# The Alchemist's Code: Decoding Altruism

## (Year 7 - Ages 12-13)

## Lesson 1 of 9

Name: _____ Class: _____

Mission Briefing: Alchemy was the ancient pursuit of turning lead into gold. Today, we explore Modern Alchemy: the scientific ability to turn a tragic loss into life for someone else. Your mission is to decode the motivation behind this act (Altruism) and the biology that makes it possible.

### Part 1: The Motivation Lab (Decoding Altruism)

Definition: Altruism is the unselfish concern for other people—doing things simply out of a desire to help, not because you expect a reward.

Task: Analyse the scenarios below. Classify them as Intrinsic (Real Gold - done for internal values) or Extrinsic (Fool's Gold - done for a reward).

| Scenario | Motivation Type (Intrinsic or Extrinsic?) |
|---|---|
| A. You help your friend with homework because they promised to buy you lunch. | |
| B. You hold the door open for a stranger just to be polite, even though they don't say thanks. | |
| C. A family agrees to organ donation because they want their loved one's memory to live on. | |
| D. You volunteer at the canteen only because it looks good on your resume. | |

Analysis: Why is Organ Donation considered the ultimate form of Intrinsic altruism?

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## Part 2: The Alchemist's Equation (The Multiplier Effect)

Definition: In science, a catalyst is something that starts a big reaction. In this unit, the Donor is the catalyst.

Task: The Magic Number: One organ donor can save up to 7 lives and help many more through tissue donation.

Calculate the Impact: If one class of 30 students all registered to be donors in the future, and (hypothetically) they all became donors, what is the maximum number of lives that could be saved?

Equation: 30 (Donors) x 7 (Lives) = _____ Lives Saved.

The Ripple Effect: It is not just the recipient who is saved. If a surgeon saves a single parent with a heart transplant, who else in the community benefits? List three "secondary" people impacted by this one