BASIC SCAFFOLDING

VOC Study Guide

CERT LEVEL	QUESTIONS	SECTIONS	YEAR
Basic Scaffolding	**100**	**5**	**2025**

How to use this guide

This document is split into two parts. Part 1 contains all questions — use it to test yourself before looking at the answers. Write your responses in the space provided, or cover the answer pages and work through from memory.

Part 2 contains the full answer guide. Each question is repeated with its answer so you can use it as a learning reference before sitting your VOC assessment.

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PART 1 — QUESTIONS

Work through each question and write your answer in the space below, or test yourself from memory before checking Part 2.

SECTION 1 — CERTIFICATE SCOPE & SITE HAZARDS

Q1. **At what height is a scaffolding certificate of competency needed?**

Q2. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a cantilevered scaffold?**

Q3. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a barrow ramp?**

Q4. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a tower frame scaffold with outriggers?**

Q5. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a tube-and-coupler scaffold?**

Q6. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to install a barrow hoist?**

Q7. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a modular birdcage scaffold?**

Q8. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a swing stage?**

Q9. Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to install a safety net?

Q10. Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to erect a mast climber?

Q11. Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a mobile frame scaffold?

Q12. Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to install a personnel and materials hoist?

Q13. How close to live unprotected powerlines would you construct a metal scaffold?

Q14. How far past each end of the scaffold should insulation on live powerlines extend?

Q15. How can a scaffold built alongside a road be protected from traffic damage?

Q16. What could happen if the tie tubes on a scaffold stuck out too far when a crane is operating?

Q17. Name something which might corrode scaffolding equipment.

Q18. What is the danger where a scaffold is being constructed close to machinery with moving parts?

Q19. What type of scaffolding material would you use to construct a scaffold where there may be a danger of explosion?

SECTION 2 — EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

Q20. How far above the maximum nut extension must the spindle of an adjustable baseplate extend?

Q21. What is the maximum extension on an adjustable baseplate?

Q22. What is the minimum size of a square baseplate?

Q23. What is the minimum outside diameter of a common scaffold tube (to the nearest mm)?

Q24. What is the minimum wall thickness of a common steel scaffold tube?

Q25. What is the minimum wall thickness of a common aluminium scaffold tube?

Q26. What is the minimum width of a scaffold plank?

Q27. What is the minimum thickness of a hardwood solid timber scaffold plank?

Q28. What is the minimum thickness of an oregon solid timber scaffold plank?

Q29. What is the minimum diameter of fibre rope you would use for a handline?

Q30. What is the minimum diameter of fibre rope you would use for a gin wheel?

Q31. What is the maximum load you would lift with a gin wheel?

Q32. Would you use a gin wheel with no rope guides?

Q33. How far along an unbraced cantilevered scaffold tube would you fix a gin wheel?

Q34. How would you stop a ring-type gin wheel from sliding along the scaffold tube?

Q35. Would you suspend a gin wheel from a right angle coupler?

Q36. What would you do to make safe a hook-type gin wheel with no safety catch?

SECTION 3 — PLATFORMS & EDGE PROTECTION

Q37. What is the maximum load in each bay of a light duty working platform?

Q38. What is the maximum load in each bay of a medium duty working platform?

Q39. What is the maximum load in each bay of a heavy duty working platform?

Q40. What maximum load would you place on a right angle coupler?

Q41. What maximum load would you place on an adjustable baseplate?

Q42. What is the maximum allowable load on a chain?

Q43. What is the maximum allowable load on a flexible steel wire rope?

Q44. When a scaffold is built on soil, what would you place under the baseplates to distribute the load?

Q45. What minimum width of timber would you use as a soleplate?

Q46. Are gaps allowed between the planks of a working platform?

Q47. Can platform planks be lapped on the returns of a scaffold?

Q48. What is the minimum width of a light duty working platform?

Q49. What is the minimum width of a medium duty working platform?

Q50. What is the minimum width of a heavy duty working platform?

Q51. What is the minimum width of clear access along a working platform for persons with hand tools only?

Q52. What is the minimum width of clear access along a working platform for persons and materials?

Q53. Can planks with different thicknesses be used to deck out a working platform?

Q54. When is edge protection needed on working platforms?

Q55. How far above the working platform must a toeboard extend?

Q56. At what height above the working platform would you fix a guardrail?

Q57. What must be provided between the guardrail and the toeboard to complete a platform's edge protection?

Q58. What is the maximum gap allowed between an unprotected platform edge and the working face?

SECTION 4 — MOBILE SCAFFOLDS & PREFABRICATED SYSTEMS

Q59. Is it acceptable to use a personnel hoist as the only means of access to a scaffold's working platforms?

