**Lean Production**

What does lean production aim to do and how does it benefit businesses?

What forms can waste take within a business? Explain each point.



Explain:



Explain:



Explain:



Explain:

What is just-in-time production?

Give 2 advantages:







Give 2 disadvantages:



What is Kaizen?

What impact does lean production have on employees?








[McDonald's is another example of a JIT system wherein McDonald's doesn't begin to cook (well, I should probably say reheat and assemble what may or may not be actual food) its orders until a customer has placed a specific order.  
  
What used to be the case was McDonald's would pre-cook a batch of hamburgers and let them sit under heat lamps.  They would keep them for as long as possible and eventually discard what couldn't be sold.  The only way to get a fresh hamburger under the old system was to make a special order.  Now, due to more sophisticated burger-making technology (including a record-breaking bun toaster), McDonald's is able to make food fast enough to wait until it's been ordered.  
  
What both of these firms do is they provide a customer with their order as fast as possible while having the finished product sitting in inventory for as short as possible.](http://images.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.odcpl.com/images/mcdonalds.gif&imgrefurl=http://thatslifeinthecity.blogspot.com/2007/11/three-men-in-womens-clothes-attack.html&h=875&w=913&sz=35&hl=en&&um=1&tbnid=CugwA7gmhr8FcM:&tbnh=141&tbnw=147&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dmcdonalds%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN)

a.)    Identify the advantages of McDonalds operating a JIT management system approach to its production

b.)    What are the potential problems of using this system?

c.)    What aspects have allowed it to move towards this method of stock control?

d.)    What influence will this have on the employees when moving to this technique?

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.

Advise the managers of Imber Showers Ltd on whether they should use Just in Time (JIT) stock control to help them to reduce costs. Give reasons for your advice. (9 marks)