What is philosophy?

Philosophy

DOMI MINA

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PHILOSOPHY AS A WAY OF THINKING

WHAT IS IT?

It is the propensity to seek out answers to the questions that we ask ourselves about our existence and the world around us.

WHO HAS IT?

All human beings

We are not satisfied with what we have. We need an explanation that helps us find meaning.

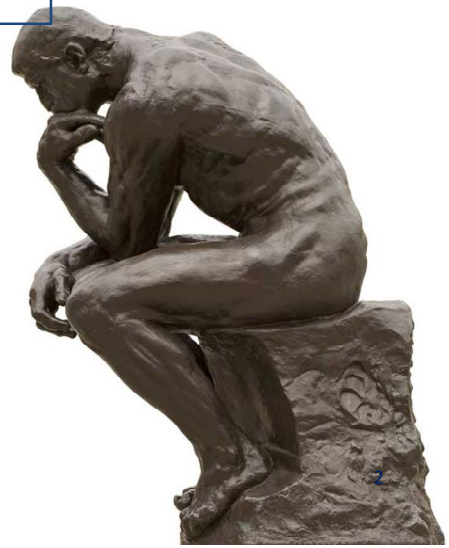
Only human beings

Other beings live without asking questions about the world they live in.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WAY OF THINKING AND A DISCIPLINE?

Philosophical **thought** has no defined beginnings in history. However, philosophy as a **discipline** does have a defined origin.

Philosophical thought is not only the foundation of philosophy, but also of science and religion.



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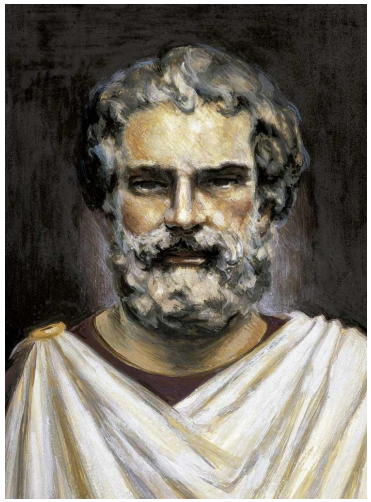
PHILOSOPHY AS A DISCIPLINE

ORIGINS

Philosophy is a discipline that came from in the Greek hills of Asia Minor in the 6th century B.C.

THALES

Thales was born in Miletus at the end of the 7th Century B.C.



He is considered the first philosopher in history

He pioneered a hypothesis of the nature of all things using only reason and observation.

CHARACTERISTICS

- It begins with a recognition of ignorance
- It is theoretical knowledge that aims to transform reality
- It is universal: it aims to answer all questions.
- It uses reason as an instrument of knowledge.
- It's a type of knowledge that aims to be all-encompassing

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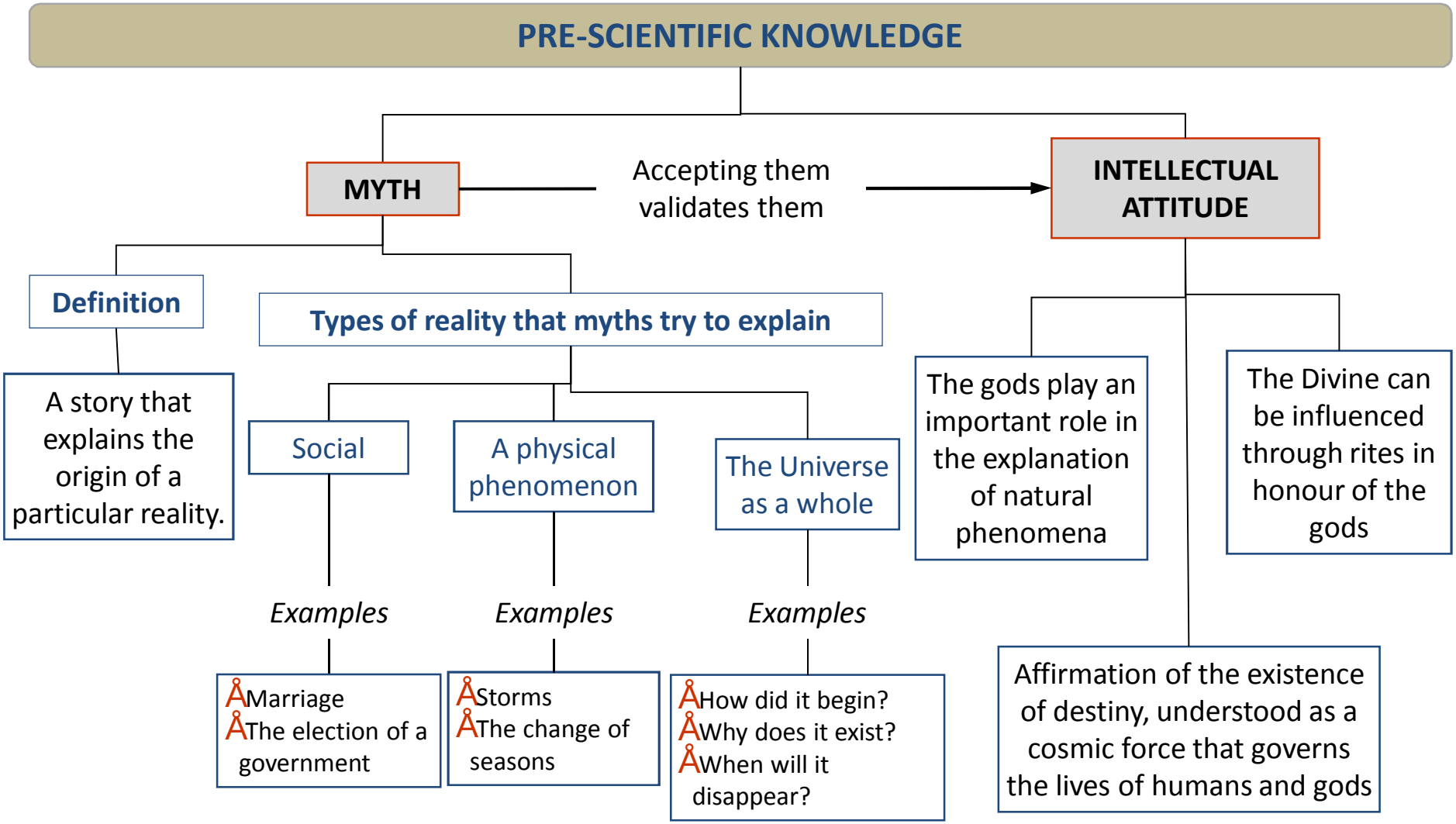

