



THE TIMES 100

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Portakabin: Lean Production at Portakabin

Answer sheet

1. Who are Portakabin's customers?
Anyone who wants a building either in standard size or made to measure.
2. What is a trademark
A trademark is a form of protection preventing anyone other than the owner associating the word Portakabin with any other product.
3. If the Shepherd Group is a family owned business, what type of business is it likely to be?
Private Limited Company.
4. Why is Portakabin keen to incorporate Lean Production into the organisation?
To reduce manufacturing costs, improve efficiency, increase productivity, have a continuous improvement culture within the company and possibly gain positive PR from its actions.
5. How does the Lean Production process work?
Lean Production works by reducing the quantity of resources used in every stage of production . from the initial order to delivery . this maybe in the form of raw materials, man power, space, time taken, cost etc.
6. How is the Lean Production process a win / win situation?
It is a win / win because Portakabin is producing the modular building as efficiently as possible so costs are kept down which means a greater profit margin. Fewer materials are used and wastage is low meaning that less is going to the landfill or for recycling and the local community are not effected by general noise and pollution like traditional manufacturing and construction sites.
7. Which 3 types of production does Portakabin use?
Flow, Cellular and Batch production.
8. Why is it important that Portakabin uses a Quality Management System?
So that continuous improvement is embraced in the organisation, quality control systems are in place at every stage of production and the job is done right first time to the exact requirements of the customer so that there is no wastage and costs are kept to a minimum.
9. Portakabin emphasises the fact that it meets the ISO9001 and ISO14001 standards. Why?
It is a good selling point. Potential customers will feel safe with this claim. It also means that Portakabin should never have bad press with regards to building a sub standard modular building.



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10. Just-in-time is used by Portakabin. What are the advantages of doing this?

Using JIT reduces the amount of stock that is being stored, which therefore means that there is less money tied up in stock which means it can be used elsewhere and therefore have a more positive Cashflow. Less storage space is needed and therefore more machinery or workspace is available. All stock received should be to order and therefore exactly what is needed for current orders.

11. How might Kaizen benefit Portakabin?

Kaizen will benefit Portakabin through reducing overall costs, empowering staff to come up with new solutions for improving policy, procedure and process. This helps with competitiveness and enables Portakabin to keep their good name / brand.