**Flow Production, Specialisation and Efficiency**

What is flow production?

What would a business consider before investing in the machinery needed to use this method?

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What are the advantages of flow production?

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What is specialisation?

What are the disadvantages of flow production?

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What does efficiency mean?

What will you efficiency depend upon?

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What are the advantages of being an efficient business?

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What are the disadvantages of being an inefficient business?

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Explain how the division of labour and specialisation can impact efficiency.

Imber Showers Ltd is a UK manufacturer of electric shower units. The shower units are manufactured on a flow production line with as many as 20 people specialising in assembling the many different parts of each shower. Imber Showers Ltd buys the components used to make the shower units from several UK suppliers. It tries to keep costs down by buying from the cheapest suppliers. This means that Imber Showers Ltd often changes its suppliers when it finds another one which is cheaper. The company is facing increased competition. The managers believe that in order to compete, Imber Showers Ltd needs to increase the range of showers available to customers, so that it can target different types of customer. The managers also believe that they could reduce costs further by introducing Just in Time (JIT) stock control.

Explain one advantage and one disadvantage for Imber Showers Ltd of using flow production. (6 marks)

 Advantage ..............................................................................................................................................................................

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Disadvantage ...........................................................................................................................................................................

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