

--Question Starting--

1. Consider the following three statements regarding tribal chiefship succession:

- I. In hereditary succession, the legitimacy of the new chief is often more readily accepted by the community.
- II. Elective succession can lead to power struggles and factional disputes within the tribe.
- III. Hereditary succession always ensures a smoother transition of power compared to elective succession.

Which of the following is correct?

- (1) I and II only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 4

Solution:

? Statement I (Correct): Hereditary succession, where leadership is passed down through family lines, often gains quicker legitimacy due to established traditions and expectations within the community.

? Statement II (Correct): Elective succession, involving voting or selection processes, can indeed lead to internal conflicts as different factions within the tribe may support different candidates, leading to power struggles.

? Statement III (Correct): Although not universally true, hereditary succession can sometimes ensure a smoother transition due to the predictability and established protocols, compared to the uncertainties and potential conflicts in elective processes.

Hence, Option (4) is the right answer.

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2. Analyze the following statements concerning the effects of residence patterns on authority and decision-making:

- I. Patrilocal residence tends to consolidate male authority and lineage control in decision-making.
- II. Matrilocal residence often enhances the influence of women in domestic and tribal governance.
- III. Neolocal residence diminishes the extended family's role in everyday decision-making, leading to more nuclear family autonomy.

Which of the following is correct?

- (1) I and II only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 2

Solution:

? Statement I (Correct): Patrilocal residence, where a married couple lives with or near the husband's parents, often reinforces male dominance in both family and broader social structures, impacting decisions along male lineage lines.

? Statement III (Correct): Neolocal residence, where the couple lives independently of both parents' families, tends to reduce the direct influence of extended family, thereby increasing decision-making within the nuclear family without external familial pressures.

? Statement II (Incorrect): While matrilocal residence does often increase women's roles in governance, the statement is not universally applicable as the extent can vary significantly depending on other cultural and social dynamics.

Hence, Option (2) is the right answer.

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3. Evaluate the following statements about matrilineal authority, particularly among the Khasi/Garo tribes and the role of the mother's brother:

- I. The mother's brother holds significant influence over his sister's children, often more than their biological father.
- II. In Khasi/Garo societies, property and lineage are passed primarily through the female line.

III. The authority of the mother's brother diminishes the paternal role in the upbringing of children.

Which of the following is correct?

- (1) I and II only
- (2) I and III only
- (3) II and III only
- (4) All of the above

Answer Key: 3

Solution:

? Statement II (Correct): In matrilineal societies like the Khasi and Garo, inheritance and lineage continuation are predominantly through the female members, which includes property passing down through the mother.

? Statement III (Correct): The significant role of the mother's brother in these societies often leads to a diminished role for the biological father, particularly in terms of authority and decision-making in the upbringing of children.

? Statement I (Incorrect): While the mother's brother does play an influential role, to state he holds more influence "often" can be misleading as the dynamics can vary with individual family structures and community norms.

Hence, Option (3) is the right answer.