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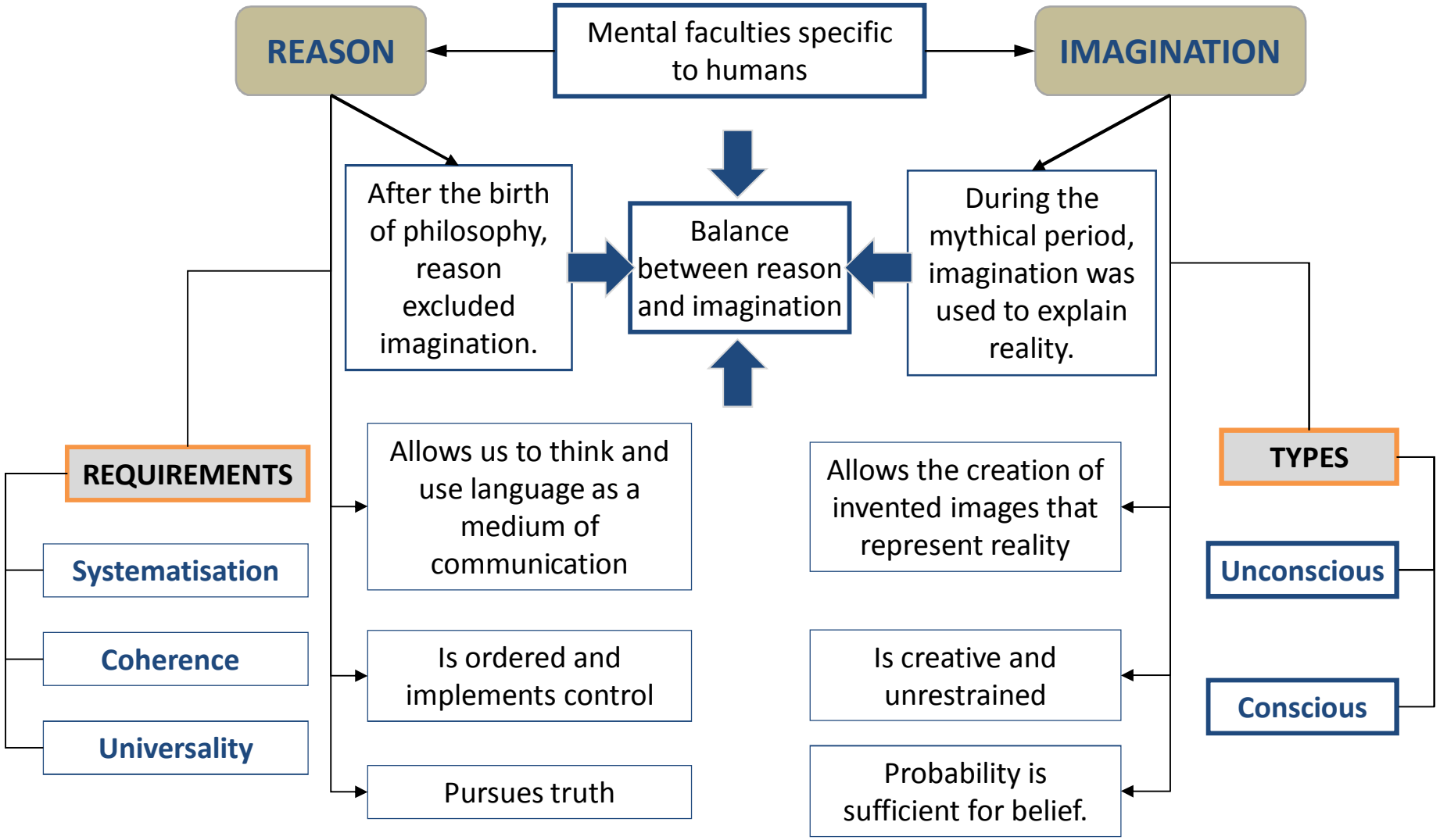

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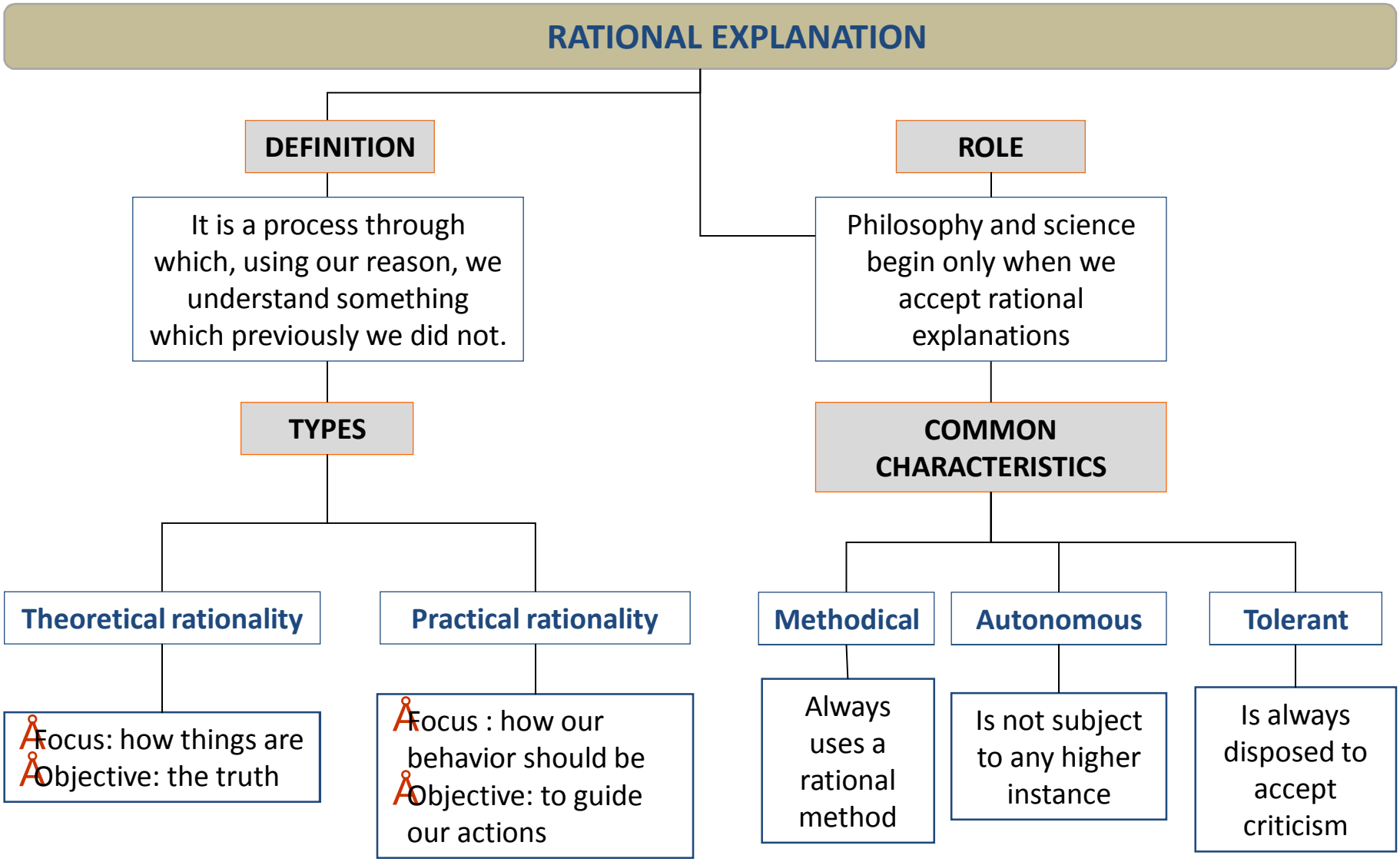

