What is Priority Scheduling?

Priority Scheduling is a method of scheduling processes that is based on priority. In this algorithm, the scheduler selects the tasks to work as per the priority.

The processes with higher priority should be carried out first, whereas jobs with equal priorities are carried out on a round-robin or FCFS basis. Priority depends upon memory requirements, time requirements, etc.

Types of Priority Scheduling

Priority scheduling divided into two main types:

Preemptive Scheduling

In Preemptive Scheduling, the tasks are mostly assigned with their priorities. Sometimes it is important to run a task with a higher priority before another lower priority task, even if the lower priority task is still running. The lower priority task holds for some time and resumes when the higher priority task finishes its execution.

Non-Preemptive Scheduling

In this type of scheduling method, the CPU has been allocated to a specific process. The process that keeps the CPU busy, will release the CPU either by switching context or terminating. It is the only method that can be used for various hardware platforms. That's because it doesn't need special hardware (for example, a timer) like preemptive scheduling.

Characteristics of Priority Scheduling

- A CPU algorithm that schedules processes based on priority.
- It used in Operating systems for performing batch processes.

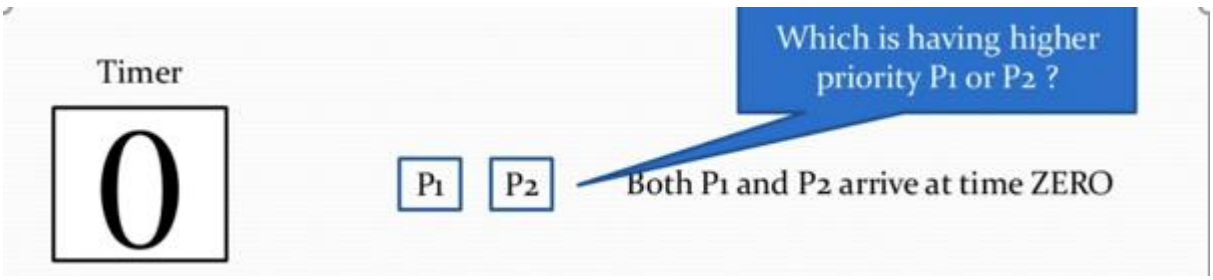
- If two jobs having the same priority are READY, it works on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED basis.
- In priority scheduling, a number is assigned to each process that indicates its priority level.
- Lower the number, higher is the priority.
- In this type of scheduling algorithm, if a newer process arrives, that is having a higher priority than the currently running process, then the currently running process is preempted.

Example of Priority Scheduling

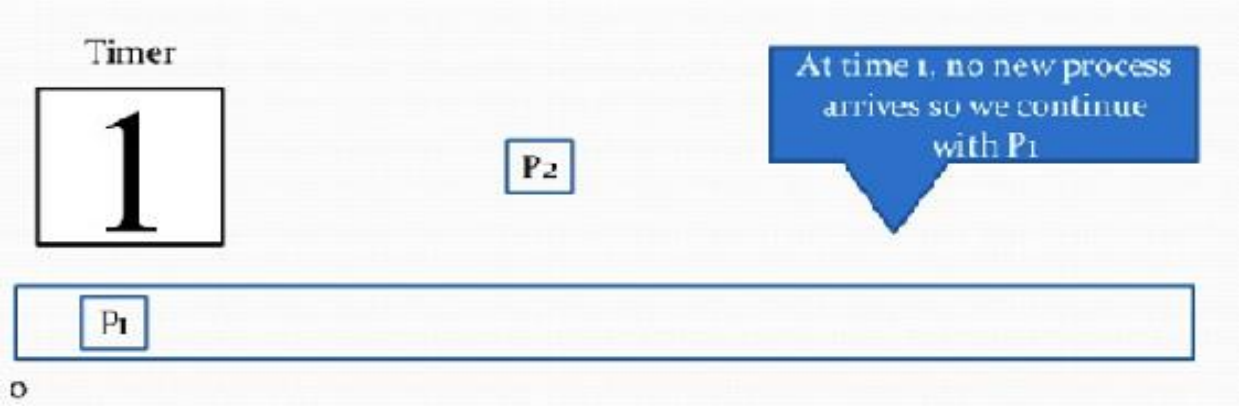
Consider following five processes P1 to P5. Each process has its unique priority, burst time, and arrival time.

Process	Priority	Burst time	Arrival time
P1	1	4	0
P2	2	3	0
P3	1	7	6
P4	3	4	11
P5	2	2	12

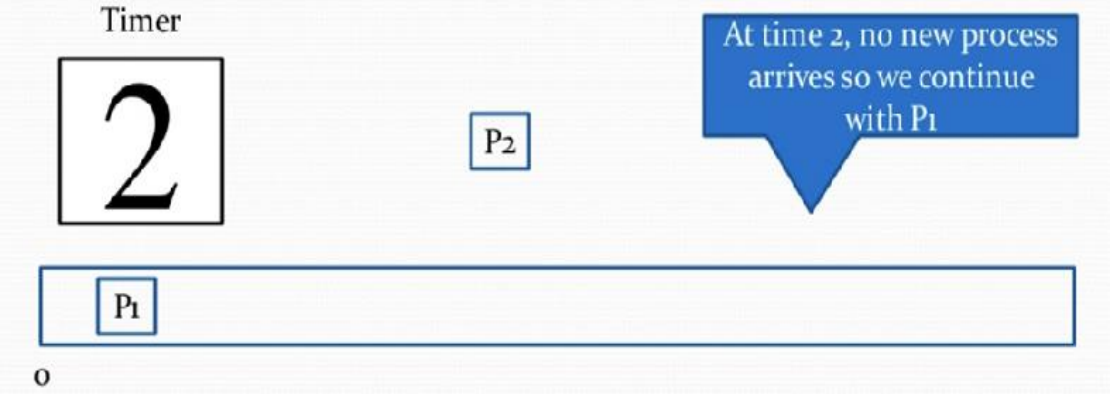
Step 0) At time=0, Process P1 and P2 arrive. P1 has higher priority than P2. The execution begins with process P1, which has burst time 4.



