

HUMANITIES

Duration : 3 hours

Please read the following instructions carefully.

1. This paper has THREE (3) sections – A, B and C, and comprises **FIVE (5)** printed pages.
2. Answer FIVE (5) questions from any of the three sections. If more than five questions are attempted, only the first five will be marked. Candidates intending to offer Economics or Computing must answer at least THREE (3) questions from the Economics section, i.e. section A.
3. Do not write on the question paper. Write your answers on the answer sheets provided. Begin each question with a fresh sheet of paper. Write the question number clearly. Each question carries 20 marks.
4. At the end of the examination, place the cover page on top of your answer sheets and tie them together using the string provided. Complete the information required on the cover page, including the section and question numbers. **Please fill in the question number correctly. Otherwise, your answers will not be graded. For example,**

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE	
Section	Question
A	1
B	3
C	5

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE	
Section	Question
A	2
A	4
C	3

5. Do not take any paper, including the question paper or unused answer sheets, out of the examination hall.

SECTION A - ECONOMICS

Answer a total of FIVE (5) questions only. These five questions may be from any of the three sections. Candidates intending to offer Economics or Computing must answer at least THREE (3) questions from the Economics section, i.e. section A.

A1

- a. Francisco can produce either 50 laptops or 75 vacuum cleaners in an hour. Mary can produce either 100 laptops or 120 vacuum cleaners in an hour. They each have 12 hours per day for producing goods. Without trade, each person devotes half his/her time for producing each good.

Construct a diagram of the two-person economy's *combined* production possibilities frontier, with laptops on the horizontal axis and vacuum cleaners on the vertical axis. Use the diagram to explain why Francisco and Mary can gain via specialization and trade. Derive the upper and lower bounds for the terms of trade, in vacuum cleaners per laptop.

[10 marks]

- b. Consider the simple model of comparative advantage described in Part A. Why might this theory provide insufficient justification for removing barriers to trade for goods and services between countries?

[10 marks]

A2

- a. Suppose that over the last month, the quantity of coffee sold has risen, while the price of tea has risen. There are two candidate explanations: (i) the price of coffee beans has fallen, and (ii) the price of tea leaves has risen. Examine each candidate in isolation and decide whether it explains the observations. Use supporting demand-supply diagrams in your answer.

[10 marks]

- b. Why do economists believe it is important to make the distinction between nominal values and real values? Discuss with reference to GDP, interest rates, and wage rates.

[10 marks]

A3

- a. "It is never profit-maximizing to produce beyond the point when average costs begin to rise." With the aid of diagrams, explain whether you agree or disagree in the context of monopolistic competition.

[10 marks]

- b. Explain how the liquidity preference theory of money works, and its implications for monetary policy.

[10 marks]

A4

- a. What is the impact of market structure on the speed of product innovation?

[10 marks]

- b. Why does the government budget deficit become larger during a recession? Should a government of an economy in recession take steps to reduce the deficit?

[10 marks]

A5

- a. Should the government of your country provide subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles?

[10 marks]

- b. How do exports and imports affect a currency's exchange rate? How does the exchange rate affect net exports? Use a demand-supply model of the currency market to explain.

[10 marks]

SECTION B - GEOGRAPHY

Answer a total of FIVE (5) questions only. These five questions may be **from any of the three sections**. Each question carries **20 marks**. Candidates intending to offer Economics or Computing must answer at least **THREE (3)** questions from the Economics section, i.e. section A.

B1

What are 'natural hazards', and how do impacts of natural hazards relate to human geography?

[20 marks]

B2

What are the costs and benefits associated with mono-cropping cash crops compared to mixed farming?

[20 marks]

B3

Why is rural-urban migration a critical issue of national development? Use a specific example to illustrate your answer.

[20 marks]

B4

What is cultural tourism and how may it contribute to national development? Give examples.

[20 marks]

B5

Why is climate change relevant to human and physical geography in your country?

[20 marks]

SECTION C - HISTORY

Answer a total of FIVE (5) questions only. These five questions may be **from any of the three sections**. Each question carries **20 marks**. Candidates intending to offer Economics or Computing must answer at least **THREE (3)** questions from the Economics section, i.e. section A.

C1

The notion of a 'Civilizing Burden' best encapsulates the reason for European Imperial expansion in Southeast Asia in the last 500 years. Do you agree? Why or why not?

[20 marks]

C2

"Given that it was never colonized, Siam/Thailand's nation building experience is different from other Southeast Asian countries". Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

[20 marks]

C3

While much discussed and touted as a significant force in world affairs, Globalization impact on the trajectories of Asian nations is at best minimal. Do you agree?

[20 marks]

C4

2017 marks more than seven decades since the end of World War 2 and the commencement of decolonization in many Southeast Asian countries. Discuss at least one significant continuity and one important change beyond political independence in one Asian country of your choice.

[20 marks]

C5

While still strongly dominant in the national imagination, the continued existence of the nation is very much threat. The forces of Globalization threaten to end the era of independent nation states in Asia well before the 100th year anniversary of the end of World War 2. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to at least two case studies of Asian countries.

[20 marks]

END OF PAPER