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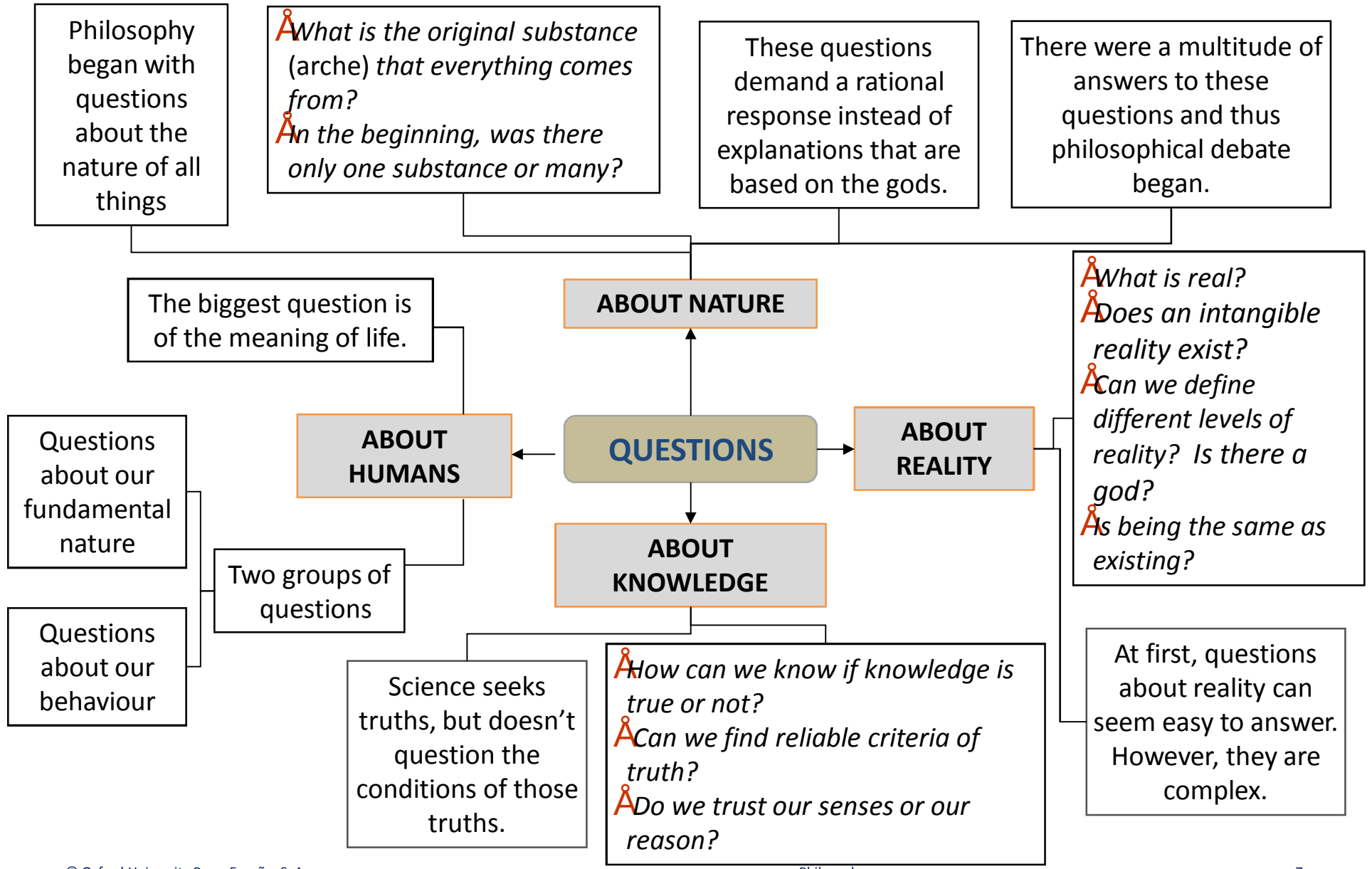

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CHARACTERISTICS OF PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

RADICAL

- The questions must aim to get to the root of the issues they explore.

OPEN

- There is no single answer that renders a philosophical question useless.
- Each one of us has to find our own answer to philosophical questions.
  - Previous answers can help us to find our own answer, but they are only useful if we make our own discoveries.

HIGHLY ABSTRACT AND GENERAL

- Philosophical questions focus on the nature of existence
  - The concept of existence is the most abstract of all.
  - The answers to these questions apply to all beings, because everything is being.

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ANCIENT HISTORY

PRE-SOCRATIC (6TH–5TH CENTURY B.C.)

- Offered a rational explanation of the reality of nature.
- Proposed the existence of one original substance (or many), called *arche*.

