

Damon - Kohlberg
 Piaget
 Kohlberg (1958)

SECTION F

Answer all questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

- *24 A woman needs money to help her brother but does not have enough to help him. She steals money from her workplace and gives it to her brother.

Three men from England were asked whether the woman's actions were right or wrong and why.

- Man A said the woman was right to steal the money because everyone in the world is equal and so money should be given to those who need it. 3
- Man B said the woman was wrong to steal the money because she might get in trouble. 1
- Man C said the woman was right to steal the money because her family might disapprove of her not helping her brother. 2

Assess how stages of morality can account for the responses given by the men.

(9)

There are various theories on morality in psychology, including Piaget's theory on child development, Kohlberg's 1958 research into the different stages of morality and Damon's research into the effects of social and biological effects on morality.

In this scenario, Kohlberg's 1958 research would give the best answer as to why the men answered as they did, because Kohlberg was able to categorise 3 different levels of morality, which each man in the scenario fitting in to a different level. As well as this, Kohlberg used an all male sample in his research, meaning it is especially well suited to this scenario. Kohlberg said in each level



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Turn over ►

there were 2 stages. Level 1 is the ~~pre-conventional~~ 'preconventional stage', ^{for} ~~and~~ ages 0-9. Stage 1 comes in this level and is the belief that all actions have consequences, and it is the consequence of the action that dictates if it is a good or bad action. Stage 2 then focuses on how a slightly older child would look more into ^{how} ~~to~~ they could benefit from the moral or immoral action, whilst still being cautious in regard to the consequences. Level 2 is the 'conventional stage' and focuses on most older children and adults. Stage 3 falls in this level and it focuses on how your moral or immoral actions affect those around you, whilst stage 4 goes even deeper into this belief, suggesting the majority of your actions are decided by ~~how~~ ^{how} you think you will be judged by others. The final level is 'post-conventional' and ^{only about 10% of} ~~only about 10% of~~ adults reach this stage. In this level you have stages 5 and 6. Stage 5 focuses on the fact that laws are social contracts you sign and you should obey the ones you have signed up to but accepts that everyone could have different morals, depending on the laws you ^{have} ~~follow~~ in your country. Stage 6 suggests there are universal ethical principles which everyone must follow, but other than that you are free to make



your own judgement on things you may or may not agree with. ~~Therefore, there~~

~~However weaknesses of this theory are two-fold~~
~~First of all, Kohlberg used an all male sample~~
~~in his research~~

Therefore, Man B is in level 1 as he does not agree with breaking rules as you run the risk of being punished. Man C is in level 2 as he is concerned by what others may think and Man A is in level 3 as he believes morals are universal principles, affecting every person in the world.
 (Total for Question 24 = 9 marks)

~~However, weaknesses of~~

However, weaknesses of this theory are two-fold. First of all, Kohlberg used an all male sample in his research which does work in this scenario but not generalisable to scenarios containing females and then he focuses purely on biological factors, as does Piaget, not thinking of social factors which is incorporated into Damour's work who suggest both social and biological factors dictate our moral way of thinking.

Overall, Kohlberg's theory of development can, for the most part, effectively explain why the three men answered as they did, however there are some flaws such as it only focusing on biological factors. ~~and the scenario focuses on English~~



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