

2020-21 Natural philosophy
Study guide - Page 3 of 5
Terms/Definitions

- **The Categories:** Aristotle's division of being into ten classes (*predicamenta*); there is one primary mode (substance/*ousia*) which stands as "cause" to the and nine secondary modes of being (accidents/*sumbebekos*) which are the "effect/s".
- **Demonstration:** a syllogism that produces scientific knowledge (i.e. knowledge that is certain and true) because the causes makes the conclusion be as it is.
- **Substantial change:** a subject's unqualified change from one kind of being into an entirely different thing, which is a change from non-being to being.
- **Accidental change:** a subject's qualified change of merely the attributes of its being.
- **Privation:** the absence (or loss) of a perfective principle in a subject. It is contrasted with "form", but affiliated with "matter" (both kinds) and, consequently, cannot influence positively the production of something like a cause as such.
- **Chance:** considered the opposite of "nature", it is an interference between, or an intersection of, two (or more) natural lines of causality not determined by the nature of either to interfere with one another. The effect is neither expected, nor intended, by the agent.
- **Fortune:** a kind of "chance" (sometimes called "luck") which is said properly of events in which an agent acting with intelligence and will attains an unintended end (goal).