



**Do NOT Open Until Instructed To**

## **Kohlberg's Moral / Ethical Test Case Scenario**

### **Heinz' Dilemma**

A woman was near death from a special type of cancer. There was one drug that the doctors thought might save her. It was a form of radium that a druggist in the same town had recently discovered, the drug was expensive to make, but the druggist was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make – he paid \$400 for the radium and charged \$4,000 for a small dose of the drug. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money and tried every legal means, but he could only get together about \$2,000, half of what the drug cost for the consumer. Heinz told the druggist that his wife was dying, and asked the druggist to sell it cheaper or let him pay the rest of the cost later. But the druggist said, "No. I discovered the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So, having tried every legal means, Heinz gets desperate and breaks into the man's drugstore/laboratory to steal the drug for his wife.

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### **Heinz' Dilemma Questions**

Based upon the preceding scenario, answer the following questions independently and w/o discussion or comment. \*Please – no looking at your friend's / neighbor's answers.

1. Should Heinz have broken into the drugstore/laboratory to steal the drug for his wife?
  - 1a. Why or why not?
  
2. Is it actually right or wrong for Heinz to steal the drug?
  - 2a. Why is it right or wrong?
  
3. Does Heinz have a duty or obligation to steal the drug?
  - 3a. Why or why not?
  
4. If Heinz doesn't love his wife, should he have stolen the drug for her?
  - 4a. Why or why not?
  - 4b. Does it make a difference in what Heinz should do whether or not he loves his wife?
  - 4c. Why or why not?
  
5. Suppose the person dying is not Heinz' wife but a stranger; should Heinz steal the drug for the stranger?
  - 5a. Why or why not?
  
6. Suppose it's a pet animal that Heinz loves, should Heinz steal the drug to save the pet?
  - 6a. Why or why not?
  
7. Is it important for people to do everything they can to save another's life?
  - 7a. Why or why not?
  
8. Is it against the law for Heinz to steal?
  - 8a. Why or why not?
  - 8b. Does it make stealing morally wrong?
  - 8c. Why or why not?
  
9. In general, should people try to do everything they can to obey the law?
  - 9a. Why or why not?
  - 9b. How does this way of thinking apply to what Heinz should do?
  - 9c. Why?
  
10. In thinking back over the dilemma, what would you say is the most responsible thing for Heinz to do?
  - 10a. Why?

## **Kohlberg's Moral / Ethical Test Case Scenario**

### **Heinz' Dilemma Homework Assignment**

Referring to Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development (hint: look at each stage and their descriptors); please identify what stage is represented by your answers to the 10 questions.

Write a brief summary wherein you address each of Kohlberg's Stages and use your answers to support/emphasize your responses.

Please make a note of any stage that is not represented by your answers. If you do not have a stage represented, please explain why you think that is.

Here's a brief example\*:

Q1: *Stage 1 (obedience):* I responded that Heinz should not steal the medicine since stealing is against the law. Furthermore, if he steals the medicine, he will consequently be arrested and put in prison which means he won't be able to continue helping his wife and he'll have a serious police record for the rest of his life which could cause him to lose his job, not get another job, and everything will be worse because of his stealing of the drug in the first place.

\*No, you can't use this example for your own.

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