

Peer Graded Assignment 1

Module 1

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1. Select an Express Delivery company that is active in the United States and explain how their transportation network is set up

Ans: I've selected DHL as the express delivery company that I will be exploring further in this assignment. The working of their transportation network is as follows: With the availability of a shipping tool online, you can conveniently print your own waybill and book a collection for your shipment. Once booked, the courier collects the package, and it enters the reliable DHL Express network. Initially, the shipment is sorted at a DHL service center, after which it travels to a DHL hub where it undergoes further sorting for onward travel. From the hub, the shipment is loaded onto a DHL aircraft for transportation to its next destination. To ensure a smooth process, the necessary information required for customs clearance is automatically sent to the final destination. This ensures that the shipment is cleared for delivery upon touchdown. Many international shipments pass through the DHL European air hub in Germany, where they connect with another flight to continue their journey. At every stage, the shipment can be tracked using an online tracking tool, providing real-time updates on its status. Upon arrival at the destination country, the shipment is scanned and sorted for domestic delivery at a DHL hub and local service center. Finally, the shipment is delivered to the recipient and signed for, marking the completion of the delivery process.

2. Calculate the distances and time between the locations mentioned on the tracking statement.

Ans: The locations mentioned on the tracking statement are Issy-les-Moulineaux and Le Teil in France. The distance between them is 612.5 kilometers (380.4 miles). The time interval mentioned in the tracking statement is 19 hours 19 minutes.

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3. Identify the role that each leg of the journey plays (e.g. pick-up, line haul, delivery, etc.).

Ans:

- Pick Up: It is the activity in which the courier collects the package and the package enters a DHL Express network.
- Line Haul: It refers to the period where the order is in transit, that is, getting delivered to the destination (city or town).
- Delivery: It refers to the activity wherein the package is finally delivered to the end recipient and is signed for, marking the completion of the process.

4. Identify the mode of transportation that is likely used.

Ans: The mode of transportation used on this route is either car, van, or truck. The delivery within Le Teil was probably done using a smaller vehicle like a van or even a motorcycle for better maneuverability in urban areas.

5. Explain the routing between origin and destination (e.g. how much of a straight line between origin and destination).

Ans: The routing mainly involves motorways when traversed by van or truck. Some of the most prominent roads used in this route are A7/E15 (Autoroute du Soleil), A6 (Autoroute du Soleil), and Boulevard Périphérique.

6. Analyze the efficiency of the routing (e.g. why the company is likely to choose this routing).

Ans: The company is likely to choose this route because it takes less transit time. The A6 and A7 are well-managed. Hence, they offer real-time traffic updates, which can be helpful in planning routes efficiently. If there are any disruptions, alternate routes can be taken to southern France via other highways from Lyon.

7. Express any areas of difficulty.

Ans: Some areas of difficulty that can be encountered are:

- Traffic Congestion: Much of the transit of heavy goods is done through the A7 route. Traffic is also generated by local transit around the larger cities of the region. In general, A6 and A7 are among the busiest motorways in France.
- Toll Cost: The route includes toll roads which require a certain fee payment.

8. Reflect on what you learned in this assignment

Ans:

- Understanding the process of deliveries: Through this assignment, I found out about the logistics behind the deliveries made.
- Planning efficient and cost-effective routes: I found out that toll taxes are imposed on certain routes, which increase the cost of delivering the shipment. I also understood that deliveries can be hampered due to traffic congestion and weather changes.
- Selecting an efficient mode of transport: I understood the thought process that goes into selecting the mode and vehicle used for deliveries, and how each one has some advantages and disadvantages.