CLASSICAL (5TH CENTURY–322 B.C.)

- Shifted focus from the natural world to human beings and their life in society.
- Plato and Aristotle were the first philosophers to cover all areas of philosophy.

HELLENISTIC (322–2ND CENTURY B.C.)

Philosophy was divided into two schools: Athenian and Alexandrian

- In Athens, two important schools of philosophy were created: Epicurean and Stoic.
- In Alexandria, important research into nature was developed.

CHRISTIAN ORIGINS (2nd CENTURY BC–476 A.D.)

- There was opposition between philosophy and Christianity
- Attempts were made to create a synthesis between philosophy and Christianity

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MODERNITY (15th - 18th century)

RENAISSANCE

- Development of modern science after returning to the research from old Alexandria
- Humanism is conceived of as an exaltation of the value of humanity

17TH CENTURY

Rationalists

Defend the supremacy of reason over the senses in gaining knowledge

Descartes, Spinoza and Leibniz

Empiricists

Maintain that reliable knowledge can come only from information that the senses give us

Locke and Hume

ENLIGHTENMENT

Argued for bettering society and the quality of life of citizens through educating the population and by encouraging free thought.

Rousseau and Kant

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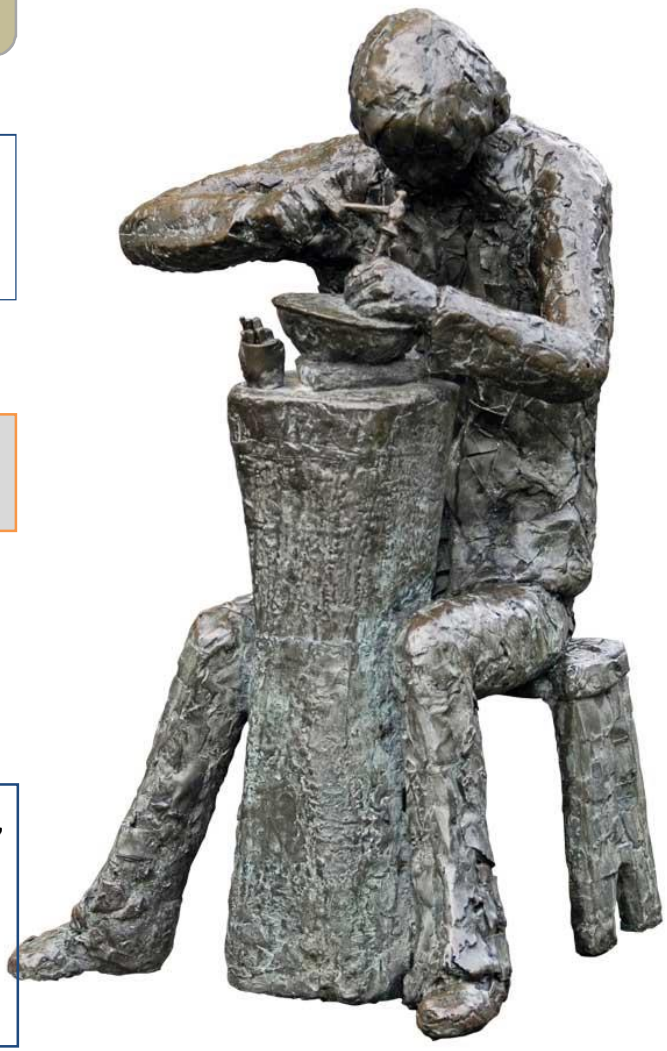
CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY (19th and 20th centuries)

- Attempts were abandoned to offer a complete explanation of reality
- Attention was focused on particular aspects of reality

THEMES

Society, morality, history, and human existence

19th century	20th century
Marx, Comte, Stuart Mill, Dilthey, Nietzsche, etc.	Russell, Wittgenstein, Dewey, Heidegger, Sartre, Ortega y Gasset, Habermas, Rawls, etc.



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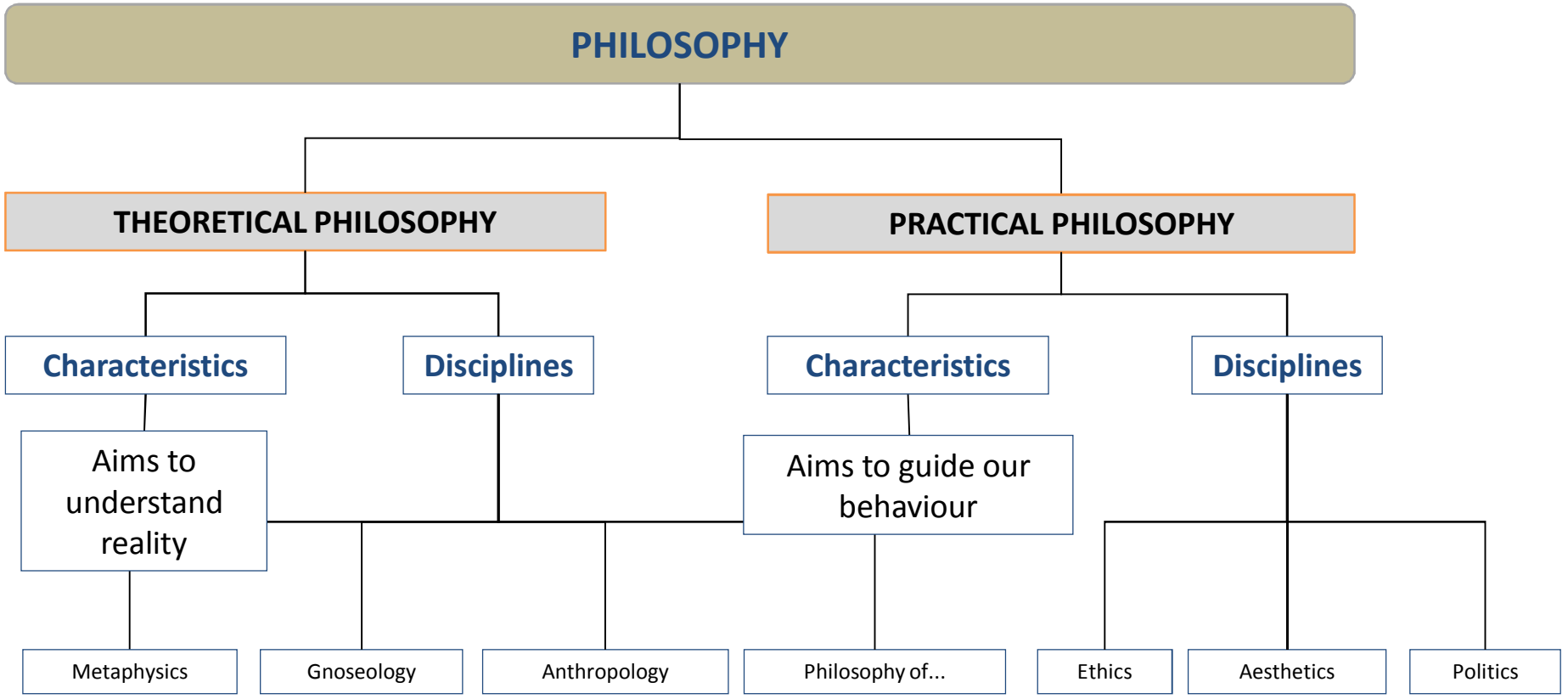

