***ACTIVITY: INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY***

*For each situation below, explain one way to increase productivity within the business.*

1. A bakery’s management finds that the bakery produces half as many baked goods as its competitors.

Multiple responses acceptable for these questions but they should somehow connect to training, capital investment, investment in technology and a new inventory system, such as just in time (JIT).

Perhaps the staff needs additional training

Might need to invest in new ovens, in terms of efficiency, perhaps larger ovens.

1. Employees feel frustrated because new systems are constantly implemented, and they do not feel confident in applying them.

Employees need training – specifically retraining especially when new equipment if being installed

1. A company finds that it has either too many or too few of the raw materials required for production.

Might want to employ JIT inventory and make someone responsible for purchasing the supplies.

Would want to ensure that supplies are centrally purchased and ordered from reputable suppliers.

1. A grocery store’s management finds that the store’s shelves are often empty because they never know how much inventory they have.

Have an automated inventory system that is updated regularly when sales are made as this will help determine when you supplies need to be ordered.

Also ensure that inventory reports are provided to the grocery’s stores management on a regular basis which can also be matched with the supplies on the shelf.

1. A salesperson is on the road often but needs access to e-mail regularly.

Provide them with technology that will allow them to connect to the office, such as a cell phone.