

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."

13
15

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 by the instructor as an example of student work: mark- (YES) (NO) Signed: _____

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

1) What are the facts?

- catalytic converter needs replaced - noise pollution ✓
- can't afford to fix it ✓
- +1 - it's illegal → what's illegal? ✓
- Kansas has no emissions testing ✓
- can be fixed - for free or for \$450? ✓

what about using the pipe?
important fact - will emit more NO + CO!

2) What are the Ethical issues?

- is using shoddy mechanical equipment wrong? ✓
- +2 - is it okay to subject the public to the noise of your car because you don't have the money to fix the problem? using the pipe would silence the car as well! ✓
- is it right to emit noxious gases from your car into the atmosphere? ✓

3) Who are the affected parties?

- people who have to hear the obnoxious noise your car makes ✓
- anyone who breathes in the fumes emitted by your car ✓
- the mechanic who loses work ✓

good point - while this one mechanic has no specific right to do the work, by law, someone must!

+2 4) What are the possible consequences?

- you might get caught (mechanic would know of the problem) ✓
- someone could get sick from the car fumes ✓

5) Laws/Rights

- it is illegal to drive a car that emits high levels of noxious gases ✓
- friend would be an accomplice → really a possible consequence - really only a serious problem if the friend did it for a number of people ✓

+1 - public has a right to clean air ✓

what about justice issues?

is it ok for everyone if you decide to do it?

more rights? it's your car!

what rights do you perceive in this case?

many
Even though you cannot afford to have the catalytic converter professionally fixed and your friend could do it for free, it is still highly unethical. A car without a properly running catalytic converter emits high levels of toxic fumes that harm the atmosphere and endanger the lives of those who breathe them. Plus, it is illegal, so both you and your friend could end up in a lot of trouble should you be found out. Also, the mechanic relies on other people's auto problems to make a living. Refusing to have it fixed denies him part of his income. I find the most logical answer to this problem to be simply avoiding driving the car until you can afford to fix it. Make use of public transportation, friends, walking, etc. until you save up enough money to replace the catalytic converter.

→ this would be a good temporary solution.

→ good conclusions - made a clear judgement and tied it directly to the issues you raised earlier.