SHORT REPETITION AND THEORIES OF TRUTH

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KNOWLEDGE AND THE KNOWER

- How is it possible to know what shapes my knowledge as a knower?

- How much of our knowledge depends on our interactions with other knowers?

- Are there types of knowledge that are specifically linked to particular communities of knowers?

- Presented with the belief system of a community of knowers, how can we decide what we personally believe?

- Is the truth what the majority of people accept?

- How do empathy and imagination help us to understand other perspectives?

- How can we know that current knowledge is an improvement on past knowledge?

THE KNOWLEDGE ACHIEVEMENT

In our efforts to navigate our way in the world, we gain knowledge from other people and from the world itself (acquisition of knowledge). It is important that we subject this knowledge to scrutiny in order to have confidence in it (evaluation of knowledge). As consumers of knowledge, we need to engage both of these processes. Furthermore, new knowledge can be built on the foundation of what we have established (production of knowledge).

THE THEORIES OF TRUTH

- There are often said to be five main 'theories of truth': **correspondence, coherence, pragmatic, consensus (redundancy), and semantic theories.**

- **The correspondence theory of truth** — that whatever corresponds to observable reality is true. The correspondence theory of truth is the view that truth is correspondence to, or with, a fact—a view that was advocated by Russell and Moore early in the 20th century.

- **The coherence theory of truth** — that claims are true if they follow logically and coherently from a set of axioms (or intermediate propositions). The coherence theory differs from its principal competitor (Spinoza, Kant, Fichte and Hegel), the correspondence theory of truth, in two essential respects. A coherence theory of truth which results from idealism usually leads to the view that truth comes in degrees. A belief is true to the degree that it coheres with other beliefs.

- **The consensus theory of truth** — that what is true is what everyone agrees to be true. The first formal sociological consensus theory, however, is Emille Durkheim's Functionalism, which argues that all institutions within a society serve an essential purpose.

THE THEORIES OF TRUTH

- **The pragmatic theory of truth** — that what is true is what is useful to you, or beneficial for you. Pragmatic theories of truth are usually associated either with C.S. Peirce's proposal that true beliefs will be accepted "at the end of inquiry" or with William James' proposal that truth be defined in terms of utility.

- **The semantic theory of truth** - The semantic theory of truth was developed by Alfred Tarski in the 1930s. It is a formal mathematical theory of truth as a central concept of model theory, one of the most important branches of mathematical logic. It is also a philosophical doctrine which elaborates the notion of truth investigated by philosophers since antiquity.

THE THEORIES OF TRUTH – WHY AND WHO?

- Presentation (max 15 min.).

- Who created and why?

- Cultural and political context.

- Definitions and variations.