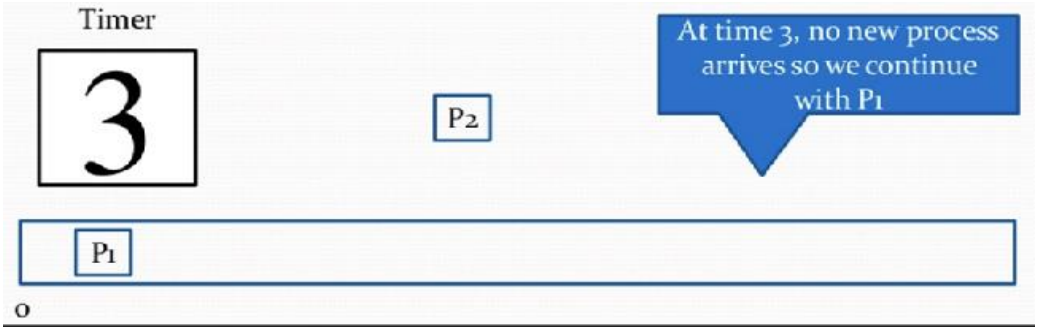
Step 1) At time=1, no new process arrive. Execution continues with P1.



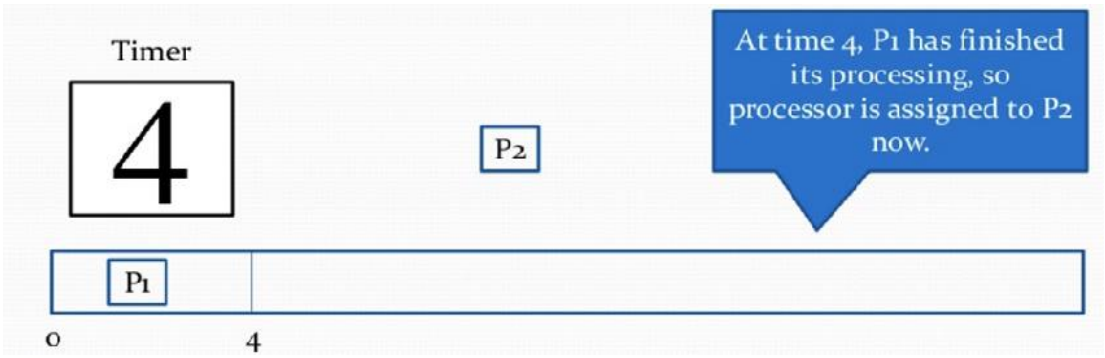
Step 2) At time 2, no new process arrives, so you can continue with P1. P2 is in the waiting queue.



Step 3) At time 3, no new process arrives so you can continue with P1. P2 process still in the waiting queue.



Step 4) At time 4, P1 has finished its execution. P2 starts execution.

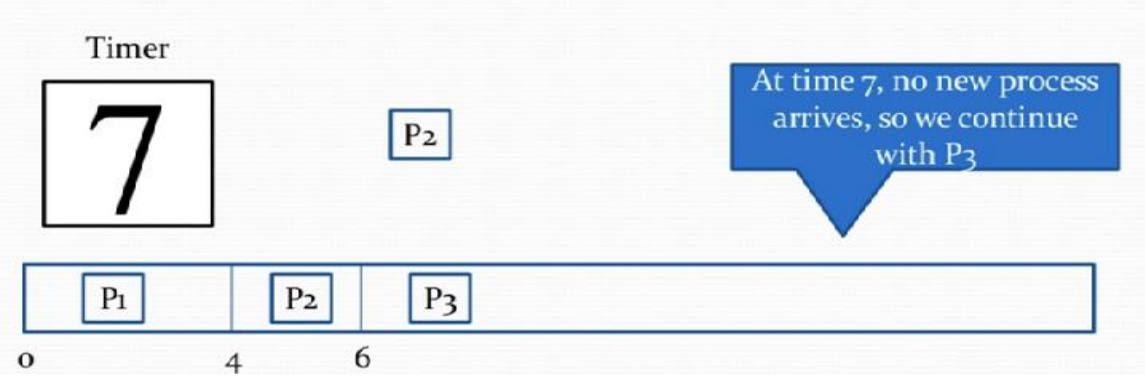


Step 5) At time= 5, no new process arrives, so we continue with P2.

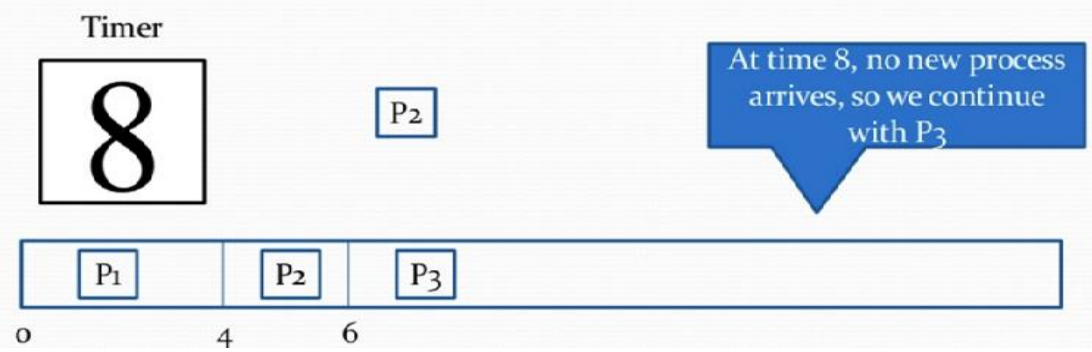
Step 6) At time=6, P3 arrives. P3 is at higher priority (1) compared to P2 having priority (2). P2 is preempted, and P3 begins its execution.

Process	Priority	Burst time	Arrival time
P1	1	4	0
P2	2	1 out of 3 pending	0
P3	1	7	6
P4	3	4	11
P5	2	2	12

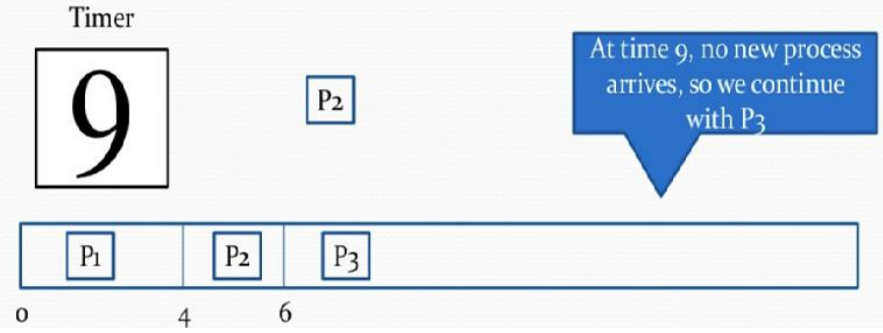
Step 7) At time 7, no-new process arrives, so we continue with P3.
P2 is in the waiting queue.



