

University of Oslo, Department of Political Science

STV 4313 The Welfare State: Politics, Policies, and Feedback

Masters level, Political Science

Written examination, Spring 2022; 4 hours.

NB: CHOOSE FOUR OF THE FIVE QUESTIONS

You may write in Norwegian, Danish, English or Swedish. You will not be graded on grammar or writing style.

Question 1

Discuss explanations of welfare state development. Which explanations were relevant in the expansion era (“golden age”)? To what extent has this changed in the recent decades of intensifying reform (i.e. roughly the 2000s). And what new theories do we now need?

Question 2

Discuss how the institutional design of some welfare state policies might have affected if people complied with measures for preventing the spread of covid 19.

Question 3

What could explain differences and similarities across policy areas when it comes to popular support for spending/redistribution?

Question 4

How has Norwegian family policy changed and/or remained stable over time? Discuss the developments in light of theories of incremental change and path dependency.

Question 5

Discuss how “policy feedback” theories/explanations might help us understand citizens’ psychological and behavioural involvement in politics and democracy. Briefly illustrate with empirical examples/results from the course literature.