

C1 EXAM ESP VOCABULARY TASK – an alternative type

II. Complete the text with the following words. There are five extra words that you do not need to use. Put your answers into the table below. (10 points)

concentrations	flow	last-mile	reverse	return
packing	seasonality	retrieval	spikes	end-customers
cross-dock	warehouses	leasing	efficiency	carriers

POP UP FULFILMENT: THE UBERISATION OF WAREHOUSING?

The concept of short-term inventory storage is nothing new. With the staggering growth in e-commerce though, and the need for supply chains to compete more effectively (for example by putting inventory as close to (1)..... as possible), it is being utilised in a more dynamic way by companies prepared to break with warehousing convention.

Take U.S. based warehouse marketplace, FLEXE for example. The FLEXE platform has been likened to an Airbnb for warehouse space, since it connects shippers needing short-term space (with no strings) with companies looking to utilise excess warehouse capacity.

There are at least three possible ways a logistics operation can make use of a pop-up warehouse or fulfilment centre. Firstly, **as a solution for (2).....** If demand for your products typically (3)..... significantly at certain times of the year, you can “pop up” one or more warehouses to accommodate your inventory build. This can be especially useful for putting your inventory closer to customer (4)....., thereby improving availability and ensuring customers get their orders delivered quickly (if speed is a feature of your service offer). On the other hand, if you work with a lot of products which are highly seasonal (think fireworks, Christmas decorations, seasonal sporting goods for example) renting out short-term space can be a great way to make revenue from your excess warehouse capacity during the “off” seasons.

Secondly, **as a solution for returns.** It's becoming ever more important to create efficiencies in the (5)..... supply chain, especially in commercial sectors such as apparel, and in online fulfilment operations. Pop-up storage can be a really useful way to experiment with the (6)..... of returns from customers, without committing to long-term warehouse (7).....

Finally, **improving last mile performance.** The e-commerce explosion is fuelling an increasing demand for fast order-fulfilment among consumers, with next-day and even same-day delivery set to become a standard expectation. Whether your company has its own (8)..... logistics operation or utilises parcel (9)....., pop-up fulfilment centres can be used to place inventory close to customers or perhaps serve as local flow-through or (10)..... points.

(Source: <http://www.logisticsbureaugroup.com/what-will-pop-up-in-your-supply-chain-in-2017/> retrieved 25/11/2017).

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

KEY:

1.	end-customers
2.	seasonality
3.	spikes
4.	concentrations
5.	reverse
6.	flow
7.	leasing
8.	last-mile
9.	carriers
10.	cross-dock