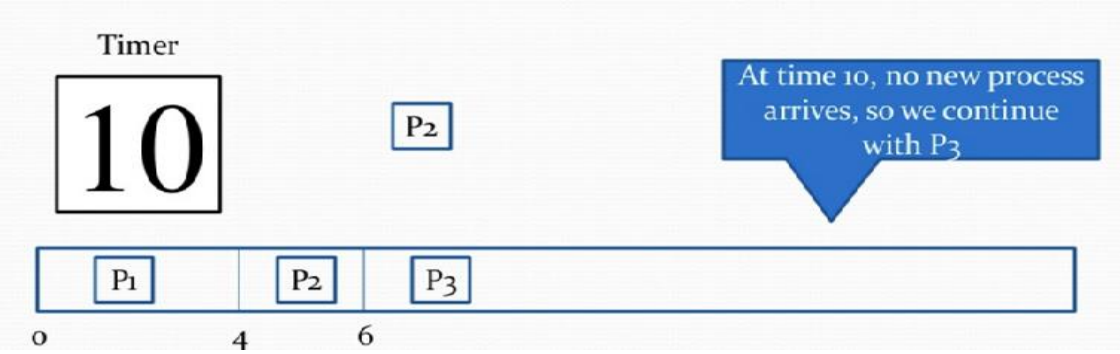
Step 8) At time= 8, no new process arrives, so we can continue with P3.



Step 9) At time= 9, no new process comes so we can continue with P3.

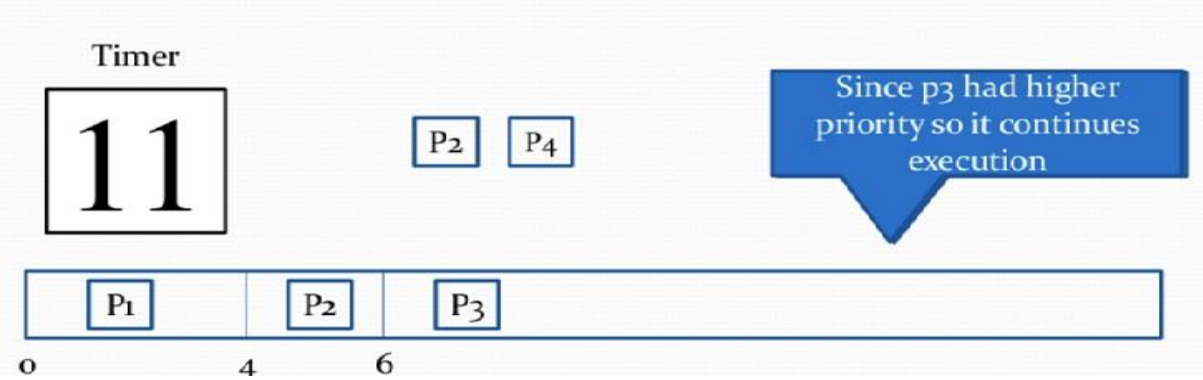


Step 10) At time interval 10, no new process comes, so we continue with P3

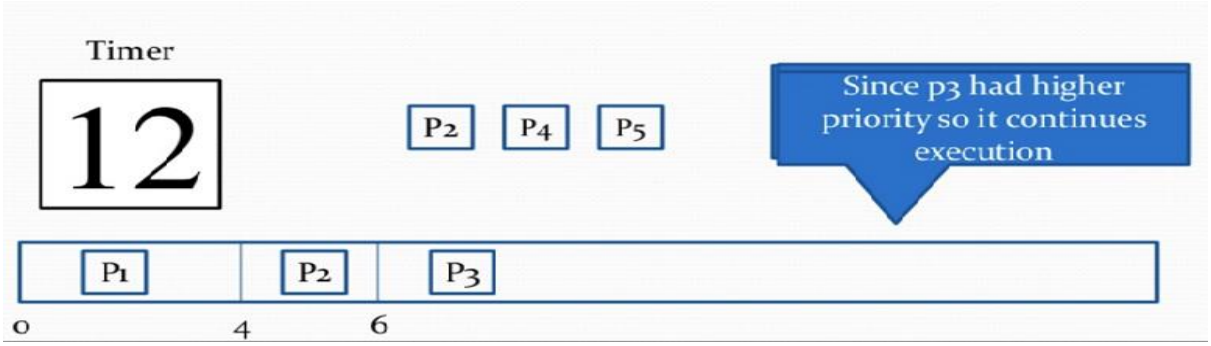


Step 11) At time=11, P4 arrives with priority 4. P3 has higher priority, so it continues its execution.

Process	**Priority**	**Burst time**	**Arrival time**
P1	1	4	0
P2	2	1 out of 3 pending	0
P3	1	2 out of 7 pending	6
P4	3	4	11
P5	2	2	12

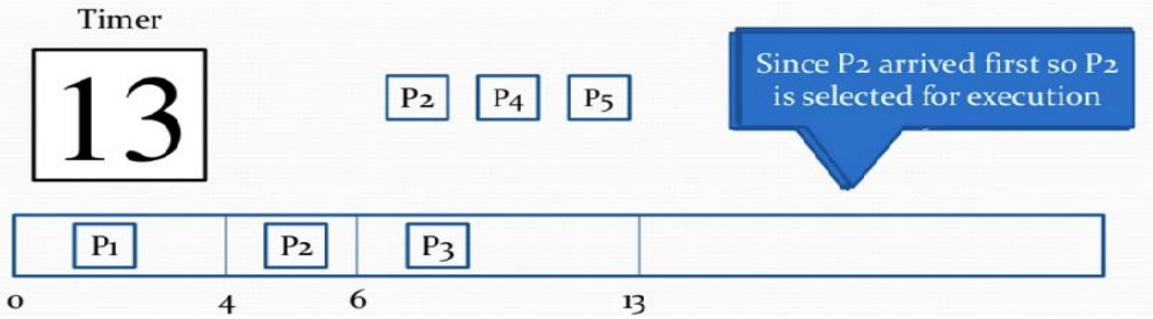


Step 12) At time=12, P5 arrives. P3 has higher priority, so it continues execution.

