Exam KOR2510 - North Korea: Ideology, Society and Politics Fall semester 2024

This exam consists of three parts. You must respond to all three parts.

Each part counts for one third of the final grade.

The examination text is given in English. You may submit your response in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

What you write will be stored automatically every 15 seconds. You may, at any time, switch back and forth between exam modules in order to check what you have done in each; however, the modules are numbered and you must do each module as a separate unit. After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

No examination support materials are permitted.

Break a leg!

Question 1

Give an account of the policies of North Korea's (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) current supreme leader, Kim Jong Un (金正恩). When and how did he assume supreme power? What are his benchmark policies in economy, military and security spheres, and foreign affairs? What are the main challenges he has to deal with? How would you define the socio-economic model, which is emerging in North Korea under Kim Jong Un?

Question 2

In 1996-1999, North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) suffered a catastrophic famine. Give an account of the catastrophe. Describe the underlying factors, which led to it, and the ways in which the famine affected North Korean society. In which ways did North Korean society change during and after the famine?

Question 3

Describe the foreign policies of North Korea during the reign of Kim Il Sung (金日成). In which ways did Kim Il Sung deal with Soviet Union and People's Republic of China, as well as Eastern and Western European countries and the post-colonial nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America? What where the main objectives he strove to achieve via his diplomacy? What were the discourses he deployed in the process of engaging with international community?