Study questions for Kuran’s Chapter 5


Sample Objective section questions

1. _____ What is primogeniture?
   a. “primo”, or really good geniture; geniture being a hallucinogen derived from flax, grown in Turkey, and traded throughout the Islamic world
   b. giving land to those who paid their own way to a recently colonized area
   c. “freedom pay” Money, land, and/or tools given to freed slaves.
   d. a tax on non-Muslims living under Islamic law
   e. a tax on Muslims and Jews living in Christian kingdoms
   f. assigning land to a single owner rather than collectively (i.e. rather than assigning it to a group)
   g. giving the vast majority of one’s estate to only one heir, typically the oldest son
   h. splitting one’s estate up relatively equally among one’s heirs

2. _____ What is multigeniture?
   a. a combination of different strains of geniture; geniture being a hallucinogen derived from flax, grown in Turkey, and traded throughout the Islamic world
   b. giving land to those who paid their own way to a recently colonized area
   c. “freedom pay” Money, land, and/or tools given to freed slaves.
   d. a tax on non-Muslims living under Islamic law
   e. a tax on Muslims and Jews living in Christian kingdoms
   f. assigning land to a single owner rather than collectively (i.e. rather than assigning it to a group)
   g. giving the vast majority of one’s estate to only one heir, typically the oldest son
   h. splitting one’s estate up relatively equally among one’s heirs

#'s 2 1/3 – 9: Indicate whether each characteristic best describes the inheritance system of Christian Western Europe of the Islamic world during the Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period (about 600 AD – 1800 AD)? The first two have been done for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Christian W. Europe</th>
<th>Islam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 1/3. A Christian living in Western Europe would use an inheritance system</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>typical of this region.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 2/3. A Muslim living in Muslim lands would use an inheritance system</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>typical of this region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The bequestor only has a choice of where 1/3 of his inheritance goes. The</td>
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<td>other 2/3 is required by law to go to a large number of specified relatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. This inheritance system generally gives more assets to women (relative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>to the other inheritance system).</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristic | Christian W. Europe | Islam
--- | --- | ---
5. It’s **easier** to keep large estates together. |
6. In this region, a higher percentage of inheritable assets consist of land. |
7. In this region, a higher percentage of inheritable assets consist of cash and other forms of moveable wealth. |
8. This inheritance is best characterized as primogeniture. |
9. This inheritance system is best characterized as multigeniture. |

**Sample Essay questions**

1. **(Short Essay)** What is “Polygamy”? During the Middle Ages through the Early Modern Period (about 600 AD – 1800 AD) was polygamy more common in Western Europe or the Muslim world? Explain how and why polygamy may have affected the relative rates of economic growth of the two regions.

2. **(Long Essay)** Briefly, describe how the inheritance system in the Muslim world differed from that of Western Europe. Briefly describe how and why the different inheritance systems may have affected the relative rates of economic growth of the two regions. Finally (and not briefly), describe some arguments as to why the inheritance system of the Muslim world differed from that of Western Europe.