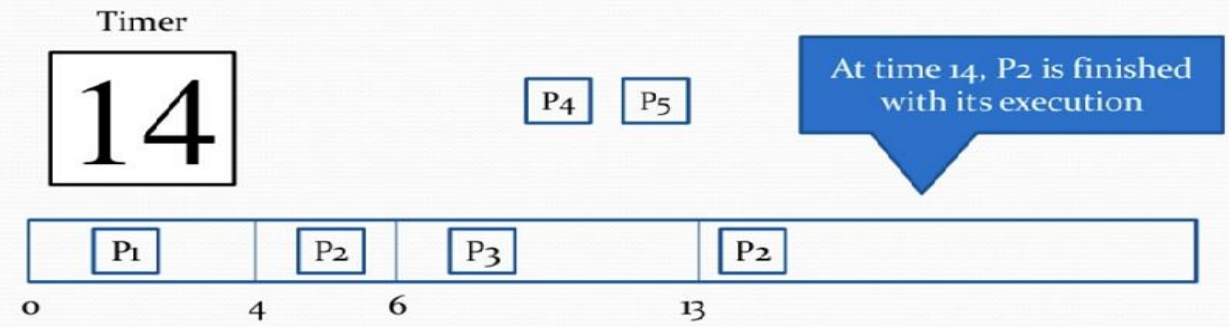


Step 13) At time=13, P3 completes execution. We have P2,P4,P5 in ready queue. P2 and P5 have equal priority. Arrival time of P2 is before P5. So P2 starts execution.

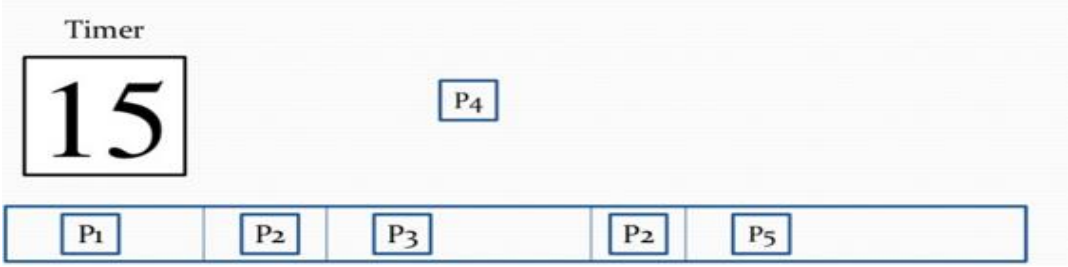
Process	**Priority**	**Burst time**	**Arrival time**
P1	1	4	0
P2	2	1 out of 3 pending	0
P3	1	7	6
P4	3	4	11
P5	2	2	12



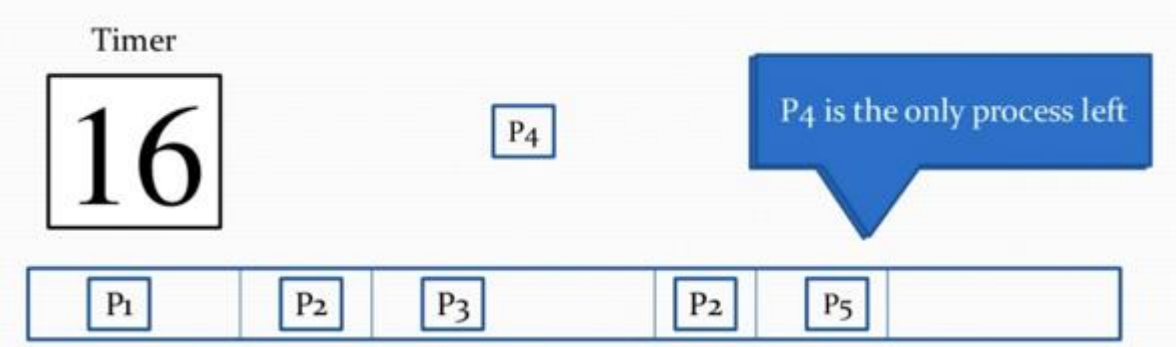
Step 14) At time =14, the P2 process has finished its execution. P4 and P5 are in the waiting state. P5 has the highest priority and starts execution.



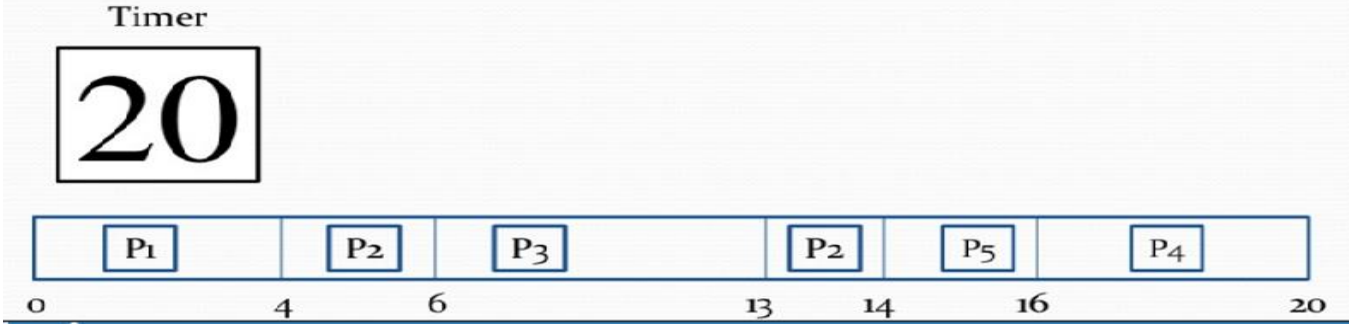
Step 15) At time =15, P5 continues execution.



Step 16) At time= 16, P5 is finished with its execution. P4 is the only process left. It starts execution.



Step 17) At time =20, P5 has completed execution and no process is left.



Step 18) Let's calculate the average waiting time for the above example.

Waiting Time = start time – arrival time + wait time for next burst

P1 = 0 - 0 = 0

P2 =4 - 0 + 7 =11

P3= 6-6=0

P4= 16-11=5

Average Waiting time = (0+11+0+5+2)/5 = 18/5= 3.6

FCFS Scheduling

First come first serve (FCFS) scheduling algorithm simply schedules the jobs according to their arrival time. The job which comes first in the ready queue will get the CPU first. The lesser the arrival time of the job, the sooner will the job get the CPU. FCFS scheduling may cause the problem of starvation if the burst time of the first process is the longest among all the jobs.

Starvation is the name given to the indefinite postponement of a process because it requires some resource before it can run, but the resource, though available for allocation, is never allocated to this process.

