

The Commons Dilemma



Instructions for The Commons Dilemma

- Beginning with the next class period, each of you will be making a choice every week for the next eight weeks either to COOPERATE or to COMPETE. Thus, you will be making eight choices over the next eight weeks.
- If you choose to COOPERATE, your score for that week will be 25 points lower than the score of those who COMPETE.

If you choose to COMPETE, your score for that week will be 25 points higher than the score of those who COOPERATE.
- The formulas for determining your score for each given choice are shown below.
- Your overall score for this exercise will be the average of your 6 highest individual choice scores. If you miss a class session in which the exercise takes place, your Commons Dilemma score for that session is zero.
- At the conclusion of the 8 choices – the end of the exercise – you will be assigned a grade based on your overall score (see the grade scale below).
- If you wish, you may substitute your overall score on the exercise for your answer to one of the questions on the final examination. In other words, you may choose not to answer one of the questions on the final exam, and use your Commons Dilemma grade instead.

Formulas used each time to compute individual Commons Dilemma scores:

$$\text{Cooperators' score:} \quad 89 \times \frac{\text{\# of cooperators}}{\text{\# of participants}}$$

$$\text{Competitors' score:} \quad \text{cooperators' score} + 25$$

Scale used at end of the exercise for determining your Commons Dilemma grade:

A+	96 and above	B-	70-74
A	90-95	C+	65-69
A-	85-89	C	60-64
B+	80-84	C-	55-59
B	75-79	F	0-54