

CHM 315, Exam 1 Essay

S/G = +1, S/O = +2

+12  
15

1. Facts:

- It is illegal to remove or tamper with your catalytic converter
- You will not get caught because the law is not enforced in KS anyway
- Catalytic converters decrease NO and CO emissions by 80-90% good
- NO and CO are primary pollutants that contribute to smog and acid rain ✓

what about costs, replacement?

2. Ethical Issues:

- Is it OK to break a law that is not enforced? ✓
- Is it ethical to knowingly contribute to environmental problems ✓
- How much responsibility do we have for our environment
- What rights do people have when it comes to the environment

3. Affected Parties:

- Myself
- The car shop
- People that live in big cities or places that may suffer from acid rain
- Ultimately anyone in the environment around me ?

explain more about what impacts occur for each as in

4. Consequences:

- I will have more money - or save money anyway!
- My car will be releasing many times more pollutants than it otherwise would ✓
- I would contribute to smog and acid rain among other environmental concerns

what about possibility of getting caught?

5. Laws/Rights:

- Currently it is illegal to do this ✓
- It's my car, do I have a right to do with it as I please ✓
- Do others have the right to clean air ✓

when you take it back to the shop for another problem?

6. Conclusion:

In order to determine if this act is ethical or not, several things need to be considered. Of course, ethics are not a concrete subject and can vary from person to person. I will therefore be judging the ethics behind this act on my own interpretation of what constitutes ethical behavior. Since my ethics most closely follow a deontological approach, I will be looking at the legality of the act, the duties or rights that others or myself have, and finally what constitutes justice in this situation. First, we look at the legal aspects. Clearly the act is illegal. However, in judging the ethical nature of an act, I certainly don't believe that its legality is the one and only benchmark. There can be, and certainly have been in human history plenty of laws that would be considered immoral or unethical by a large majority of people.

would it be ok if anyone/everyone with this same problem also took this way out?

good to define what you believe to be most important MS word?

In this case, I think we need to look farther. What about the fact that it's not enforced? Again, just because a law is not enforced does not mean it should be ignored. I know I won't be caught stealing from a blind man, but does that make it ethical. I think not! I have now decided that the act is not necessarily unethical because it is illegal nor ethical because it is not enforced. To get a clearer picture we now focus on the duties and right of parties involved.

Lets first look at my rights. If it's my car, don't I have the right to do with it as I please? To a certain degree yes. However, this is certainly not a completely true statement. To take it to an extreme, if I owned a gun would I have the right to shoot someone? So where is the distinction. It occurs when you start infringing on the rights of others. What rights do others have and how will this affect those rights? I will investigate this farther in the next section on justice. Now I will talk about duties. I believe that I do have somewhat of a duty to protect and maintain the environment that I am in. As long as I share it with the rest of the human race there is a duty there to do my part. This too has much to do with justice, which will be the final discussion before making my decision.

It is not justice to have a select few people bear the burden of keeping the environment clean. The same could be said about following the law. It is not just to have some people follow the laws while other are allowed to break them. As long as we all live in the same environment and all-our-decisions effect one another, we have a responsibility to do our share. Because of my decision to go without a catalytic converter, I may cause other people's quality of life to be worse. This is not just. Everyone has the right to a certain quality of life.

In conclusion, I believe that this would be an unethical action. We all have a responsibility to the environment we share, and none of us have the right to decrease the quality of life for others to save us a bit of money. This action would be unjust, and infringe on the intrinsic rights of others.

+3

Should mention this above too

YES!  
Is it right to do something you would not want others to do?

goal