

Ethical Decision Making

Enter your emotional intelligence scores in the graph below: LINDSEY LAMBERT

Self-awareness	Managing emotions	Motivating oneself	Empathy	Social Skill
41	25	32	32	37

Answer each of the following questions fully with at least 1 paragraph containing at least 5 sentences for each question. **Answer 1 question at a time. Do not skip ahead. Nurses are known for their integrity. The Gallup Poll has ranked nursing as the #1 most honest profession for 18 years in a row!**

Imagine that you are involved in a shipwreck situation. A ship has started to sink in the middle of the ocean. Eleven people have jumped into a lifeboat that has been designed for a maximum of ten people only, and the lifeboat is also starting to sink.

1. What should the passengers do? - Brainstorm, type your thought processes.

Passengers must talk to each other and figure out a plan. I think the passengers should discuss weights and even though the boat is designed for 10, depending on the weight of the passengers more could likely fit. The "10-person max" is very different between 10 kids and 10 adults. It assumes this was based on 10 average sized adults meaning if one or two were smaller it would not sink. If the boat begins to sink with 11 then a moral/ethical decision would need to be made.

2. Do you throw one person overboard to save ten lives? – Discuss benefits and losses of the possible choices.

The word "throw" makes it seem like it is against their will. The benefits and losses are pretty clear. Benefit is 10 people live and the loss is that one person dies. I think there would need to be a conversation, and someone would likely volunteer to save 10 people. Yes, they lose their life but in that, they are giving life to 10 others.

3. Discuss your thoughts and arguments as if you were the one chosen to be thrown overboard.

If I was chosen to be the one to be "thrown" overboard I would have a mix of feelings. If my family was all on the boat, I would share memories and last words with them. If my family drowned already and were not on the boat, I would be nervous but ready to continue into eternal life with them. I would likely not put up an argument due to being someone who tends to put others before myself. I would rather save 10 people than save myself.

4. Discuss your thoughts as if you were the one to decide who will be thrown overboard; and you cannot volunteer yourself, you must pick someone, it is solely your decision.

If I had to choose the person who was to be thrown off the boat I would first, ask if there were any volunteers. If not, I would begin a series of questions. I will ask each person if they have children waiting on them at home, if so, they would stay. I would ask if anyone were battling a terminal illness, if so, they would be chosen as the end of their life is near anyways. I would save the pregnant women.

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5. Or do you stick to the principle of "do not kill", which means that everybody will drown?

I would not stick with the principle of "do not kill". 10 lives are greater than one life. Deciding who the one will be is a difficult moral and ethical choice. It would take volunteers and discussion among the group before making a decision of my own. I think the decision of life or death is up to a power greater than us. When faced with such question, morality is in question.

Now consider a slightly different situation where lives are at stake. There is a global pandemic. This is still life and death scenario.

1. What are the benefits or needs of staying home?

Benefits of staying home are keeping your family safe. Not spreading the disease if contaminated is a benefit. Some individuals need to stay home due to being immunocompromised. You cannot get sick or get the people you love sick if you all remain in doors. Quality family time will increase if you are lucky enough to not be alone.

2. What are the benefits or needs of going out?

Humans are not meant to be isolated. Humans need socialization and connection which you cannot get by being home. Being an essential worker mean I needed to go out to perform my job. I also needed to go out to keep a roof over my head and food on the table. Grocery delivery is an option but when income is stripped or decreased, the luxury of having things brought to you is not an option. Germs still are on items even if they're dropped off at your doorstep.

3. You live with your family. Food supplies are exhausted, and water is contaminated, it is not suitable for drinking. There is no protective equipment, who goes for supplies? Choose only 1 family member and it cannot be you; you cannot volunteer.

It would not be an easy decision, but I would send my dad. He would likely volunteer way before anyone made him do anything. He has always been the protector of our family and the provider. He has always risked his health for us, working extra jobs, crazy hours, and putting stress on his body for us.

4. The family member that went for supplies has returned but has also been exposed to the deadly pandemic. Do you allow them back in the house? If so, all will die from exposure.

Like the question above, I don't think I would have to not allow my dad into the house. He would choose not to as he knows entering would be the death of us all. He is the kind of man who would sacrifice himself for our family. This would be a devastating moment for our entire family. There is nothing easy about choosing certain lives over others.

5. The family has decided to have a closed meeting to decide their fate. While left outside, what are the thoughts of the family member that gathered the supplies.

The thoughts of the family member would likely be that of despair. Death is a difficult and scary idea for most people to wrap their heads around. Knowing it is inevitable doesn't make it any

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easier. I personally would have a hard time being so close yet separated from my family. It would probably seem like the longest wait, deciding whether you are going to die or not.

6. While you were waiting for the return of the family member (it took several days), you had a little cabin fever and “needed” to get out of the house. So, you snuck out of the house and went to a party in the middle of the night, and you were successful in staying undetected coming back in. What are your thoughts as you are sitting in this meeting?

I would feel as if I should come clean to my family. If I was infected now, that means my family would already be infected and heading for death. I would feel lots of shame and sadness. I would advocate for my father to be able to be let in.

7. You realize that you can keep silent about sneaking out and push to allow the family member back in, no one will ever know; you can literally take this secret to the grave. What are your thoughts? What are your fears or concerns? What are your acknowledgements?

I have a very guilty conscious and would think about it constantly. Letting the family member in is a good cover up but at the end of the day it is my family. I think my family would be mad but then wouldn't hesitate to let my dad back in right after they found out. If needed, I would wait until the last moment possible and if they decided that they wouldn't let him in I would tell them the news. I would fear the anger my family would have for going behind their back.