**Loading**

* Loading is the amount of work that is allocated to a work center
* The time intervals when the machine will be off eg: holidays should be taken into account
* Losses that reduce the available working time -’idling’,’quality losses’
* **Two types of loading:**
* Finite loading -allocating work to a work center or a group of people upto a set limit
* Infinite loading- in this type there is no limit accepting work but it instead tries to cope with it.

**Sequencing**

* Decide in which order the work in the system is done
* For relatively small systems, scheduling can already be a tedious task, with an enormous amount of different possibilities. This is why scheduling rarely attempts to provide an ‘optimal’ solution but rather satisfies itself with an ‘acceptable’ feasible one
* Types of sequencing:
* Customer priority: allows an important or aggrieved customer, or item, to be ‘processed’ prior to others, irrespective of the order of arrival of the customer or item
* Due date (DD): Prioritizing by due date means that work is sequenced according to when it is ‘due’ for delivery, irrespective of the size of each job or the importance of each customer
* Last In First Out (LIFO)
* First In First Out (FIFO)
* Longest operation time (LOT): Operations may feel obliged to sequence their longest jobs first
* Shortest operation time first (SOT): Tackle short operations first

**Monitoring and control**

* Involves detecting what is happening in the operation
* Replanning ( and subsequently intervening) might be necessary in order to impose new plans
* Two important types are ‘push’ and ‘pull’ control
* Pull control is a system whereby demand is triggered by requests from a work centre’s (internal) customer
* Push control is a centralized system whereby control (and sometimes planning) decisions are issued to work centres which are then required to perform the task and supply the next workstation.
* In manufacturing, ‘pull’ schedules generally have far lower inventory levels than ‘push’ schedules.