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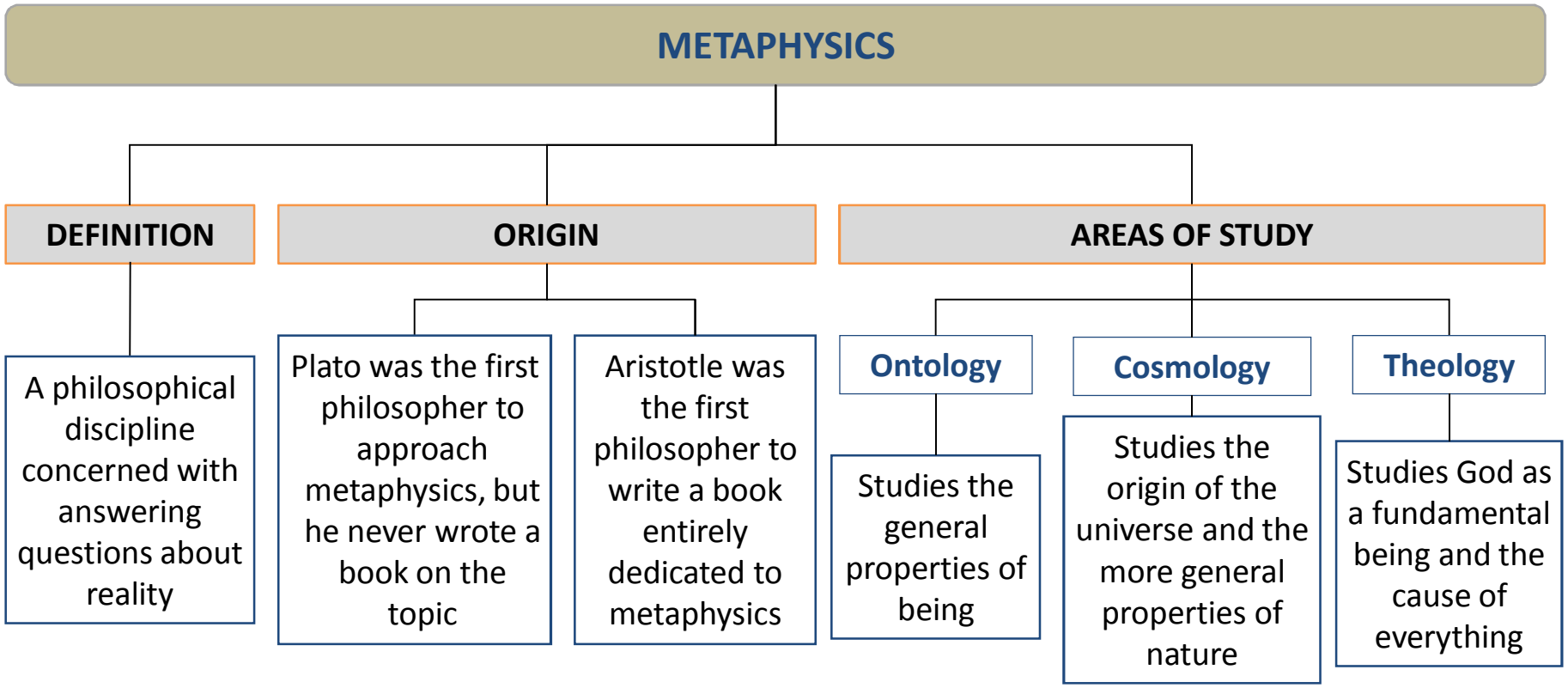

