farm work
  - B. Farmers consulted priests only during droughts
  - C. Religion had no influence on farming practices
  - D. Religious leaders determined what crops could be planted
7. The nature of social structure in pre-colonial Ghana in view of the cooperative farming system known as "ndabba".
  - A. demonstrates that farms were owned by extended family units
  - B. indicates a hierarchical society with landlords and tenants
  - C. shows that farming was primarily a solitary activity
  - D. suggests a communal approach to labour and resource sharing
8. Which of these statements is most accurate regarding the sustainability of pre-colonial fishing methods compared to modern commercial fishing. Which statement is most accurate?
  - A. Pre-colonial methods were more sustainable due to limited harvesting capacity
  - B. Modern methods are more sustainable due to scientific management
  - C. Both approaches are equally sustainable but in different ways
  - D. Neither approach addresses fundamental sustainability issues
9. If you were a leather worker in pre-colonial northern Ghana, which animal skins would you most likely use for your craft?
  - A. Cattle, sheep and goats
  - B. Elephants and rhinoceros
  - C. Lions and leopards
  - D. Monkeys and apes

10. The most influential factor in the development of the pottery industry in pre-colonial Ghana was the...
- A. Availability of clay deposits
  - B. Cultural preferences for pottery designs
  - C. Influence from neighbouring countries
  - D. Proximity to markets.
11. What does the male dominance in wood carving reveal about gender roles in traditional industries in pre-colonial Ghana?
- A. Certain skills were gender-specific based on physical demands and social norms
  - B. Men were considered more creative than women
  - C. Women were prohibited from learning skilled crafts
  - D. Wood resources were controlled exclusively by men
12. Which traditional industry had the greatest cultural significance in pre-colonial Ghana?
- A. Bend making, as it held significant ceremonial importance
  - B. Gold mining, as it represented wealth and power
  - C. Kente weaving, as it embodied philosophical and cultural symbolism
  - D. Pottery, as it served daily essential functions
13. How did traders from the Forest zone acquire salt in pre-colonial Ghana?
- A. By importing it from Europe
  - B. By manufacturing it locally
  - C. Through barter with Arab merchants
  - D. Through trade with Coastal or Savannah communities
14. How would you describe the pre-colonial Ghanaian economy characterized by the development of trade routes and market centres?
- A. A complex network of interdependence existed between ecological zones
  - B. The economy was centrally controlled by powerful kingdoms
  - C. The economy was primarily focused on external trade
  - D. There was limited interaction between different regions
15. The barter system impacted the pre-colonial Ghana's economy because it...
- A. promoted regional specialization despite its limitations
  - B. severely limited economic growth by restricting trade volume
  - C. was efficient and eliminated the need for currency
  - D. was superior to monetary systems for local economies
16. The people of Gwelu (Ghana) primarily responded to the threat of slave raiders by...
- A. building dome-shaped houses
  - B. building protective walls
  - C. creating maroon societies
  - D. relocating to coastal areas

17. Which economic development best demonstrates the colonizers' control over trade in West Africa?
- A. Colonial Pact regulations
  - B. Introduction of new currency
  - C. Modernization of agriculture
  - D. Tax collection procedures
18. John Kabes' trading strategy that contributed most to his success was the
- A. building of close ties with European powers
  - B. Maintenance of exclusive relationships with kings
  - C. Playing of European powers against each other
  - D. Sole reliance on slave trading operations
19. Which action would most effectively address economic exploitation based on the economic activities under colonial rule?
- A. Developing indigenous banking systems
  - B. Expanding agricultural diversification
  - C. Focusing on domestic trade networks
  - D. Increasing mineral export production
20. How did the Barter Trade System limit economic development in pre-colonial Ghana?
- A. Difficulty in determining exchange values
  - B. Lack of agricultural specialization
  - C. Reliance on international trade routes
  - D. Restrictions on who could participate
21. Evaluate the most significant factor that enabled W.N. Oconsey compete successfully with European trading firms:
- A. Control of salt production facilities
  - B. Family connections to local royalty
  - C. Fluency in European languages
  - D. Network of local agents and middlemen
22. Which economic policy implemented by Governor Guggenberg had the greatest long-term impact on Ghana's economy?
- A. Construction of the Takoradi Harbour
  - B. Diversification of agricultural crops
  - C. The forest protection legislation
  - D. Ten-Year Development Plan design
23. What distinguishes R.J. Chartey's business operations from other merchants of his time?
- A. Exclusive focus on palm oil exports
  - B. His multinational trading connections
  - C. Innovation in product development
  - D. Reliance on European partnerships

24. Abolition of the slave trade significantly transformed West African economies because it
- A. Decreased European economic interest
  - B. Improved human rights conditions
  - C. Redirected focus to commodity exports
  - D. Reduced regional trading networks
25. Which of these developments contributed most to the evolution of the Gold Coast as the world's leading cocoa producer?
- A. British colonial policies and support
  - B. Development of transportation systems
  - C. Indigenous entrepreneurial initiatives
  - D. Tomé Quarsie's introduction of cocoa

STUDENT'S ID NO \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION B

*Answer only THREE (3) questions from this section. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Explain five ways in which traditional industries contributed to the cultural identity of pre-colonial Ghanaian societies. (25 marks)
2. (a) List any five (5) challenges associated with the barter trade system in pre-colonial Ghana. (10 marks)  
(b) Discuss the nature of internal trade in pre-colonial Ghana. (15 marks)
3. (a) Describe any two (2) factors that led to the shift from gold to slave trade in the 18th century. (10 marks)  
(b) Discuss any three (3) effects of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade on Ghana. (15 marks)
4. Discuss any five (5) economic contributions of Governor Gordon Guggisberg to the Gold Coast. (25 marks)
5. Study the following extract from Durrett, R.E. (1983). African Merchants of the Gold Coast, 1860-1905—Dynamics of Indigenous Entrepreneurship. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 25(4), 661-691.

One of the leading merchants of the southeastern Gold Coast was William Nahr Ocansey, whose headquarters was at the town of Ada in the Adangbe area located near the mouth of the River Volta. A completely self-made man, though he could neither read nor write, he built up a lucrative trade based on export of palm products to England and Germany and inward shipments of European cloth, tobacco, and liquor, plus local fish and salt, to central and northern Ghana.

Ocansey operated in the tenuous marginal zone between the indigenous production centers of the Lower Volta (including the Anlo Coast of present-day Togo) and the seaborne trading system dominated by leading British houses such as Alexander Miller Brothers and F. and A. Swartz... That the Ocansey firm was able to hold its own for several decades against European economies of scale was traceable to its expert use of local technologies, coupled with its position of prominence within the surrounding Adangbe region and its network of more than fifty traditional traders and middlemen.

Several elements inherent in the traditional socio-political structure also played a part in W. N. Ocansey's rise to prominence. He was a younger brother of the king of Ada. He exploited this relationship to the fullest in purchasing local supplies of salt and fish for interior African markets, in

building an organization of diverse agents and boatmen, and in acquiring capital for investment in canoes and in land for warehouses and branch stores.

- (a) Identify any five (5) factors that contributed to William Nkrumah Opansey's success as an indigenous entrepreneur. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain any five ways indigenous entrepreneurs like Opansey adapted to compete the European trading companies in the Gold Coast. (15 marks)

Examiner: K. Adum Kyeremeh PhD