

Chapter Review

40

Aids to Production

Objectives...

- 1 list the reasons why work study techniques are utilised in production
- 2 explain the 'Method Study' technique
- 3 explain the 'Work Measurement' technique
- 4 list the typical stages of value analysis
- 5 evaluate quality circles

Key Terms

Quality circles	These are meetings of group of workers committed to continuous improvement in the quality and productivity of a given line of production.
Value Analysis	A term used to describe an analytical approach to the function and costs of every part of a product with a view to reducing costs whilst retaining the functional ability; sometimes known as value engineering.
Value engineering	an approach to cost reduction in product design that examines the purpose of a product or service, its basic functions and its secondary functions.
Work Study	A term describing several techniques for examining work in all its contexts, in particular those factors affecting economy and efficiency, with a view to making improvements; the two most common techniques of Work Study are Method Study and Work Measurement. (See also Method Study and Work Measurement.)

22. In this chapter we investigated how the organisation can bring about improvements in operations. We focused on three aids to production management – Work Study, Value Engineering, and Quality Circles. Work study seeks to make improvements (typically reducing costs and time but also enhancing quality) through operational activities and people; Value engineering and value analysis seek to make improvements (typically cost reduction) in products through the elimination of unnecessary features and functions and quality circles make use of empowered and multidisciplinary teams of employees to solve operational problems, bringing about improvements in productivity and quality, whilst reducing cost and waste.