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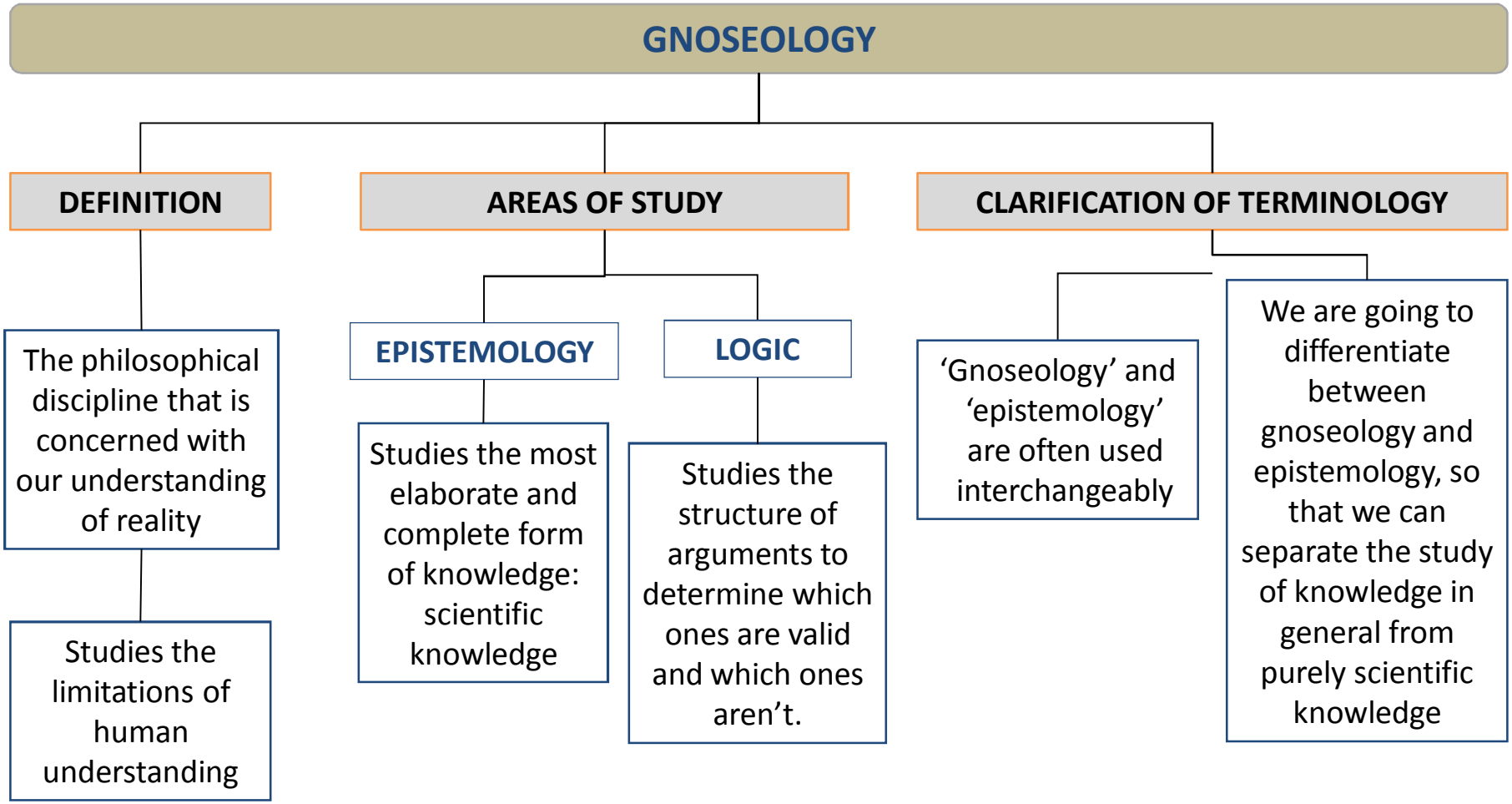

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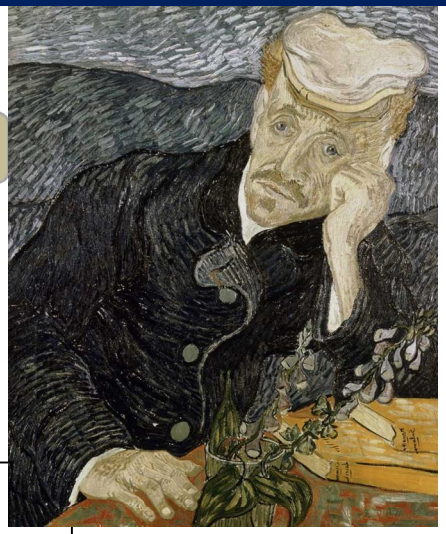

ANTHROPOLOGY

DEFINITION

A philosophical discipline concerned with the study of humans

Aims to understand what really makes us human and different to other animals

AREAS OF STUDY

Physical anthropology

Concerned with analysing anatomical and physiological traits of humans that highlight the differences between us and animals

Social / cultural anthropology

Focuses on humans' natural tendency to live in society and analyses the unique qualities of different social organizations.

Philosophical anthropology

The only branch that is a philosophical discipline

Attempts to offer a global vision of humans that helps us to answer the question 'What is a human?'.

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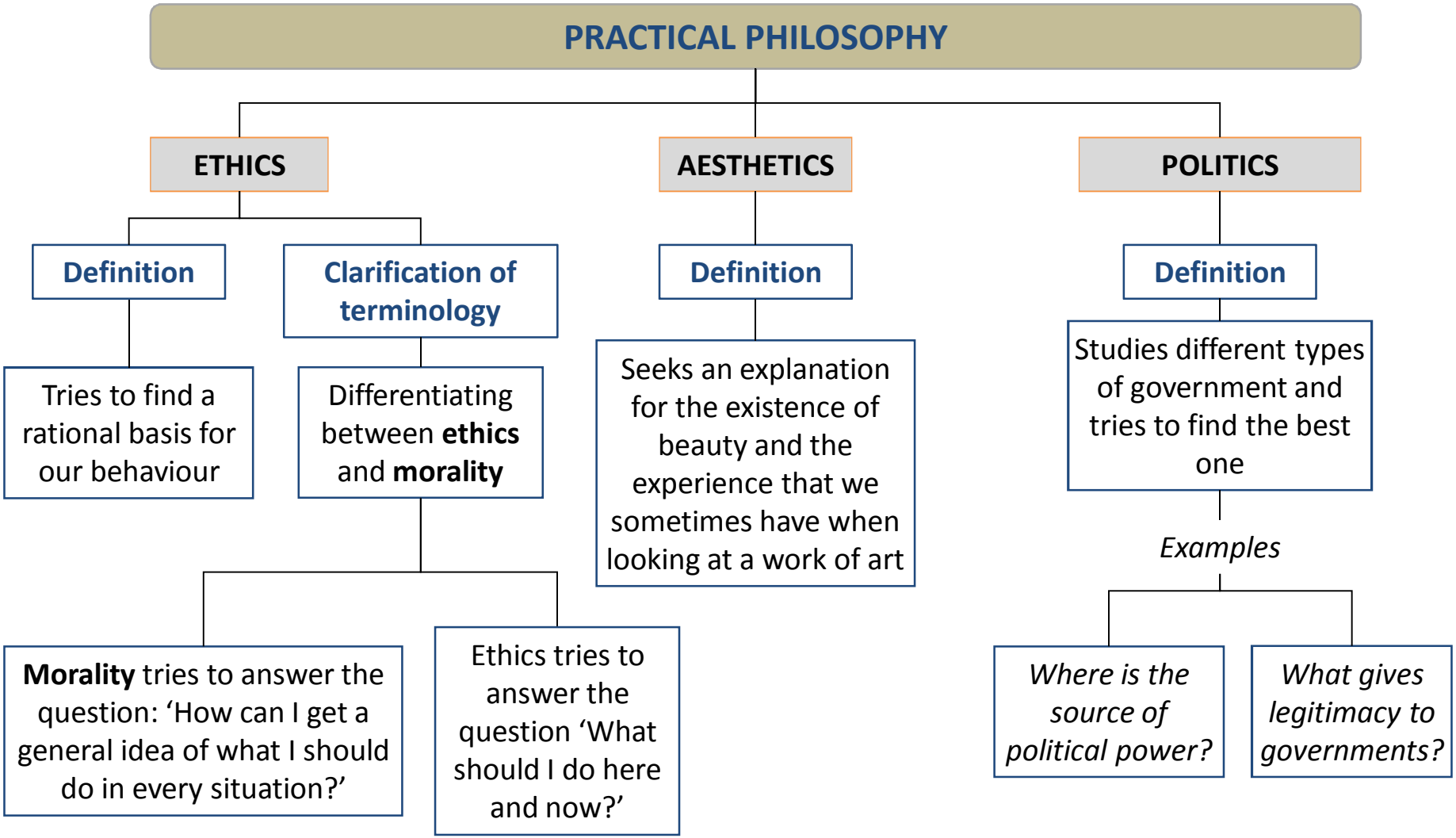

