



## CNL-518 Topic 4: The Six Stages of Kohlberg

### Level 1: Preconventional Morality

Stage	Adolescent's Perspective	Rationale for your Responses
<b>Stage 1: Obedience and Punishment Orientation</b>	At this stage, the adolescent believes she must avoid punishment at all costs (Sprouts, 2019). She will be too afraid to lie to her parents about the ISS. She would rather stay home and take care of her siblings than get punished for getting caught lying about it.	At this stage of moral reasoning, the priority is avoiding punishment (Cherry, 2022). Even though she wants to attend school, she would prefer to avoid punishment for neglecting her siblings.
<b>Stage 2: Instrumental Relativist Orientation/Exchange of Favors</b>	The adolescent will see the situation as a trade-off (Sprouts, 2019). She will use the story of mandatory ISS to avoid taking care of her siblings and gain the benefit of attending school.	In this stage, individuals understand that others have different wants and needs (Cherry, 2022). They see that they can use actions to fulfill their own needs. In this case, the adolescent lies to her parents to fulfill her desire to attend school.
<b>Stage 3: Conventional Level/Good Boy or Girl</b>	The adolescent will want the approval of her classmates and teachers as a good student (Sprouts, 2019). She will choose to lie to her parents about ISS to attend school.	At this stage, social conformity and approval are the priority (Cherry, 2022). The adolescent will lie to her parents about ISS to attend school and gain social approval in her social group. Which, in this case, are her teachers and peers.

Stage	Adolescent’s Perspective	Rationale for your Responses
<b>Stage 4: Maintaining the Social Order</b>	The adolescent will lie to her parents about ISS and attend school because getting an education aligns with societal norms and laws (Sprouts, 2019).	This stage prioritizes maintaining social order and respecting authority (Cherry, 2022). The adolescent will choose education because it aligns with societal rules (Cherry, 2022).
<b>Stage 5: Social Contract and Individual Rights</b>	The adolescent will lie to her parents about ISS because she believes her right to getting an education is more important than caring for her siblings (Sprouts, 2019).	In this stage, individuals prioritize their rights and social construct (Cherry, 2022).
<b>Stage 6: Universal Principles</b>	The adolescent will lie to her parents about ISS and choose to attend school. It is her moral obligation to pursue her highest potential (Sprouts, 2019).	In this stage, adherence to universal ethical principles and abstract reasoning are the priority (Sprouts, 2019). The adolescent believes it is her moral duty to pursue personal development and potential.

References

Cherry, K. (2022, November 7). Kohlberg’s theory of moral development. Verywell Mind. <https://www.verywellmind.com/kohlbergs-theory-of-moral-development-2795071>

Sprouts. (2019, November 29). Kohlberg’s 6 stages of moral development [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bounwXLkme4&t=318s>