In the time allotted for this exam, you must write a total of three (3) questions. Section A is MANDATORY. Choose two questions from Section B.

Be sure each essay has a clear line of argument, addresses as many dimensions of the question as possible, and offers relevant, persuasive evidence from specific secondary sources wherever appropriate. Good luck!

Section A: MANDATORY -- answer this question:

1. Congratulations! You have been hired to teach African history at a small liberal arts college. Your department chair wants you to develop a semester-long course called “Introduction to African History” at the 100 level, which will attract history majors, and also serve as an elective for majors who have chosen a global studies focus. To describe your course:
   a. Develop a 2-page rationale for the course that addresses your approach to this challenge.
   b. Develop three broad subsections and provide 1-2 page abstracts of what each one will cover
   c. List the major readings will be used in each subsection
   d. Describe one assignment, whether written, oral or digital, that advances your pedagogical aims for the course (1-2 pages).

Section B: Answer TWO of the following four questions:

2. To what extent have scholars understood the Western Indian Ocean world as either an independent region or as a region dependent upon the historical forces of its littoral constituent parts? How do these debates shape your own research interests?

3. Discuss the major debates in the field of African Economic History over the past five decades. Why have certain approaches (Marxist, formalist, etc.) either endured or waned during this time?

4. Richard Reid has recently argued that ‘the relative demise of precolonial scholarship should be a matter of profound concern, for it has involved the detachment of Africa’s turbulent present – and its recent past – from deeper patterns of both change and continuity’. In the scholarship on pre-colonial Africa, what are the ‘deeper patterns of both change and continuity’ that most saliently define ‘Africa’ as a unit of historical inquiry, and to what extent are these ‘deeper patterns’ pertinent to your own research?

5. Identify and discuss two major methodological innovations in the study of African History since the 1970s. To what extent did these innovations emerge in response to local research conditions and priorities, or instead to shifts in wider academic developments outside of Africa? In your opinion, what are the strengths and weaknesses of these two methodological innovations, and how well are they suited to your own research agenda?