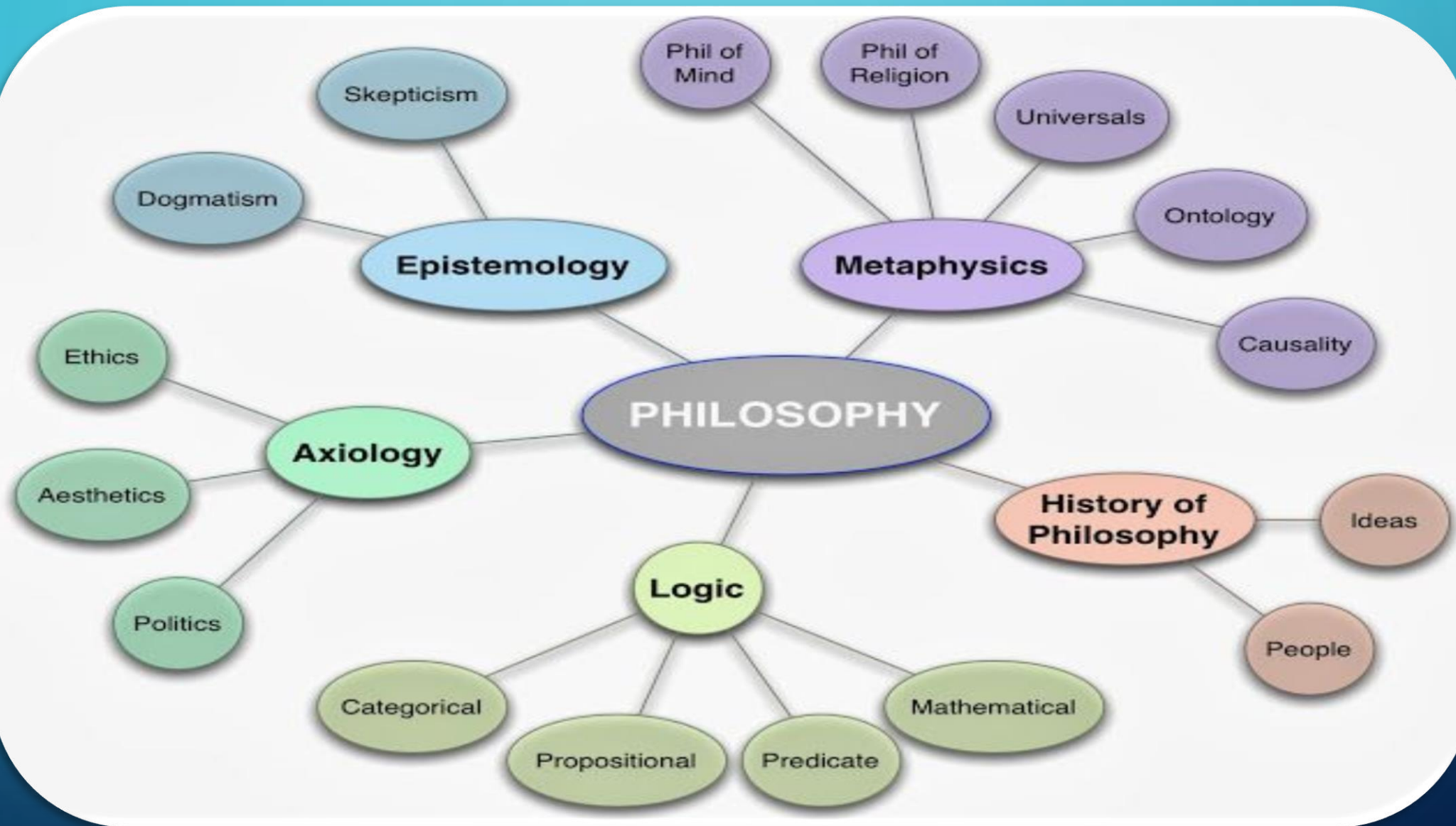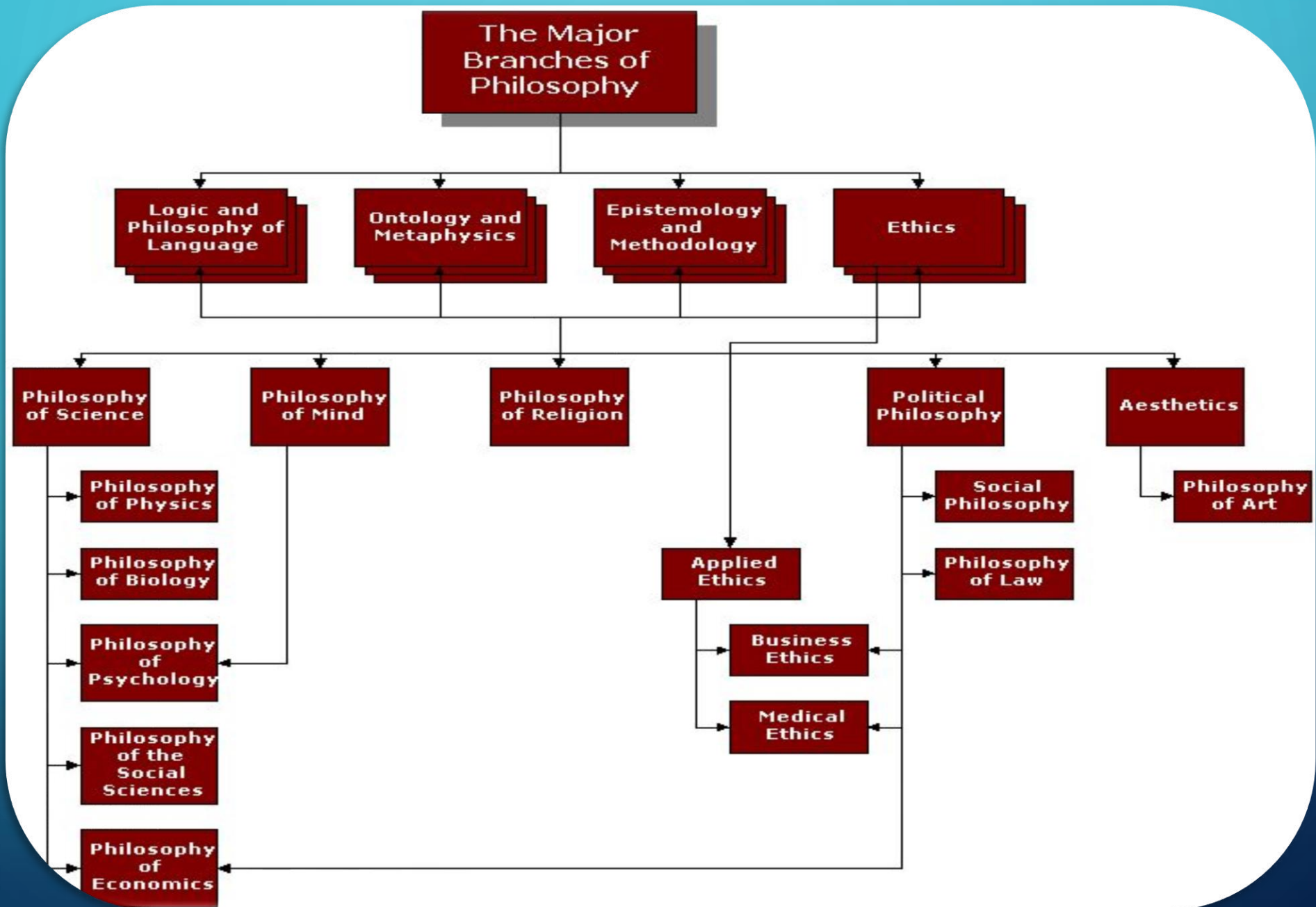- Examples and the way of usage (at the past and now).

PHILOSOPHY

- Love of wisdom, came from the ancient Greek - φίλος, phílos: "love"; and σοφία, sophía: "wisdom".

- *Philosophy* (the study of *ideas... about knowledge, truth, nature and meaning)* **is one of the oldest-practiced sciences in human history.**

BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY
(Heirarchical Relationship)

METAPHYSICS	Study of Existence	What's out there?
EPISTEMOLOGY	Study of Knowledge	How do I know about it?
ETHICS	Study of Action	What should I do?
POLITICS	Study of Force	What actions are permissible?
AESTHETICS	Study of Art	What can life be like?

PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS CREATED THE IDEAS OF THE WORLD

- Do People Have Free Will?

- Is Beauty Objective Or Subjective?

- Is Nature Moving Towards Dissolution, Or Integration?

- What Are The Universal Human Rights?

- Is Our Universe 'Real'?

- Is killing wrong?

- Why do soldiers kill on orders?