Advantages of FCFS

- Simple
- Easy
- First come, First serv

Disadvantages of FCFS

1. The scheduling method is non preemptive, the process will run to the completion.
2. Due to the non-preemptive nature of the algorithm, the problem of starvation may occur.
3. Although it is easy to implement, but it is poor in performance since the average waiting time is higher as compare to other scheduling algorithms.

Completion Time: Time at which process completes its execution. Burst Time: Time required by a process for CPU execution.

Burst time is the amount of time required by a process for executing on CPU. It is also called as execution time or running time. Burst time of a process can not be known in advance before executing the process. It can be known only after the process has executed.

Example

Let's take an example of The FCFS scheduling algorithm. In the Following schedule, there are 5 processes with process ID **P0, P1, P2, P3 and P4**. P0 arrives at time 0, P1 at time 1, P2 at time 2, P3 arrives at time 3 and Process P4 arrives at time 4 in the ready queue. The processes and their respective Arrival and Burst time are given in the following table.

The Turnaround time and the waiting time are calculated by using the following formula.

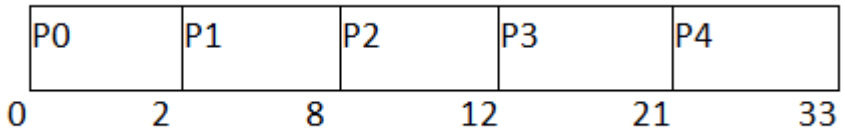
1. Turn Around Time = Completion Time - Arrival Time
2. Waiting Time = Turnaround time - Burst Time

The average waiting Time is determined by summing the respective waiting time of all the processes and divided the sum by the total number of processes.

Process ID	Arrival Time	Burst Time	Completion Time	Turn Around Time	Waiting Time
0	0	2	2	2	0
1	1	6	8	7	1

2	2	4	12	10	6
3	3	9	21	18	9
4	6	12	33	29	17

Avg Waiting Time=(0+1+6+9+17)=33/5



(Gantt chart)

Shortest Job First (SJF) Scheduling

Till now, we were scheduling the processes according to their arrival time (in FCFS scheduling). However, SJF scheduling algorithm, schedules the processes according to their burst time.

In SJF scheduling, the process with the lowest burst time, among the list of available processes in the ready queue, is going to be scheduled next.

However, it is very difficult to predict the burst time needed for a process hence this algorithm is very difficult to implement in the system.

Advantages of SJF

1. Maximum throughput
2. Minimum average waiting and turnaround time

Disadvantages of SJF

1. May suffer with the problem of starvation
2. It is not implementable because the exact Burst time for a process can't be known in advance.

There are different techniques available by which, the CPU burst time of the process can be determined.

Example

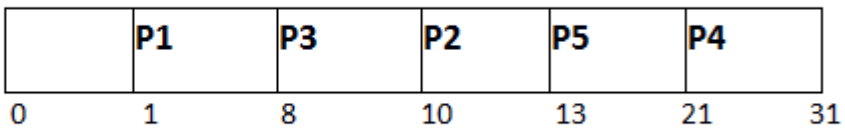
In the following example, there are five jobs named as P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5. Their arrival time and burst time are given in the table below.

PID	Arrival Time	Burst Time	Completion Time	Turn Around Time	Waiting Time
1	1	7	8	7	0
2	3	3	13	10	7
3	6	2	10	4	2
4	7	10	31	24	14
5	9	8	21	12	4

Since, No Process arrives at time 0 hence; there will be an empty slot in the **Gantt chart** from time 0 to 1 (the time at which the first process arrives).
According to the algorithm, the OS schedules the process which is having the lowest burst time among the available processes in the ready queue.
Till now, we have only one process in the ready queue hence the scheduler will schedule this to the processor no matter what is its burst time.This will be executed till 8 units of time. Till then we have three more processes arrived in the ready queue hence the scheduler will choose the process with the lowest burst time.

Among the processes given in the table, P3 will be executed next since it is having the lowest burst time among all the available processes.

So that's how the procedure will go on in **shortest job first (SJF)** scheduling algorithm.

