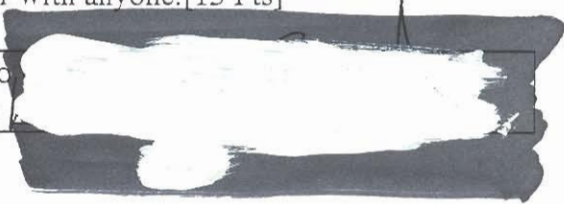


3) The exhaust system in your car develops a leak, causing it to produce a horrendously loud noise when you drive it. You take it in to the shop and the mechanic tells you your catalytic converter has been damaged and needs to be replaced. It'll cost a total of \$450 for the repair. You don't have this kind of money available and leave in despair. Soon after, you run into a friend who says he has an old piece of exhaust pipe and can simply remove your catalytic converter and replace it with the pipe – for free! He adds: "Kansas has no emissions testing, so even though this is illegal, you'll never get caught."

Provide a detail analysis of the ethics associated with accepting your friend's offer, using the six step process described in class. Be sure to include relevant facts associated with the environmental chemistry and the purpose of the catalytic converter! You may use any literature or online resources, but you may **not** discuss your answer with anyone. [15 Pts]

I grant permission for my answer (in anonymous form) to be used as an example of student work: mark- (YES) (NO) Signed: 

S/G = +2, S/O = +2

FACTS

(+14/15)

+2

- 1) Without a catalytic converter your exhaust puts out a lot of CO and NO radical. ✓
- 2) CO and NO radical are both criteria pollutants and harmful to human health. ✓
- 3) The NO radical also plays a key roll in the production of tropospheric ozone and nitric acid in acid rain. ✓
- 4) The catalytic converter is expensive. ✓
- 5) Car is now very loud. ✓

Ethical Issues

+2

- 1) Is it wrong to knowingly emit harmful pollutants. ✓
- 2) Which is more important, and individuals rights or the rights of a population. ✓

Affected Parties

- 1) I will be affected by having to spend the 450 dollars to purchase a new catalytic converter and by the pollutants I would be producing. ✓
- 2) Because of the mobile nature of a car and atmospheric winds, both local and global populations would be affected. ✓
- 3) Anyone within earshot of the loud car. → representing a 3rd option - to not fix it at all!

Consequences

+2

- 1) People could get sick due added pollution. → might have consequences for your own health, to
- 2) The acid rain created by the NO radical erodes limestone buildings and is harmful to all life. ✓
- 3) By paying for new catalytic converter I may not be able to pay rent or some other bill required to sustain a reasonable living. ✓

Laws, Rights, Duties.

+1

- 1) Clean Air Act of 1970 set air quality standards for CO and NO<sub>2</sub> radical which the NO radical quickly oxidized to once it hits the atmosphere. ✓
- 2) I believe that all people have the right to breath clean air and have water resources that are not anthropogenically acidic. ✓
- 3) I believe that it is ones duty to be conscious of and limit the amount of harmful pollutants they are responsible for, both through direct production and the products they consume. ✓

Evaluation

Based on the harmful affects of CO and the NO radical, I find that it would be unethical for me to have my friend fix my exhaust without a catalytic converter. My decision is also based on my personal financial situation. I would be able to afford a new catalytic converter and still afford to live a reasonable life. That being said, I believe that it would be ethical for someone to opt for the non catalytic converter option if buying the converter meant that they would be unable to care for themselves or more importantly a dependent. However, having a financial situation does not give you the ethical ground to never have a catalytic converter installed. Rather it allows you an ethical grace period to do what you need to do to afford it.

pod - the car link above is in on class.

+3

↳ could indeed be a temporary solution!

↳ might still consider it unethical - but if no other choice ....

what about justice issues? If you decide to do it, is it ok for everyone? One car = not a big deal, what about 1 million cars?