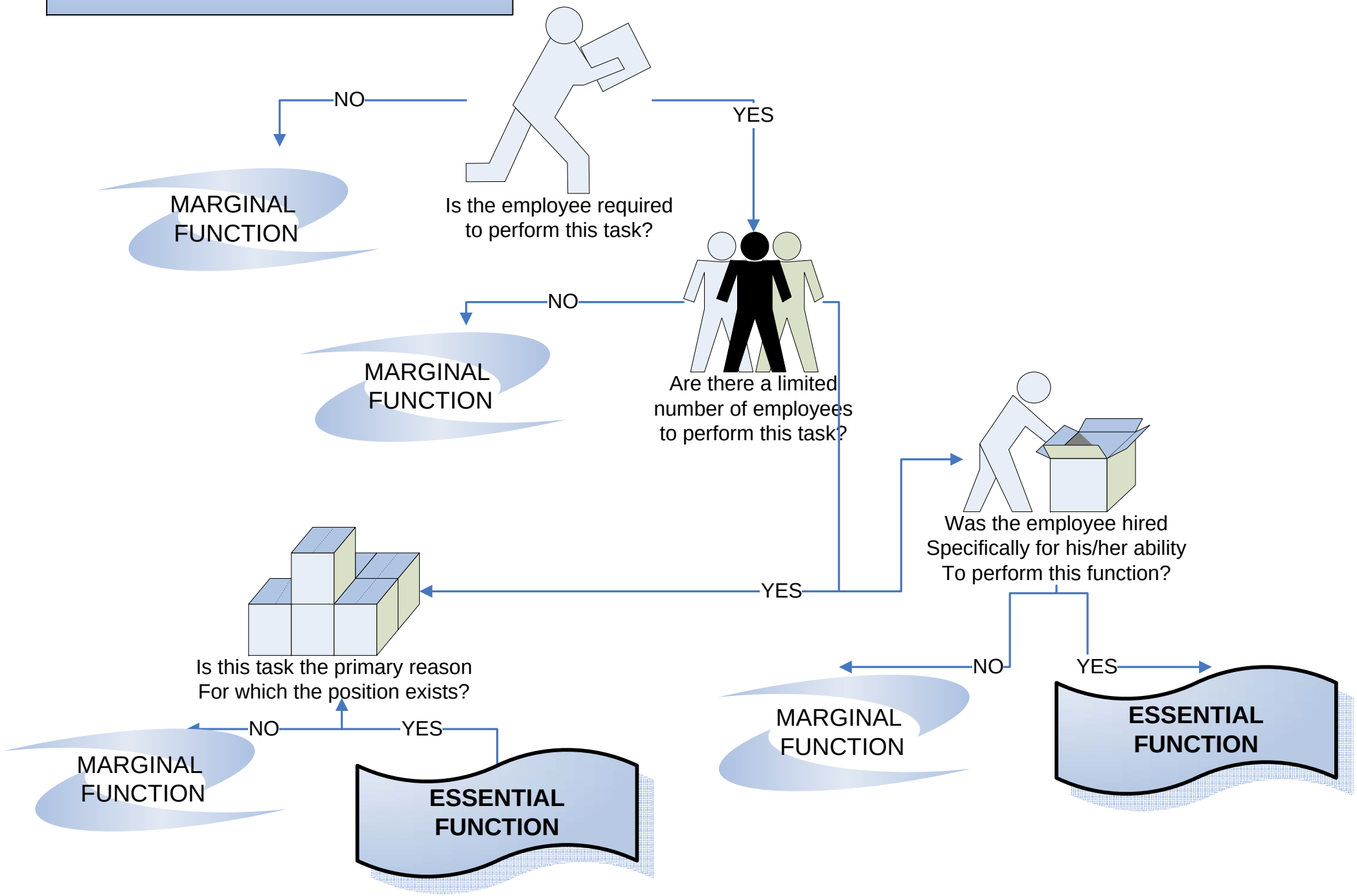
What is an essential function?

7/13/2012