

Henry Ford – Lean Manufacturing (Business People)

Henry Ford hated waste. His ambition was to produce the most efficient production line for making his Model T cars. He thought about the process flow; beginning with raw materials and finishing with a happy customer driving a new car.

In Michigan, USA in 1913, Henry Ford created a moving, assembly line to produce cars. Every worker had a different job and the cars moved through the factory past each workstation. Mr. Ford had an office on the second floor so he could watch the whole line. If he saw that a part of the line was too slow or workers had to move too quickly, he would change the system until it was more efficient.

His techniques included standardisation, paying good wages and reducing waste. Henry Ford is considered the "Father of Lean Manufacturing".

Toyota is the largest car manufacturer in the world today, and the Toyota Production System (TPS) is based on the original ideas of Henry Ford.

Did you understand the text?

1) What did Henry Ford hate?

- a) Cars
- b) Waste
- c) Production
- d) Toyota

2) What type of car did Henry make?

- a) Toyota Yaris
- b) Model A
- c) Volkswagen Beetle
- d) Model T

3) Who is the largest car manufacturer today?

- a) Ford
- b) Volkswagen
- c) TPS
- d) Toyota

4) Where was the first Ford Assembly Line?

- a) New York
- b) Michigan
- c) Tokyo
- d) London

5) What was the last step in Henry Ford's process?

- a) His office
- b) A happy customer
- c) A workstation
- d) Raw materials

6) What did Henry Ford do?

- a) Make Toyota cars
- b) Pay his workers poorly
- c) Invent an efficient manufacturing system
- d) Offer a large range of different cars

7) Where was Henry Ford's office?

- a) On the second floor
- b) At a workstation
- c) In New York
- d) In his car

8) Why is Henry Ford considered the father of Lean Manufacturing?

- a) He had children
- b) He was kind to his workers
- c) He created an efficient system
- d) He created Toyota