

Questions, Problems, and Critical Thinking

to

Production Planning

By

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Preface

I taught production planning several times. The textbooks cover many topics. The main drawback of the existing textbooks is that although they contain many questions and problems, their solutions are not provided. If the solution is not provided, then the student cannot check if his/her solution is correct. Generally, it is useful to have a problem book such that the questions and problems are separated from their solution. Thus, the student can work alone and learn from his/her errors.

This book consists of three parts according to its title: question, problems and critical thinking. The answers of questions contain mainly either theoretical materials of the course or immediate qualitative application of the theory. Problems require quantitative, i.e. numerical answers in most of the cases. But there is no strict separation of questions and problems. During the years I taught production planning, I observed that to achieve a deeper understanding even critical thinking must be taught. Critical thinking consists of obeying the logic of the production, finding error which violates this logic, managerial decisions, and finding error in provided data and results of calculations. Error finding is especially important as a manager is responsible for his/her decisions. It is true even in the case if the logic was correct, however the underlying data accepted by the manager are wrong and therefore the decision is wrong as well. Again, there is no clear boundary between critical thinking and problems and critical thinking and questions.

My work was helped by Tamás Hasenauer and Levente Mályusz by discussing some special topics.

I hope that the students will find the book helpful.

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