Lesson 6 **Ethical Theories and Moral Problems**

Applied Ethics is when you take the ethical theories and apply it to a real life problem.

The following scenarios are true.

You are going to apply the five ethical theories you learned last lesson to these problems.

***Problem 1The code breakers dilemma.***

It is November 1940. You work for secret intelligence service at Bletchly Park. Your office has had a breakthrough. It has cracked the German code used by the Luftwaffe and you can now work out what they are intending to do. You have discovered a German plan to bomb within days the city of Coventry. If you act on this information, the Germans will become aware that the code is cracked and will change their coding system. What should you do? How can you justify your action?

***Problem 2 Keeping faith with a friend.***

Michael Slater (41) has been feeling unwell for some time. He has been to see a doctor who has run varius tests. Michael got the results on a Friday morning. As soon as he could afterwards he phones his friend James and tells him that he has had some worrying news from the doctot and he needs to go away for a while to think things over. He tells James that he will be going to stay at a place in Wales where they have been before but he doesn’t want his wife or children to know. Michael will leave a message with them saying that he has gone on a business trip. James promises to help. Lte on Friday night Michael’s wife rings him. She is worried asshe can’t get Michael on his mobile phone. What should James do?

***Problem 3 The Policeman’s dilemma.***

A senior policeman in a large city has been trying for several years to bring to justice a man who runs a major drug racket. The police know that this man is responsible for the drugs and protection rackets in the city and that he has been responsible for a great deal of petty and much more serious crime, including burglary, coercion and murder. Quite apart from that are the many deaths of people because of the addiction to the drugs that this man has supplied. The snag is that the man has always eluded conviction because he always uses loyal henchmen to do the dirty work. But now a murder has been committed and all the evidence points to this man. He is arrested. But the senior policeman gets another letter from another person who says he is the murderer. He gives such detailed information that it is clear that he is the murderer. But he ends the letter saying that he is so ashamed that he cannot live with himself so he is going to commit suicide. The policeman investigates discretely and the man is found dead. The drugs baron is still in prison awaiting trial.

What should the policeman now do with the letter?

Which ethical theory did you find to be most useful? Why?

Utilitarianism, Kant, Virtue Ethics, Natural Law, or Situation ethics?