Information

You are to answer both exercise 1 and exercise 2. Each exercise will be weighted equally (50% each) for the final evaluation.

1 Exercise 1

Answer *either* essay A *or* essay B

A:

Outline the party families in the Nordic/Scandinavian five party system and describe the origin of these party families in the Nordic countries.

Where are these party families located along important social cleavages and on important policy dimensions? (The four dimensions should be those discussed in the chapter on “Political Parties and Party Systems” in the *Nordic Model* book).

B:

Nordic security and defence policies were referred to as "the Nordic balance" in the Cold War period. What was meant by that?

How has this 'balance' changed after the Cold War, especially in recent years? Discuss in particular Swedish and Finnish rapprochement with NATO and NATO-members.

Fill in your answer here

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2 Exercise 2

Answer *three* (3) of the following four questions . The answers will be weighted equally, and together they will count for 50% of the final evaluation.

a) What is meant by a distinct form of Scandinavian parliamentarism? How do parliamentarism in Finland and Iceland deviate from the Scandinavian model?

b) What are the main two dimensions that constitute the Nordic gender equality model? Describe what these dimensions contain.

Assess to what extent the Nordic countries succeed on these two dimensions – and give example of country differences.

c) In the last two decades, the Nordic welfare states have to varying degrees undergone processes of retrenchment and/or restructuring. The nature of change differs between policy areas. Mention welfare policy areas that have been characterized by significant retrenchment in most or all of the Nordic countries and give concrete examples. Mention also welfare policy areas that have been characterized by stability, restructuring or perhaps even by expansion in most or all of the countries and give concrete examples.

d) Nordic local governments enjoy negative delimitation of power. Please state the meaning of this term, and provide empirical examples that can illustrate the difference between positive and negative delimitation of power.

Fill in your answer here

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