2026

Outline main changes in partnership formation in Norway/Nordic countries in recent decades. Discuss different theoretical explanations and challenges arising from these changes.

Content expectations

Students are expected to:

1. **Describe main developments in partnership formation**
    - **Cohabitation**
        - Describe the main changes in cohabitation over time (plus if the student distinguishes between period and age perspective).
        - Distinguish between different types of cohabitation.
        - Explain how the meaning and character of cohabitation vary across social groups, countries and historical periods.
    - **Marriage**
        - Describe the main developments in marriage.
        - Explicitly include the development of same-sex marriage.
2. **Apply theoretical perspectives**
    - Link developments in cohabitation and marriage to:
        - concepts such as individualization, the partner market, and assortative mating.
        - the gender revolution theory
    - Discuss challenges in social inequalities in partnership formation arising from homogamy
    - Discuss challenges in partnership formations arising from women now being more educated than men, e.g., mating squeeze.

Assessment criteria

- **Grade C**
  The answer:
    - correctly describes the main developments in cohabitation and marriage (including same-sex marriage)
    - includes the most central theories and concepts
    - uses these theories and concepts in a generally relevant way to discuss changes in partnership formation.
- **Grade B and A**
  In addition to meeting the C-level requirements, the answer:
    - discusses the developments and theories in greater depth and nuance
    - include all central theories and concepts
    - integrates empirical developments and theoretical perspectives in a precise and reflective way (especially regarding social inequalities and the mating squeeze).