

--Question Starting--

1. In a society governed by a strict gerontocracy, leadership roles are assigned based on seniority of age rather than merit or democratic election. Considering this system, which scenario best illustrates a potential drawback of gerontocracy when adapting to technological advancements?

- (1) Older leaders may lack in-depth understanding of new technologies, potentially hindering innovation.
- (2) Younger members with tech expertise are often consulted, ensuring technology integration.
- (3) Leadership includes a mix of old and young leaders to balance experience with innovation.
- (4) All members undergo regular technology training irrespective of their age or position.

Answer Key: 1

Solution:

? Option 1 (Correct): The scenario highlights a significant issue in gerontocracies where older leaders might not be as adept with new technologies, which can impede progress and adaptation.

? Option 2 (Incorrect): This option suggests an adaptation that contradicts the principle of gerontocracy which centralizes power in the hands of the older generation.

? Option 3 (Incorrect): This mix of leadership does not align with the strict seniority based on age, as seen in a pure gerontocracy.

? Option 4 (Incorrect): While training is beneficial, it does not address the inherent delay in decision-making and policy adaptation by those who may not initially grasp new tech developments.

Hence, Option (1) is the right answer.

--Question Starting--

2. In a cultural context where the maternal uncle (mother's brother) plays a significant role in the upbringing and decision-making of his nephews, how might the expectations and authority of the father be impacted in comparison to societies where the father's authority is predominant?

- (1) The father's role may be perceived as secondary, affecting his authority and emotional ties.
- (2) The father retains primary authority, with the maternal uncle providing only occasional guidance.
- (3) Both the father and the maternal uncle share equal authority and responsibilities.
- (4) The maternal uncle's involvement is limited to ceremonial roles, leaving daily decision-making to the father.

Answer Key: 2

Solution:

? Option 1 (Incorrect): This option suggests a diminished role for the father, which is more typical in matrilineal societies rather than those with a strong avuncular influence.

? Option 2 (Correct): In many cultures with a prominent role for the maternal uncle, the father's authority often remains intact but is complemented by the uncle's guidance, especially in significant cultural or familial decisions.

? Option 3 (Incorrect): Equal sharing of authority is not typical in societies where specific roles are culturally assigned to either the father or the maternal uncle.

? Option 4 (Incorrect): Limiting the uncle to merely ceremonial roles does not reflect the substantial influence maternal uncles have in certain cultures.

Hence, Option (2) is the right answer.

--Question Starting--

3. In a matrilineal society where succession typically passes to the sister's son, how does this influence the societal view and role of the avunculate (the relationship between a man and his sister's children) in terms of political power and inheritance?

- (1) The avunculate is crucial, often positioning the uncle as a mentor and guardian, preparing the nephew for leadership.
- (2) The sister's son inherits directly from his mother, making the avunculate less relevant in succession.
- (3) Political power is decentralized, diminishing the specific roles of both maternal uncles and nephews.
- (4) Succession through the sister's son is seen as a formality, with real power held by tribal elders.

Answer Key: 1

Solution:

? Option 1 (Correct): This option correctly identifies the avunculate as a central institutional feature in matrilineal societies, where the maternal uncle plays a significant role in grooming the next leader, which is typically his sister's son.

? Option 2 (Incorrect): While inheritance might pass through the maternal line, the avunculate's role in preparing the successor is pivotal and cannot be overlooked.

? Option 3 (Incorrect): The decentralization of power is not inherently linked to the matrilineal succession structure and the role of the avunculate.

? Option 4 (Incorrect): The formal aspect of succession does not eliminate the practical and influential role of the maternal uncle in these societies.

Hence, Option (1) is the right answer.