

CHEAT SHEET

Child Development & Pedagogy (CTET)

PIAGET, VYGOTSKY & KOHLBERG

JEAN PIAGET – COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT THEORY

Core Idea

- Children actively construct knowledge through interaction with their environment.
- Cognitive development occurs through adaptation: assimilation and accommodation.

Key Terms

- Schema: Mental framework used to organize and interpret information.
- Assimilation: Fitting new information into an existing schema.
- Accommodation: Modifying an existing schema to fit new information.
- Equilibration: Balancing assimilation and accommodation; drives cognitive development.

Four Stages

- Sensorimotor (0–2 years): Learning through senses and motor actions; object permanence develops.
- Preoperational (2–7 years): Symbolic thought and language develop; egocentrism and centration are common; conservation is not yet fully developed.

- Concrete Operational (7–11 years): Logical thinking about concrete objects/events; conservation, classification, seriation and reversibility develop.
- Formal Operational (11+ years): Abstract, hypothetical and systematic reasoning develops.

CTET Exam Triggers

- Object permanence → Sensorimotor stage.
- Egocentrism/centration → Preoperational stage.
- Conservation → Concrete operational stage.
- Abstract/hypothetical reasoning → Formal operational stage.
- Piaget: learner is an active constructor of knowledge; development influences readiness to learn.

LEV VYGOTSKY – SOCIOCULTURAL THEORY

Core Idea

- Learning is socially and culturally mediated; interaction with more knowledgeable others supports development.

Key Concepts

- Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): Gap between what a learner can do independently and what the learner can do with guidance.
- Scaffolding: Temporary support such as cues, hints, prompts, modelling and feedback that is gradually withdrawn.

- More Knowledgeable Other (MKO): Person or resource with greater knowledge/skill who supports learning.
- Language and cultural tools play a major role in cognitive development.
- Social interaction precedes and supports internalization of higher mental processes.

CTET Exam Triggers

- Cues, hints, prompts, modelling → Scaffolding.
- Task possible with guidance but not independently → ZPD.
- Teacher/peer/expert providing support → MKO.
- Collaborative learning and peer interaction → Strongly aligned with Vygotsky.
- Vygotsky emphasizes culture, language and social interaction in learning.

LAWRENCE KOHLBERG – MORAL DEVELOPMENT THEORY

Core Idea

- Moral reasoning develops through progressive stages of increasingly complex reasoning about right and wrong.

Level 1: Pre-conventional Morality

- Stage 1 – Obedience & Punishment: Right action avoids punishment.
- Stage 2 – Instrumental/Exchange: Right action serves

one's needs or involves fair exchange/reward.

Level 2: Conventional Morality

- Stage 3 – Good Boy/Good Girl: Seeking approval and maintaining good relationships.
- Stage 4 – Law & Order: Following rules, laws and maintaining social order.

Level 3: Post-conventional Morality

- Stage 5 – Social Contract: Laws are important but can be changed for social welfare and individual rights.
- Stage 6 – Universal Ethical Principles: Moral decisions are guided by internalized ethical principles such as justice.

CTET Exam Triggers

- Fear of punishment → Stage 1.
- Reward/self-interest/exchange → Stage 2.
- Approval or being seen as 'good' → Stage 3.
- Law, duty and social order → Stage 4.
- Rights/social contract → Stage 5.
- Universal ethical principles → Stage 6.
- Kohlberg focuses on the development of moral reasoning, not simply moral behaviour.

ULTRA-QUICK COMPARISON

Remember the Difference

- Piaget → Cognitive development → Stages, schemas, assimilation, accommodation.
- Vygotsky → Social-cultural learning → ZPD, scaffolding, language, MKO.
- Kohlberg → Moral development → Levels and stages of moral reasoning.

CTET ONE-LINE MEMORY TRICKS

Piaget

- S-P-C-F = Sensorimotor → Preoperational → Concrete → Formal.

Vygotsky

- ZPD + Scaffolding + Social Interaction + Culture = Vygotsky.

Kohlberg

- Punishment → Reward → Approval → Law → Social Contract → Principles.