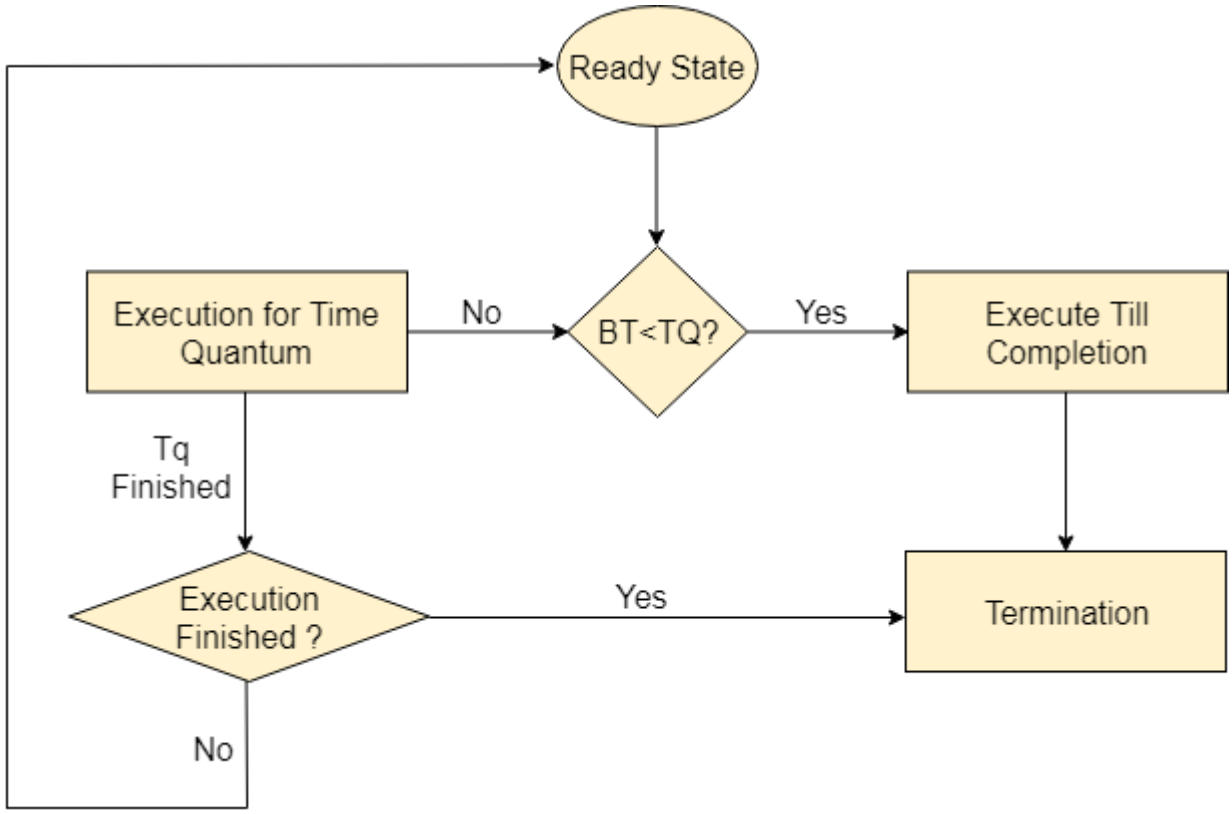


Avg Waiting Time = 27/5

Round Robin Scheduling Algorithm

Round Robin scheduling algorithm is one of the most popular scheduling algorithm which can actually be implemented in most of the operating systems. This is the **preemptive version** of first come first serve scheduling. The Algorithm focuses on Time Sharing. In this algorithm, every process gets

executed in a **cyclic way**. A certain time slice is defined in the system which is called time **quantum**. Each process present in the ready queue is assigned the CPU for that time quantum, if the execution of the process is completed during that time then the process will **terminate** else the process will go back to the **ready queue** and waits for the next turn to complete the execution.



Advantages

1. It can be actually implementable in the system because it is not depending on the burst time.
2. It doesn't suffer from the problem of starvation or convoy effect.
3. All the jobs get a fare allocation of CPU.

Disadvantages

1. The higher the time quantum, the higher the response time in the system.
2. The lower the time quantum, the higher the context switching overhead in the system.
3. Deciding a perfect time quantum is really a very difficult task in the system.

RR Scheduling Example

In the following example, there are six processes named as P1, P2, P3, P4, P5 and P6. Their arrival time and burst time are given below in the table. The time quantum of the system is 4 units.

Process ID	Arrival Time	Burst Time
1	0	5
2	1	6
3	2	3
4	3	1
5	4	5
6	6	4

According to the algorithm, we have to maintain the ready queue and the Gantt chart. The structure of both the data structures will be changed after every scheduling.

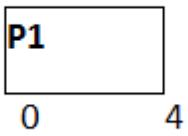
Ready Queue:

Initially, at time 0, process P1 arrives which will be scheduled for the time slice 4 units. Hence in the ready queue, there will be only one process P1 at starting with CPU burst time 5 units.

P1
5

GANTT chart

The P1 will be executed for 4 units first.



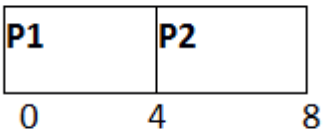
Ready Queue

Meanwhile the execution of P1, four more processes P2, P3, P4 and P5 arrives in the ready queue. P1 has not completed yet, it needs another 1 unit of time hence it will also be added back to the ready queue.

P2	P3	P4	P5	P1
6	3	1	5	1

GANTT chart

After P1, P2 will be executed for 4 units of time which is shown in the Gantt chart.



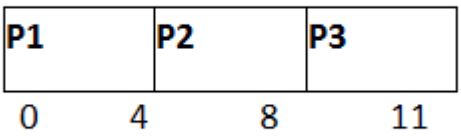
Ready Queue

During the execution of P2, one more process P6 is arrived in the ready queue. Since P2 has not completed yet hence, P2 will also be added back to the ready queue with the remaining burst time 2 units.

P3	P4	P5	P1	P6	P2
3	1	5	1	4	2

GANTT chart

After P1 and P2, P3 will get executed for 3 units of time since its CPU burst time is only 3 seconds.



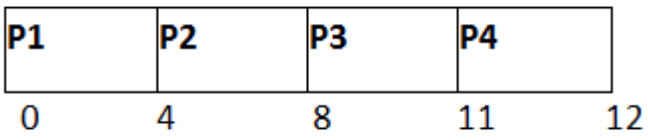
Ready Queue

Since P3 has been completed, hence it will be terminated and not be added to the ready queue. The next process will be executed is P4.

P4	P5	P1	P6	P2
1	5	1	4	2

GANTT chart

After, P1, P2 and P3, P4 will get executed. Its burst time is only 1 unit which is lesser then the time quantum hence it will be completed.



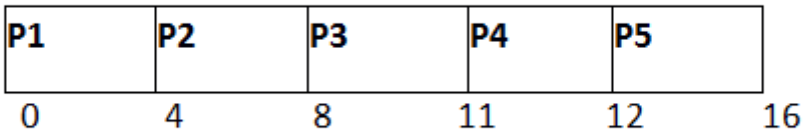
Ready Queue

The next process in the ready queue is P5 with 5 units of burst time. Since P4 is completed hence it will not be added back to the queue.

P5	P1	P6	P2
5	1	4	2

GANTT chart

P5 will be executed for the whole time slice because it requires 5 units of burst time which is higher than the time slice.



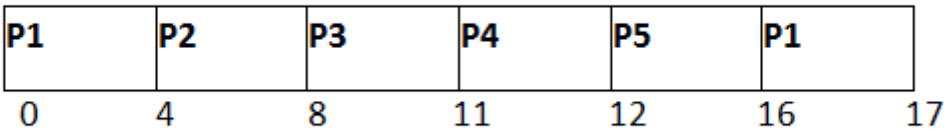
Ready Queue

P5 has not been completed yet; it will be added back to the queue with the remaining burst time of 1 unit.

P1	P6	P2	P5
1	4	2	1

GANTT Chart

The process P1 will be given the next turn to complete its execution. Since it only requires 1 unit of burst time hence it will be completed.



Ready Queue

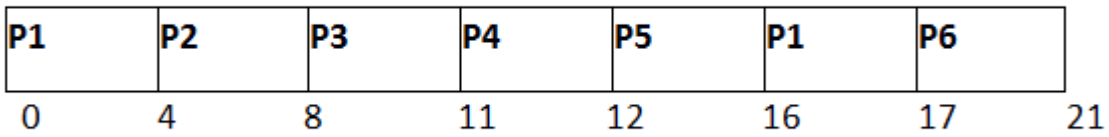
P1 is completed and will not be added back to the ready queue. The next process P6 requires only 4 units of burst time and it will be executed next.