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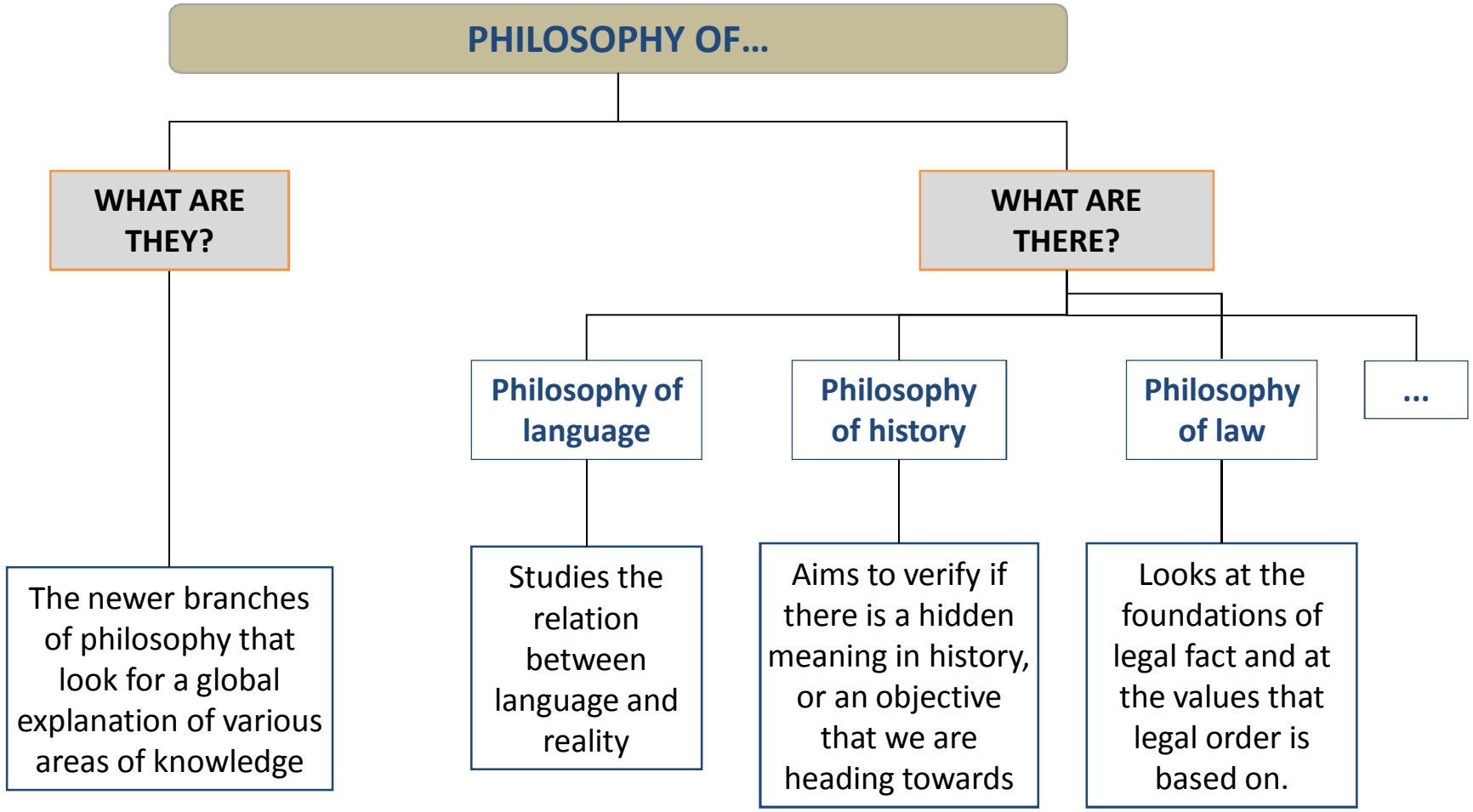

