Ethical Theory – Practice Scenarios

What would Aristotle, Mill, Kant, and Hobbes do?

1) A Smart car rep arrives at your car dealership; he wants you to sell Smart cars. Should you sell Smart cars? While they save gas, they'll surely get more of your customers killed than larger, safer cars. What to do ...

2) Your brother falls through the ice and arrives at a small hospital with just one doctor on duty. The doctor refuses to use a new and somewhat better treatment for hypothermia because it was developed based on Nazi experimentation on Jews. Is the doctor morally right? 3) You are off to meet a classmate at Starbucks for a study session when you cross paths with a high school friend in town for the afternoon. You'd love to catch up with your friend, but your promise to study was also a promise to help ... she's counting on you. What is the right thing to do?

4) Your lordly sister has been ruling the bathroom all afternoon trying to get her hair right for a big date. When dumb little brother unplugs her curling iron to charge his Air Hog, she whacks him with the iron way too hard. He cries like it's the end of the world. When your sister asks you to stall her date, you hesitate. Should you help her?

5) You stupidly borrow money from a mobster. Now that he's going to break your legs, you decide to sell your little brother's comic book collection to pay him off. Have you done wrong?

6) You approach the traffic light and see a homeless guy with a sign that reads "absolute desperation." Should you give him some money?

7) You've just bought movie tickets and paid with 2 twenty-dollar bills. After getting to your seat, you realize the clerk gave you \$44.50 in change. You look at the money, thinking about the 28 bucks you just dropped on popcorn, 2 drinks, and some Dots. What should you do?

8) Professor <u>Rebecca Shuman</u> is an exhausted mom who playfully flips her baby daughter the bird when she finally falls asleep. She posts photos of the bird flipping online. Many find this abhorrent, but what precisely has she done wrong, if anything?

9) Trolley Car Scenario A: You are alone on a brakeless trolley car as it hurtles toward 6 rail workers. The track splits ahead where, if you turn the wheel, you can divert the car to a side track with just one worker. Should you turn the wheel?

Trolley Car Scenario B: Standing on a bridge watching an empty, brakeless trolley car hurtle toward those 6 workers you notice a very heavy man leaning over the bridge watching. You realize you could push the man onto the tracks, stopping its progess and saving the 6. Should you push him? (You are a skinny waif.)