

Senior

Mini-One

Recording Score

Student: _____

Period: _____

Group: _____

Date: _____

Arbiter: _____

InterStudent

Read This First!

InterStudent will be useful to you in three ways. First, the content -- drawn mostly from the 'Age of Reason' - will paint for you a picture of human behavior. This will be useful to you all your life. The 'laws of human behavior' and their extensions, will be familiar -- although you may not previously have been consciously aware of them.

Second, the Program format will hone your thinking, reasoning and rhetorical skills. The method is 'socratic questioning' from almost 25 centuries in the past. The philosophy of the format comes from the medieval Trivium. The teaching monks of the Middle Ages thought that before you learned anything, first you should learn how to learn. You can earn an easy two points by being the first Group to deliver a note to the Arbiter properly describing the medieval Trivium.

Third, it is fun. It is easier to learn when learning is fun. Your first surprise was the discovery that you are allowed to cheat. You may not believe it, but you will win by cheating only if other students let you. If they take care of themselves, your cheating will waste your time and drop your grade.

You will win your Mini-Week if you avoid traps, work and cooperate with your Group, and follow instructions.

Remember that losing or gaining a point can raise or lower your grade.

Scientists are people who practice rational conjecture. Rational means sensible; conjecture means 'making a guess'. So, a scientist makes sensible guesses -- or 'hypotheses'. His principal task is to search for consequences, which you may know as 'cause and effect'.

We practice scientific method everyday, though not so rigorously, nor so cleverly, as the scientist. InterStudent will sharpen your skills and increase your effectiveness in 'working things out'.

In the beginning, InterStudent may seem pretty strange. But, it will prepare you for some of the problems you are likely to encounter after graduation. After two or three Minis you will be impressed with your improvement in communication skills. However, don't get too impressed. You won't be that good!

However, you can lose by being careless. If you don't protect yourselves, others will take advantage of you. The first rule of InterStudent is -

'Do not allow yourself to become a victim.'

Although other students are competing with you for high grades, you are not alone. You can make things easier for yourself by working closely with other members of your group. Effective cooperation means a group that is hard to beat.

You are scientists studying human behavior. A scientist is anyone who practices scientific method -- which is the systematic pursuit of order (or knowledge).

The problem solving process has three parts:

- (a) recognition and delineation of a problem;
- (b) collection of data from experiment and observation; and
- (c) the making of hypotheses that can be tested.

These are repeated until a goal is reached.

THE LAW, A DRAGON, AND PRIVILEGE - The good, the bad and the ugly

A. PREFACE : You are scientists investigating human nature. Properly to do this, you must act like scientists. This means using your experience (*what you know*) to make rational conjectures (*informed guesses*) about people, then testing your conjectures by observation and experiment.

You encounter a problem trying to experiment with people. You cannot put them in test-tubes. So, you must use a special thinking tool called 'imagination'. Using your knowledge of people, especially yourself, you ask "What if...?"

DISCUSSION :

In ancient China, a solar eclipse was thought to be a giant dragon swallowing the sun. The Chinese found that lighting firecrackers and beating drums would *always* frighten away the dragon before it could eat the sun. **You** are a group of Chinese scientists who doubt the dragon legend and decide to test whether it is true.

1. What is the simplest way to check whether the dragon legend is true? _____

TEST #1: Use one word to describe the likely reaction of the Chinese people to your test?

B. PREFACE : Scientists look for 'consequences'. Some are easy to see, others are not. The scientist uses 'reasoning tools' to find the difficult ones. His principal reasoning tool is the hypothesis - which is the name given to a 'sensible guess' or 'warranted assertion'.

A good hypothesis will:

- a) be simple, direct and obvious;
- b) include the available facts;
- c) be easily tested; and
- d) suggest the next hypothesis.

TEST #2: You've made a hypothesis (about anything). In one word, what must you do next?

C. PREFACE : Your car hasn't been serviced for more than 20,000 miles. You want to get somewhere quickly but the car breaks down. You get to a 'phone

and make a couple of calls.

Two mechanics arrive and, without touching it, examine the engine. They ask a few questions, then make hypotheses.

Mechanic A says : "This car needs servicing. Two or three days in the garage will probably put it right." And Mechanic B says : "It won't work because the plugs are dirty."

DISCUSSION :

1. Which mechanic is probably correct? _____
2. The problem is not dirty plugs. Was Mechanic B's hypothesis a waste of time? _____
3. Which mechanic is most likely to serve you better?

TEST #3: Who made the better hypothesis?

D. PREFACE : Two events that occur one after the other is given the name **Sequence**. If two things occur and one is the result of the other, it is called a **Consequence**. When a consequence is seen always to repeat it is called a **Natural Law**.

You might think a sequence is a consequence because it is dramatic. For example, you kick the local witchdoctor and the volcano erupts! You fear it's a consequence, so take care not to kick him again!

Consequences are rarely exciting. You turn the faucet - and water flows. Yet consequences are what scientists watch for. We'll also be looking for them in our search for the Natural Laws of human behavior. Are the following answers sequence, or consequence?