P6	P2	P5

4	2	1

GANTT chart

P6 will be executed for 4 units of time till completion.



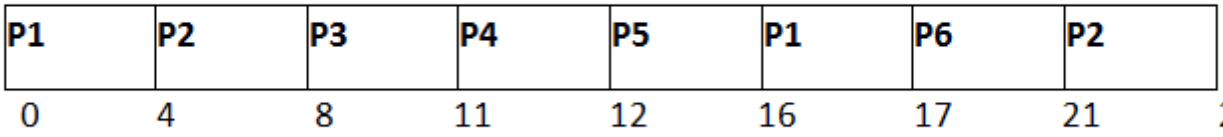
Ready Queue

Since P6 is completed, hence it will not be added again to the queue. There are only two processes present in the ready queue. The Next process P2 requires only 2 units of time.

P2	P5
2	1

GANTT Chart

P2 will get executed again, since it only requires only 2 units of time hence this will be completed.



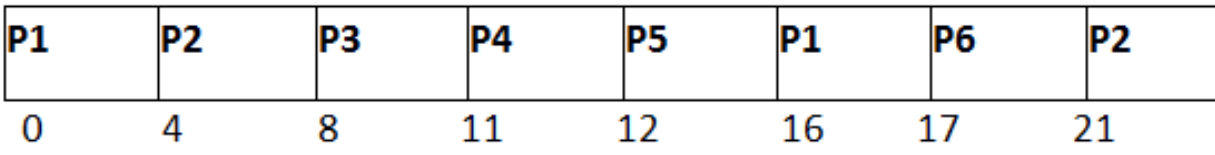
Ready Queue

Now, the only available process in the queue is P5 which requires 1 unit of burst time. Since the time slice is of 4 units hence it will be completed in the next burst.

P5
1

GANTT chart

P5 will get executed till completion.



The completion time, Turnaround time and waiting time will be calculated as shown in the table below.

As, we know,

1. Turn Around Time = Completion Time - Arrival Time

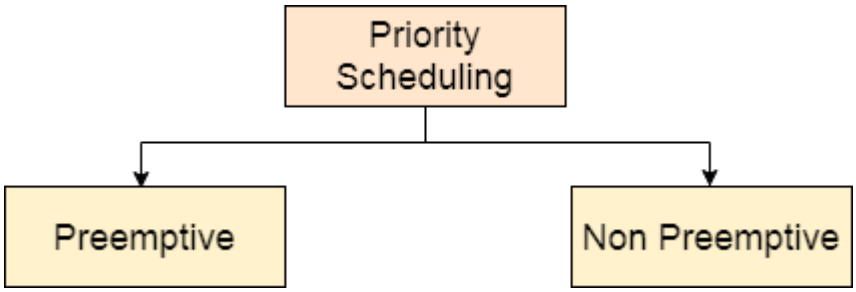
2. Waiting Time = Turn Around Time - Burst Time

Process ID	Arrival Time	Burst Time	Completion Time	Turn Around Time	Waiting Time
1	0	5	17	17	12
2	1	6	23	22	16
3	2	3	11	9	6
4	3	1	12	9	8
5	4	5	24	20	15
6	6	4	21	15	11

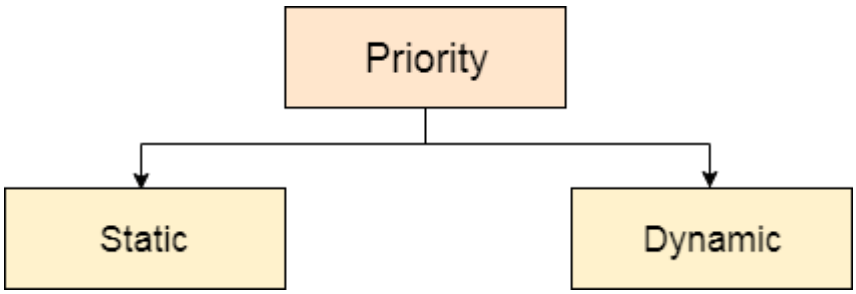
Avg Waiting Time = (12+16+6+8+15+11)/6 = 76/6 units

Priority Scheduling

In Priority scheduling, there is a priority number assigned to each process. In some systems, the lower the number, the higher the priority. While, in the others, the higher the number, the higher will be the priority. The Process with the higher priority among the available processes is given the CPU. There are two types of priority scheduling algorithm exists. One is **Preemptive** priority scheduling while the other is **Non Preemptive** Priority scheduling.



The priority number assigned to each of the process may or may not vary. If the priority number doesn't change itself throughout the process, it is called **static priority**, while if it keeps changing itself at the regular intervals, it is called **dynamic priority**.



Non Preemptive Priority Scheduling

In the Non Preemptive Priority scheduling, The Processes are scheduled according to the priority number assigned to them. Once the process gets scheduled, it will run till the completion. Generally, the lower the priority number, the higher is the priority of the process.

Example

In the Example, there are 7 processes P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7. Their priorities, Arrival Time and burst time are given in the table.

Process ID	Priority	Arrival Time	Burst Time
1	2	0	3
2	6	2	5
3	3	1	4
4	5	4	2
5	7	6	9
6	4	5	4
7	10	7	10

We can prepare the Gantt chart according to the Non Preemptive priority scheduling.

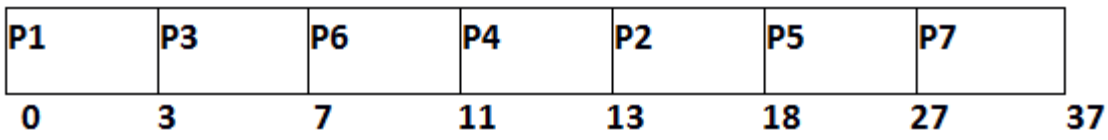
The Process P1 arrives at time 0 with the burst time of 3 units and the priority number 2. Since No other process has arrived till now hence the OS will schedule it immediately.

Meanwhile the execution of P1, two more Processes P2 and P3 are arrived. Since the priority of P3 is 3 hence the CPU will execute P3 over P2.

Meanwhile the execution of P3, All the processes get available in the ready queue. The Process with the lowest priority number will be given the priority. Since P6 has priority number assigned as 4 hence it will be executed just after P3.

After P6, P4 has the least priority number among the available processes; it will get executed for the whole burst time.

