Production & Operations Management (POM) – FAQs

1. What is Production Management?
Production management focuses on planning, organizing, and controlling the manufacturing of goods efficiently.

2. What is Operations Management?
Operations management deals with managing processes that convert inputs into goods and services.

3. How does Production Management differ from Operations Management?
Production management is limited to manufacturing activities, whereas operations management covers both goods and services.

4. Why is Production and Operations Management important today?
POM is important due to rising competition, cost pressures, and the need for quality and speed.

5. What are the objectives of POM?
The objectives of POM are optimum resource utilization, quality improvement, cost reduction, and timely delivery.

6. What is production planning and control (PPC)?
PPC ensures that production activities are carried out efficiently as per planned schedules.

7. What is capacity planning in POM?
Capacity planning determines the production capability required to meet future demand.

8. What is plant location?
Plant location refers to selecting a suitable geographical site for production facilities.

9. What is plant layout in POM?
Plant layout is the arrangement of machines and work areas to ensure smooth production flow.

10. What is inventory control?
Inventory control maintains optimal stock levels to minimize costs and avoid shortages.

11. What is work study?
Work study analyzes work methods and time standards to improve productivity.

12. What is method study?
Method study examines work processes to identify the most efficient way of performing tasks.

13. What is time study?
Time study measures the time required to perform tasks under normal working conditions.

14. What is quality control?
Quality control ensures products meet specified standards through inspection and testing.

15. What is Just-in-Time (JIT) production?
JIT production minimizes inventory by producing goods only when required.

16. What is lean production?
Lean production focuses on eliminating waste to improve efficiency and customer value.

17. What is Total Quality Management (TQM)?
TQM is a company-wide approach aimed at continuous improvement in quality.

18. What is the scope of POM?
The scope of POM includes manufacturing, services, logistics, healthcare, and digital operations.

19. What career opportunities are available in POM?
POM offers careers such as production manager, operations manager, quality manager, and supply chain analyst.

20. Why is POM important for MBA students?
POM is important for MBA students as it builds analytical and decision-making skills for operational efficiency.

21. What is demand forecasting in POM?
Demand forecasting estimates future product demand to support production planning.

22. What is aggregate planning?
Aggregate planning determines overall production, workforce, and inventory levels over a medium-term horizon.

23. What is master production schedule (MPS)?
MPS specifies the quantity and timing of finished goods to be produced.

24. What is material requirements planning (MRP)?
MRP calculates material needs and schedules procurement based on the production plan.

25. What is capacity utilization in POM?
Capacity utilization measures the extent to which available production capacity is used.

26. What is scheduling in production management?
Scheduling allocates jobs to machines or workers over specific time periods.

27. What is routing in production?
Routing determines the sequence of operations required to manufacture a product.

28. What is dispatching?
Dispatching is the process of issuing orders to start production activities.

29. What is follow-up in production control?
Follow-up ensures production activities are progressing according to plan.

30. What is bottleneck in production systems?
A bottleneck is the stage that restricts the overall output of the production process.

31. What is line balancing in POM?
Line balancing distributes work evenly across stations to minimize idle time.

32. What is maintenance management?
Maintenance management ensures machines operate efficiently with minimal breakdowns.

33. What is preventive maintenance?
Preventive maintenance involves scheduled servicing to avoid equipment failure.

34. What is productivity in POM?
Productivity is the ratio of output produced to inputs used in production.

35. What is Industry 4.0 in POM?
Industry 4.0 refers to the application of automation, IoT, AI, and data analytics in modern production systems.