

JUSTICE EXAMPLES

Here are two lists on justice topics. Rank each list from (1) the most severe violation of justice to (5) the least severe (or not a violation of justice).

List #1

- _____ A disgruntled student steals the English teacher's grade book near the end of the term. The teacher has no other source to establish student grades.
- _____ A school system glorifies sports, but mostly those of male participants. Eighty percent of the athletic budget goes to male sports and 75 percent of that to only two sports: football and basketball.
- _____ A student is denied access to the local Catholic high school because his parents are active in the pro-abortion movement.
- _____ A teen is involved in a slight accident with a parked car late at night on a dark street. It is a dangerous neighborhood. She leaves the scene of the accident without leaving any word of who was responsible.
- _____ A student is praised for a brilliant comment in class. He got the idea from a friend in another class, but did not mention that the idea was not original.

List #2

- _____ Professional athletes command huge salaries while teachers and safety personnel are consistently underpaid.
- _____ Continual use of air conditioners in automobiles causes a threat to the ozone layer.
- _____ The burdens of poverty in the United States fall most heavily on peoples of color. Moreover, children are the largest single group among the poor.
- _____ Half of the world's people live in countries with per capita income below the poverty level.
- _____ In China married couples may have no more than one child. Abortions and forced sterilizations are performed in response to violations of this law.

WHAT IS YOUR HONESTY QUOTIENT?

Honesty is the touchstone of a person's character. When we are honest, we do the right thing, even if it hurts. Honesty involves truth-telling to ourselves, to God, and to other people. Honesty is a virtue closely related to justice, fidelity, truthfulness, and courage.

What's your honesty quotient (HQ)? Answer the questions below using the appropriate scales.

Answer questions 1-10 using this scale:

5—always 4—usually 3—sometimes 2—rarely 1—never

- ___ 1. Do you ever refuse to cheat on tests and quizzes?
- ___ 2. Do you respond truthfully to your parents' questions when they ask you where you have been?
- ___ 3. Do you refrain from copying homework and passing it off as your own?
- ___ 4. Do you return the extra if you are given incorrect change when making a purchase?
- ___ 5. Do you refuse to lie for your friends?
- ___ 6. Do you pay parking fines?
- ___ 7. Do you tell people what you really believe rather than what they want to hear?
- ___ 8. Are you honest even when people aren't looking?
- ___ 9. If you find something of value, do you make a sincere effort to find its proper owner?
- ___ 10. If you broke a vase in a china shop, would you admit it?

Answer questions 11-20 using this scale:

5—never 4—rarely 3—sometimes 2—usually 1—always

- ___ 11. Do you look the other way when someone else is dishonest, for example, when a classmate cheats on a test?
- ___ 12. Concerning people who don't like you: Are you pleasant to their face, but attack them when they aren't around?
- ___ 13. If you have a job, do you take things that belong to your employer, saying to yourself, "They won't miss it"?
- ___ 14. Do you exaggerate your achievements?
- ___ 15. Do you spread rumors about others, thus ruining their reputations?
- ___ 16. Would you do something unethical at work, especially if your job depended on it?
- ___ 17. Would you stretch the truth on a college application, for example, by inflating your extracurricular record?
- ___ 18. Do you say things you don't mean for the sake of politeness?
- ___ 19. Do you tell the truth, but not the "whole truth"?
- ___ 20. Do you lie on surveys like this?

Total Your Points:

85-100: You're pretty honest, if not very honest.

70-85: You're average on honesty.

60-70: Your HQ is below average.

60: You have some work to do in this area.

- Is it easy for you to tell the truth? Why or why not?
- Write of a time in your life when "honesty [was] the best policy."

NAME: _____

WHICH TYPE OF JUSTICE?

Place a check mark in the first column if you agree with a statement below. Then, in the second column, judge which type of justice should govern the statement according to the following code:

C = commutative justice

D = distributive justice

L = legal justice

SJ = social justice

STATEMENTS	AGREE?	JUSTICE TYPE
1. Welfare programs for the poor are a waste of good taxpayer money.		
2. Homeowners must be willing to sell their houses to anyone who can afford them.		
3. Every qualified student should be provided a college education.		
4. Auto companies must fix faulty engine components.		
5. Everyone has the right to health care.		
6. "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."		
7. Medical and law schools, and other professional programs, should give preferential treatment to some persons from minority groups to level the playing field and open up opportunities for minorities who have historically been shut out of the system.		

- Share your answers and reasons for them.
- Create your own definition of justice.

NAME: _____

YOUR VIEW OF MONEY

Henry Fielding warned, "Make money your god and it will plague you like the devil." What is your reaction to the following statements? Mark SA for "strongly agree"; A for "agree"; D for "disagree"; and SD for "strongly disagree." Under each statement, write a reason for your choice.

_____ 1. "The love of money is the root of all evil."

_____ 2. "Take the money and run." (American saying)

_____ 3. "Money can't buy happiness, love, or friends."

_____ 4. "Never esteem a man or thyself the more for money, nor condemn him for want of it." (English proverb)

_____ 5. "The rich get richer and the poor get poorer."

_____ 6. "Money isn't everything; money is the only thing."