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### **ASSIGNMENT**

1. Briefly and meaningfully explain the roles of the following in Yoruba land.

i. Ogboni confraternity

ii. Areona-kakanfo

iii. Oyomesi

2. Discuss the two migration story of the Yoruba people

3. Vividly explain the selection of Alafin in Yoruba land

### **ANSWERS**

1i. **Ogboni confraternity**

This is a secret society in Yoruba land responsible for maintaining the balance and harmony of the community. The Ogboni members are traditionally elders and are responsible for settling dispute and promoting justice. They also oversee important traditional rituals and ceremonies.

ii. **Areona-kakanfo**

The Areona-kakanfo is a military leader in Yoruba land. The position was historically created to lead the army during times of war, Areona-kakanfo ws expected to be a skilled fighter and strategist. In modern times, the role is more symbolic, but the Areona-kakanfo is still considered a prominent figure in Yoruba land.

iii. **Oyomesi**

The oyomesi is a group of seven chiefs in Yoruba land who are responsible for advising the king and ensuring that he follows the customs and traditions of the Yoruba people. They are also responsible for enforcing the law and maintaining order in the kingdom. The oyomesi have a lot of influence and power, and they play an important role in the government of Yoruba land.

2. The migration of the Yoruba people can be traced through both the mythological and the historical migration stories:

i. According to the mythological migration story of the Yoruba people, they originated from Ill-Ife a sacred city located in present day Nigeria. The myth tells that Olodumare, sent down his emissary Obatala, to create the world. Obatala was given a special tool with which he used to create humans. However he eventually got drunk on palm wine and created misshapen human beings. Oodumare was displeased with his work and sent his second emissary, Oduduwa to the world to create humans properly. He poured sand on the ground, and it became land, while the chicken scratched the ground and created hills and valleys. He then created human beings from the earth and breathed life into them.

ii. The historical migration of the Yoruba people dates back from the 7<sup>th</sup> century when they began to migrate from their original homeland in the Sahel of West Africa. The migration was influenced by factors such as population growth, political instability and the need for new land for agriculture. As they migrated southward they interacted with other ethnic groups and assimilated some of their customs and traditions. They established several powerful kingdoms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century such as the Oyo Empire which dominated much of southwestern Nigeria as well as certain parts of Togo and Benin. This empire is known for its military strength, trade and cultural achievements.

In conclusion the migration of the Yoruba people mythological explains their origin and historically migration describe their movement from the Sahel region to present day location in southwestern in Nigeria.

3. The Alafin is the traditional ruler of the Yoruba people, who are an ethnic group located primarily in Nigeria and some other West African countries. The selection of an Alafin is a complex process that involves several steps and traditions.

The first step in the selection of an Alafin is the death or resignation of the previous Alafin. Upon the death or resignation of the Alafin, the kingmakers, known as the Oyomesi, are responsible for selecting a new Alafin. The Oyomesi is made up of powerful chiefs and elders who are well-versed in Yoruba traditions and customs.

After the death or resignation of the previous Alafin, the Oyomesi begin the selection process by identifying potential candidates who are members of the royal family. The Oyomesi then conducts a series of consultations and deliberations to narrow down the list of candidates to a final few.

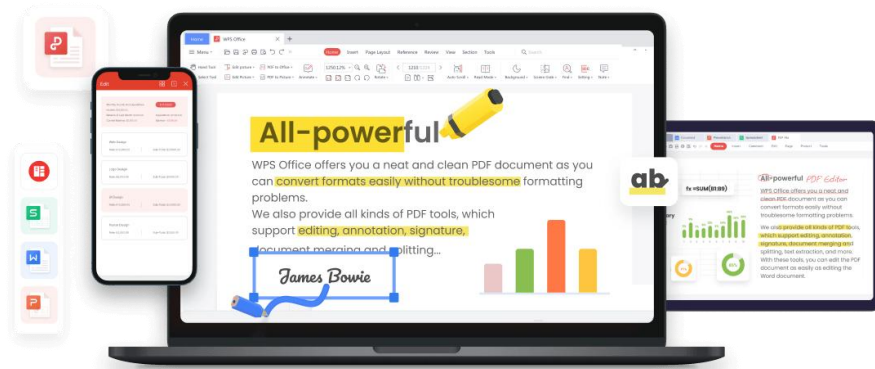
The final few candidates are then subjected to a series of tests and rituals to determine their suitability for the position of Alafin. These tests and rituals include the drinking of a special concoction made from a mixture of herbs and the examination of the candidates' physical and spiritual attributes.

Once the tests and rituals are completed, the Oyomesi selects the new Alafin from among the final few candidates. The new Alafin is then presented to the people of the Yoruba kingdom, who celebrate the selection with elaborate ceremonies and rituals.

In summary, the selection of an Alafin in Yoruba land involves the identification of potential candidates from the royal family, consultations and deliberations by the kingmakers, tests and rituals to determine suitability, and the final selection and presentation of the new Alafin to the people of the kingdom.

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