

UNIVERSITY OF BOLTON

OFF CAMPUS DIVISION

SCMPC MALAYSIA

MSC SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATION 2019/2020

PHYSICAL SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

MODULE NO: EBU7002

Date: Saturday 18th January 2020

Time: 3 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

There are 6 questions on this paper.

Answer 4 questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

University of Bolton
Off Campus Division
SCMPC Malaysia
MSc Supply Chain Management
Semester 1 Examination 2019/2020
Physical Supply Chain Management
Module No: EBU7002

1. The practice of 'late customization' has received a good deal of attention in recent years in connection with Physical Supply Chain Management.

Critically evaluate the thinking behind this, including in your answer information on the benefits or disadvantages that commonly arise from the adoption of the practice. Devise a detailed illustrative example of an actual supply chain where late customization is employed.

[25 marks]

2. The application of 'Vendor Managed Inventory' (VMI) covers a variety of approaches employed in the supply chain. Propose the main variables that will need to be negotiated in setting up arrangements through which a vendor might be engaged in the management of inventory on behalf of a client, and critically appraise the advantages and disadvantages for both parties (vendor and customer) in such an arrangement.

[25 marks]

3. A Malaysian Company in the oil and gas industry is seeking to develop a classification and coding system for the materials used in production. Formulate a list of the principal characteristics that are necessary in such a coding system, and argue the reasons for each characteristic.

[25 marks]

4. Critically evaluate the feasibility of adopting the 'cross docking' approach in a Malaysian supply chain of your choice where the idea has not yet been adopted.

[25 marks]

5. Bar coding is to some extent being supplanted by RFID systems used for data capture in the physical supply chain. Evaluate this newer technology, giving an analysis of its principal characteristics, and its advantages and disadvantages when compared with bar coding.

[25 marks]

6. Appraise the ways in which ideas of Corporate Social Responsibility and the need to be 'green' are influencing modern Physical Supply Chains. Please give three examples of chains where this developing thinking has been applied, giving some critical evaluation of the benefits generated. Do not simply identify issues, but write about what was actually done, and the results.

[25 marks]

End of Paper