DISCUSSION :

1. Bill tripped and it rained. _____
2. Bill tripped and sprained his ankle.

TEST #4: 'Bill tripped and fell DOWN' is a description of a ... ?

TEST #5 : What relationship is the following? 'Bill tripped and his mother's head ached.'

E. PREFACE : A consequence that always repeats is said to be a **Natural Law**. When we record the fact that B always follows A, we are writing a Natural Law.

Any Natural law may be regarded simply as a 'recognition of experience'. We *know* it will happen this way, because it always has.

DISCUSSION :

1. Bill tripped and fell UP. Is this true? _____
2. How do you know it isn't true? _____
3. Must you know Bill to know how he fell? _____
4. Was Bill affected by a Natural Law? _____
5. Could Bill NOT be affected by Natural Law? _____

TEST #6 : Space flights require checking, rechecking, cross-checking - and checking yet again. Nothing is left to chance, yet every mission depends on a conceptual classification that is accepted without any check What?

F. PREFACE : To do something contrary to Natural Law can prove disastrous. We make up devices called **Rules** - which are homely guides to action. A Rule is obeyed because it makes sense, even if the Natural Law on which it is based is not known in any formal sense.

DISCUSSION :

Isaac Newton's Laws of Motion indicate that (among other things) a moving body is reluctant to change its direction.

1. Do you know Newton's Laws? _____
2. Must you know them to survive in contemporary society? _____
3. Might 'rules' based on Natural Law help you to survive? _____
4. Would you expect *proven* Rules to become part of moral and religious codes? _____

TEST #7 : You are speeding down the road. Use the above description of a Newtonian Law, to make up a rule to help you make a left-hand turn. _____

G. PREFACE : We don't always obey Rules. Sometimes, when we drive, we don't pay enough attention to other traffic as we talk to friends. We may carelessly go through a stop sign. Or we may be late and increase speed as we weave between freeway lanes.

Disobeying Rules can be dangerous to other members of the community. So, Rules may be made into **Laws** by legislative bodies. A Law is an 'formal rule' and can be recognized by its deterrent penalty.

The penalty is rarely as crucial as the 'zap' of a ignored Natural Law, but strangely enough, it often acts as a greater deterrent.

DISCUSSION :

1. You're caught speeding. Do you cry 'injustice' - or do you admit (at least to yourself) that you were wrong? _____
2. Do most of us agree with sensible laws? _____

TEST #8 : For a law to be accepted generally, it must be seen to be, not only sensible, but fair. How would you know that a law is fair? _____

H. PREFACE : A successful law must be seen (by most people) to be both wise and fair. In other words, the law should seem necessary and should apply equally to everyone. A special type of legislation pretends to be a law but is really a **Privilege** or 'private law' (privi-lege).

A privilege benefits one person at another's expense. Unlike a trade, benefit passes only in one direction. It can be described as a 'one way exchange'. Within InterStudent, the term 'Privilege' means *only* legislation which confers a benefit to one person at another's expense.

DISCUSSION :

1. Do politicians say they make laws to benefit all - or to benefit a few? _____

- 2. Is someone who benefits from a 'privilege' likely to be grateful to the person who provides it? _____
- 3. Is he likely to support and contribute to a generous politician? _____
- 4. Is the politician likely to find his re-election depends on the gratitude and support of those he has privileged? _____
- 5. Are legislatures likely to pass 'laws' or 'privileges'? _____
- 6. Are politicians good or bad people? _____
- 7. Are other people's privileges resented by those

who don't benefit from them? _____

TEST #9 : Politicians try to make privilege less obvious by burying it in the general body of legislation, but they are not always successful. Also, most people don't know the difference between laws and privileges. When citizens see legislation benefitting others at their expense, their general attitude to democracy is likely to change. How? (5 points - No penalty) _____

summary

Law is a formalized 'rule' used to limit certain behaviors harmful to other members of the community. To be accepted, it must be seen to be sensible and fair. Invariably, the law contains an enforcement penalty of some kind. A law (including its penalty) which is not fair, or does not make sense, is often ignored. When most people refuse to follow a law, they, in effect, rewrite it.

A Privilege is a 'private law'. Its intention is to benefit one at the expense of another. Modern legislation consists, in large part, of privileges. The relationship between the lawmaker and the recipient of privilege is obvious and becomes symbiotic. Unfortunately, their inability to distinguish law from privilege tends to turn people against all rules of behavior - including laws which are beneficial to them.

KETCHUPS!

KETCHUP 1: Martin Pinzon and Cristoforo Colombo developed a major hypothesis, which they tested. What was their hypothesis and how did they test it? _____

KETCHUP 2 : Give 3 examples each of privileges that benefit your Group, and privileges that disadvantage your Group. (One point for each accepted example - no penalty points.) (Plus 4 points for a correct answer to # 10 - No penalty)

Benefit _____

Cost _____

TEST #10 : Name a characteristic common to all six examples.