

EXAMINATION QUESTION - SINGLE ITEM PRODUCTION

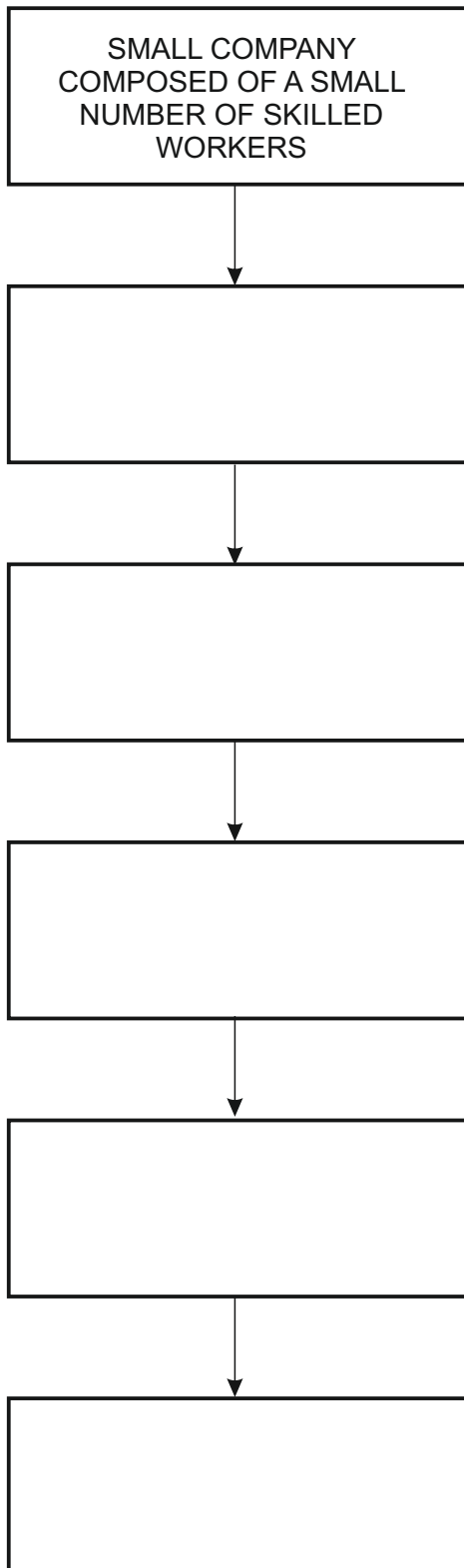
HELPFUL LINK: <https://www.technologystudent.com/joints/sing1.htm>

During the design process you will have to decide how your project will be manufactured (made) in industry. Your final design could be manufactured by continuous production, batch production or single item production. Your choice will depend on a number of factors the most important being the customer or number of customers.

WHAT IS SINGLE ITEM PRODUCTION ?

This is when only one item is made and is sometimes called 'one-off production'. Sometimes a company will make one item and test it to see if it works or if it needs to be improved. This is called a prototype. Single item manufacture usually involves skilled people carefully making a special product for a customer, such as a piece of jewellery.

Complete the flow chart below by adding a description of each stage using key words and phrases only. The first stage has been completed for you.



This company is made up of two people. They make bespoke benches for customers that want an 'exclusive' design. When made, the bench will be expensive because it will be hand made from quality materials and its manufacture will require practical skills. All this takes a long time.

Usually customers want an unusual or special bench, in this case a council wants a series of benches for a park. An common bench will not spark the public interest, the council is hoping to create.

A council is prepared to spend a lot of money on a bespoke series of benches. This means that a series of meetings will take place between council representatives and the manufacturing company. A variety of design will be discussed / considered.

When the council representatives have discussed designs, materials and cost with the company, they will make the final decision regarding the design they want. Regular meetings and updates take place. A contract is signed.

The bench is made by the skilled workers. A month has been agreed regarding manufacturing and delivery of the first bench.

Question:
How does single item production differ from batch production and continuous production?