Since all the jobs are available in the ready queue hence All the Jobs will get executed according to their priorities. If two jobs have similar priority number assigned to them, the one with the least arrival time will be executed.



From the GANTT Chart prepared, we can determine the completion time of every process. The turnaround time, waiting time and response time will be determined.

1. Turn Around Time = Completion Time - Arrival Time
2. Waiting Time = Turn Around Time - Burst Time

Process Id	Priority	Arrival Time	Burst Time	Completion Time	Turnaround Time	Waiting Time	Response Time
1	2	0	3	3	3	0	0
2	6	2	5	18	16	11	13
3	3	1	4	7	6	2	3
4	5	4	2	13	9	7	11
5	7	6	9	27	21	12	18
6	4	5	4	11	6	2	7
7	10	7	10	37	30	18	27

Avg Waiting Time = (0+11+2+7+12+2+18)/7 = 52/7 units

Preemptive Priority Scheduling

In Preemptive Priority Scheduling, at the time of arrival of a process in the ready queue, its Priority is compared with the priority of the other processes present in the ready queue as well as with the one which is being executed by the CPU at that point of time. The One with the highest priority among all the available processes will be given the CPU next.

The difference between preemptive priority scheduling and non preemptive priority scheduling is that, in the preemptive priority scheduling, the job which is being executed can be stopped at the arrival of a higher priority job.

Once all the jobs get available in the ready queue, the algorithm will behave as non-preemptive priority scheduling, which means the job scheduled will run till the completion and no preemption will be done.

Example

There are 7 processes P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 given. Their respective priorities, Arrival Times and Burst times are given in the table below.

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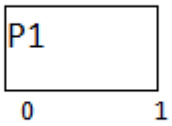
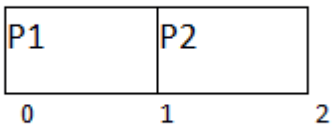
Process Id	Priority	Arrival Time	Burst Time
1	2	0	1
2	6	1	7
3	3	2	3
4	5	3	6
5	4	4	5
6	10	5	15
7	9	15	8

GANTT chart Preparation

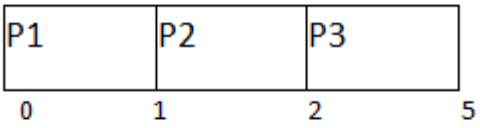
At time 0, P1 arrives with the burst time of 1 units and priority 2. Since no other process is available hence this will be scheduled till next job arrives or its completion (whichever is lesser).



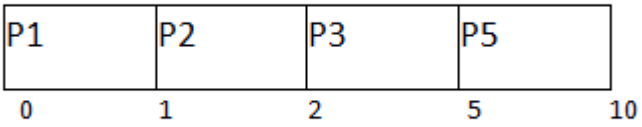
At time 1, P2 arrives. P1 has completed its execution and no other process is available at this time hence the Operating system has to schedule it regardless of the priority assigned to it.



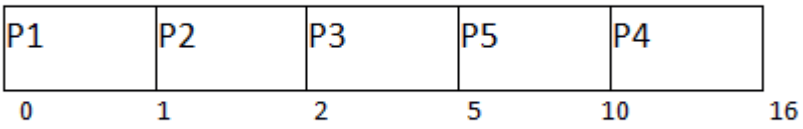
The Next process P3 arrives at time unit 2, the priority of P3 is higher to P2. Hence the execution of P2 will be stopped and P3 will be scheduled on the CPU.



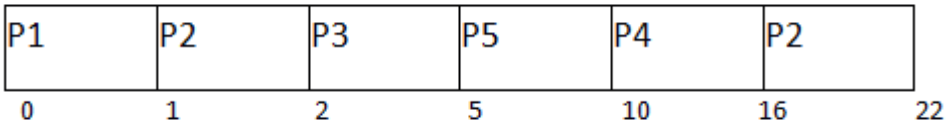
During the execution of P3, three more processes P4, P5 and P6 becomes available. Since, all these three have the priority lower to the process in execution so PS can't preempt the process. P3 will complete its execution and then P5 will be scheduled with the priority highest among the available processes.



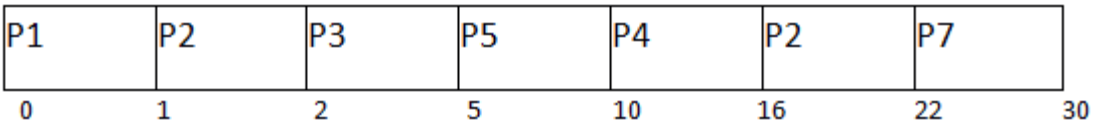
Meanwhile the execution of P5, all the processes got available in the ready queue. At this point, the algorithm will start behaving as Non Preemptive Priority Scheduling. Hence now, once all the processes get available in the ready queue, the OS just took the process with the highest priority and execute that process till completion. In this case, P4 will be scheduled and will be executed till the completion.



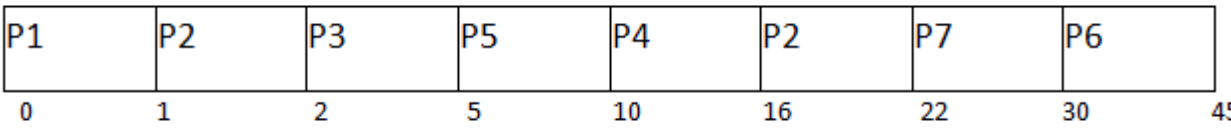
Since P4 is completed, the other process with the highest priority available in the ready queue is P2. Hence P2 will be scheduled next.



P2 is given the CPU till the completion. Since its remaining burst time is 6 units hence P7 will be scheduled after this.



The only remaining process is P6 with the least priority, the Operating System has no choice unless of executing it. This will be executed at the last.



The Completion Time of each process is determined with the help of GANTT chart. The turnaround time and the waiting time can be calculated by the following formula.

1. Turnaround Time = Completion Time - Arrival Time
2. Waiting Time = Turn Around Time - Burst Time

Process Id	**Priority**	**Arrival Time**	**Burst Time**	**Completion Time**	**Turn around Time**	**Waiting Time**
1	2	0	1	1	1	0
2	6	1	7	22	21	14
3	3	2	3	5	3	0

4	5	3	6	16	13	7
5	4	4	5	10	6	1
6	10	5	15	45	40	25
7	9	6	8	30	24	16

Avg Waiting Time = (0+14+0+7+1+25+16)/7 = 63/7 = 9 units