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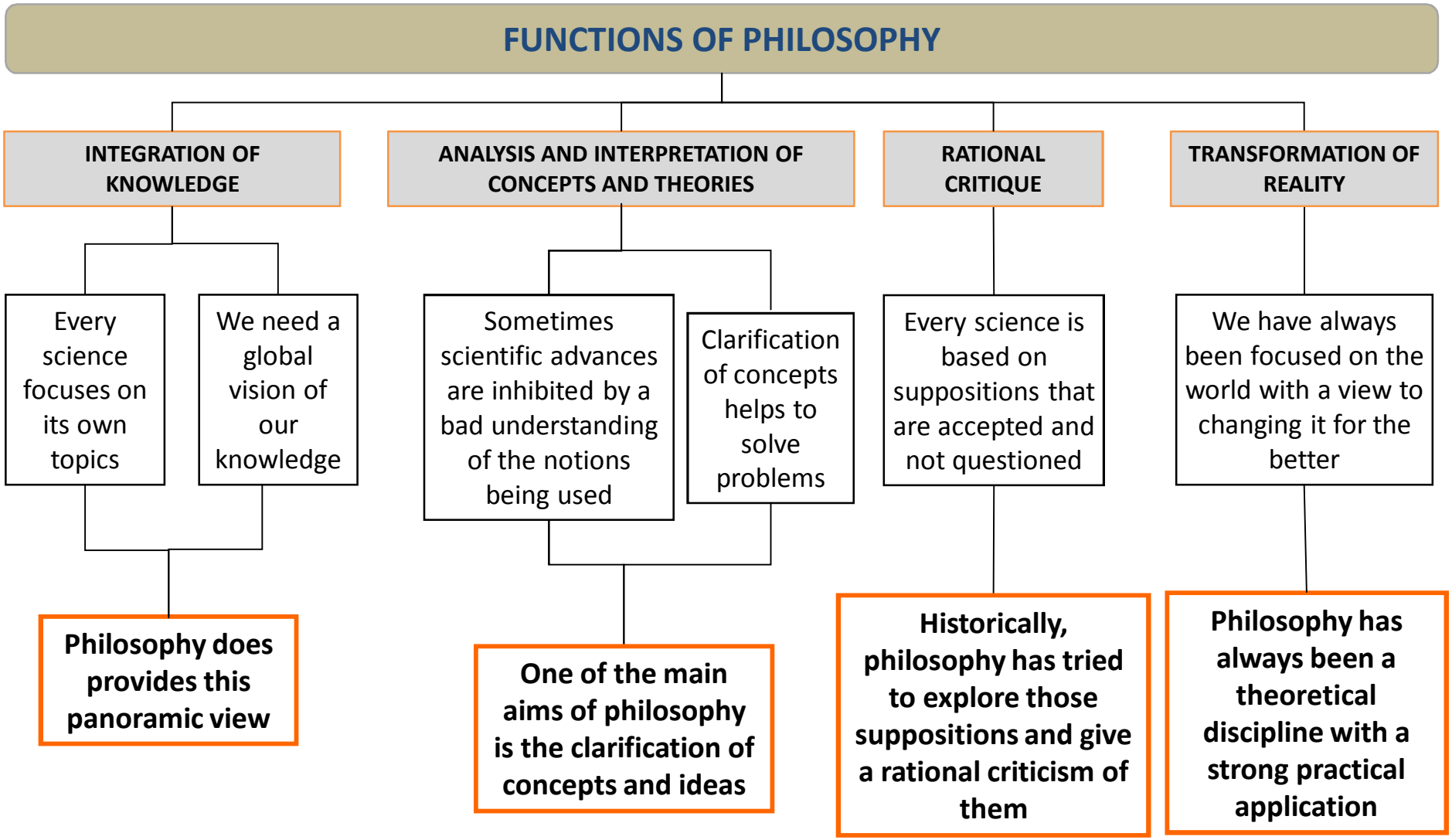

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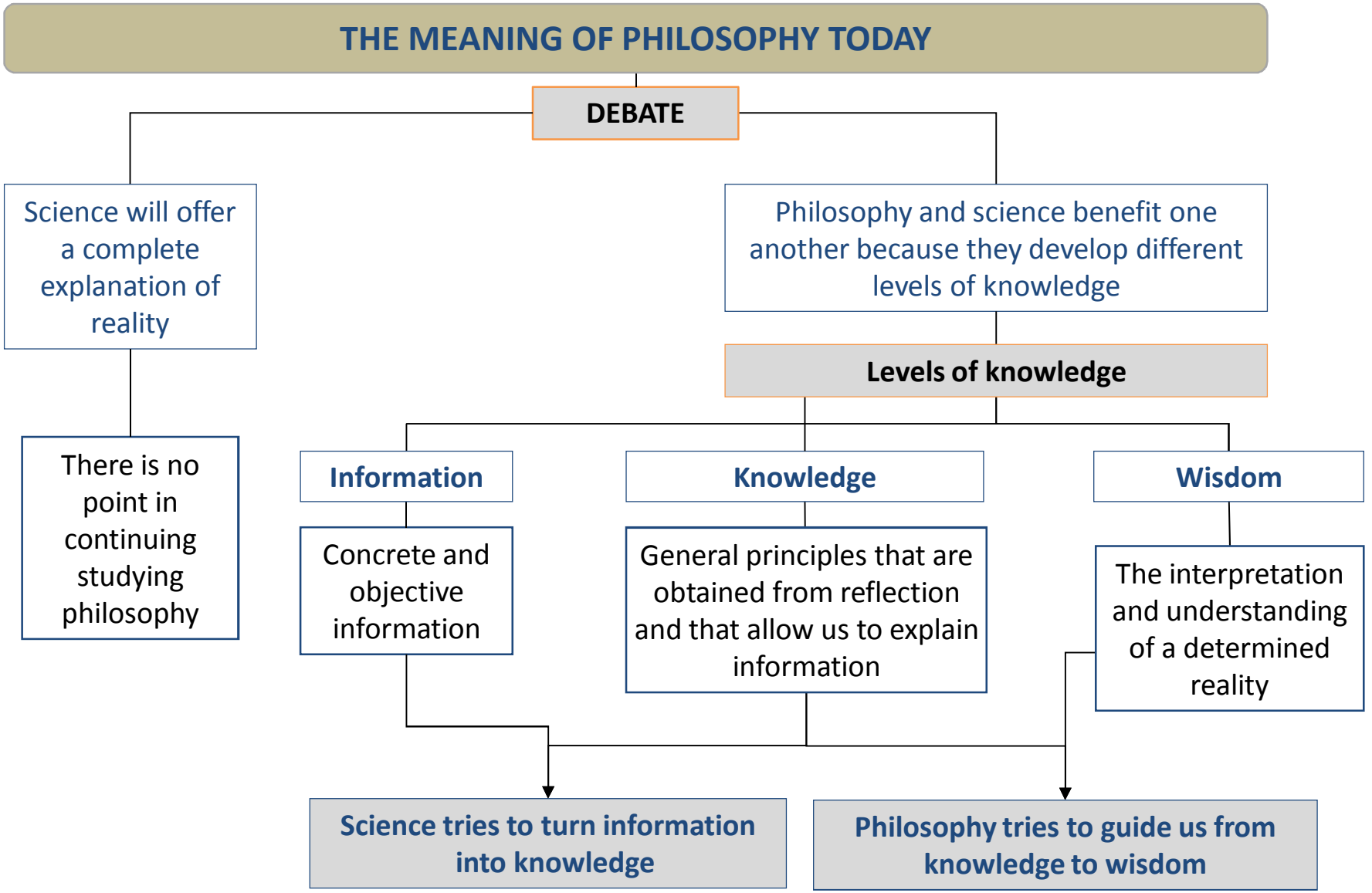

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