

Programa de Historia Económica y Social
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Universidad de la República, Montevideo

African Economic History

Take-Home Exam

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Teachers:

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Instructions

Dear students, this exam consists of six broad essay-questions relating to the contents of the course in African Economic History. You are requested to **select three** of the six questions, which you answer in essay format with a limit of 1,000 words. Please feel free to write in Spanish. The grading of your essay will be based on the following criteria; 1) correct presentation of facts; 2) structure and logic of your argument; 3) adequate use of literature discussed during the course; 4) the depth of your analysis and interpretation of literature, theories and historical perspectives. Throughout, be sure to focus on the question.

Success!

Gareth and Ewout

1. In the first lecture we discussed different perspectives in the literature regarding the long-term economic development of Sub-Saharan Africa, along the nexuses of geography *versus* institutions and external dependency *versus* internal development. Use nexuses to discuss the varying positions in the literature regarding the impact and long-term consequences of colonial rule in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2. How was it profitable to export (enslaved) labour from a labour-scarce region (Africa), albeit to another labour-scarce region (the Americas)?

3. How did the process of state formation in Africa differ from that in Europe and in Latin America, and with what economic consequences? You may restrict your answer to before 1890, or before 1960, if you wish.

4. Examine the nature, timing and effects of the commercial transition in Africa, from the export of slaves to the export of agricultural and mineral commodities.

5. How far did colonial rule change the pattern of economic development (including both economic activity and the institutions surrounding it) in Africa?

6. Discuss the rationale, successes and failures of EITHER the 'state-led' (pre-Structural Adjustment) OR the 'market-led' (post-Adjustment) periods of economic policy since Independence.