Q60. What type of ladder cannot be used for access to a scaffold?

Q61. What is the maximum height allowed between ladder landings?

Q62. What is the minimum height an access ladder must extend above the landing?

Q63. Do castors for mobile scaffolds need wheel locks?

Q64. Can a castor for a mobile scaffold have a pneumatic tyre?

Q65. Why is plan bracing needed in a mobile scaffold?

Q66. What is the minimum platform width when platform brackets are fixed between lifts?

Q67. Would you fix platform brackets on the inside of the scaffold or on the outside of the scaffold?

Q68. When platform brackets are fixed between lifts, where would you place the extra working platforms?

Q69. What maximum spacing would you use between tank brackets supporting 50 mm thickness solid timber scaffold planks?

Q70. What maximum spacing would you use between tank brackets supporting 63 mm thickness solid timber scaffold planks?

Q71. What would you do to stop the movement of planks on a crane-lifted shutter bracket scaffold?

Q72. Should the design of a sheeted scaffold be checked by an engineer?

Q73. Would you use hessian to sheet a scaffold?

Q74. Does the supplier of prefabricated scaffolding need to provide written information about the system?

Q75. Would you mix components of two prefabricated systems in the one scaffold without a supplier's or engineer's consent?

Q76. What maximum horizontal tie spacing would you use on an unsheeted modular scaffold?

Q77. What maximum vertical tie spacing would you use on an unsheeted modular scaffold?

Q78. If you used plan bracing to increase the tie spacings on a prefabricated scaffold, how would you strengthen each tie?

Q79. If a tie tube was fixed to a wedge-type modular ledger, how would you fix the ledger against uplift?

Q80. Where would you fix the first lift on a modular scaffold?

Q81. How many unbraced panels would you allow between the longitudinally braced panels of an unsheeted modular scaffold?

Q82. Where would you fix transverse braces to a run of unsheeted modular scaffold?

Q83. What would you attach to a run of frame scaffold at the platform level so that random-length scaffold planks can be butted?

Q84. How high would you build an unsheeted free-standing steel frame scaffold?

Q85. Without supplier's information or engineer's approval, how high would you build a light duty aluminium tower frame scaffold?

Q86. Would you fix the ladder access to a tower frame scaffold internally or externally?

Q87. How is the ladder opening in a tower frame scaffold's working platform usually protected?

Q88. Without supplier's information or engineer's approval, how many working platforms would you place on a light duty aluminium tower frame scaffold?

SECTION 5 — SAFETY NETS & HOISTS

Q89. What is the maximum mesh size of a safety net?

Q90. What maximum gap would you allow between the edge of a safety net and the building or structure?

Q91. What are the two maximum fall distances which you might find marked on the label of a safety net?

Q92. What minimum and maximum initial sag would you allow for a safety net?

Q93. What minimum clearance would you ensure below a safety net?

Q94. What minimum horizontal distance should an outrigged safety net extend past the outermost working position?

Q95. What maximum spacing would you use between ties along the border chord of a safety net?

Q96. What is the minimum overrun distance between the hoist rope attachment and the head sheave on a cantilevered platform hoist?

Q97. What is the minimum and maximum horizontal clearance between the moving platform of a cantilevered hoist and any landing or floor?

Q98. What is the minimum height of a landing gate for a cantilevered platform hoist?

Q99. What maximum distance would you use between lateral braces of a cantilevered platform hoist?

Q100. How high would you free-stand the tower of a cantilevered platform hoist above its last tie?

PART 2 — ANSWER GUIDE

Each question is repeated with its answer. Use this section as a learning reference to build your understanding before your VOC assessment.

SECTION 1 — CERTIFICATE SCOPE & SITE HAZARDS

Q1. **At what height is a scaffolding certificate of competency needed?**

A. Where a person or object could fall more than 4 m from the scaffolding.

Q2. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a cantilevered scaffold?**

A. No.

Q3. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a barrow ramp?**

A. No.

Q4. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a tower frame scaffold with outriggers?**

A. Yes.

Q5. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a tube-and-coupler scaffold?**

A. No.

Q6. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to install a barrow hoist?**

A. Yes.

Q7. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a modular birdcage scaffold?**

A. Yes.

Q8. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a swing stage?**

A. No.

Q9. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to install a safety net?**

A. Yes.

Q10. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to erect a mast climber?**

A. No.

Q11. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to construct a mobile frame scaffold?**

A. Yes.

Q12. **Is a person with a Basic Scaffolding Certificate allowed to install a personnel and materials hoist?**

A. No.

Q13. **How close to live unprotected powerlines would you construct a metal scaffold?**

A. 4 m.

Q14. **How far past each end of the scaffold should insulation on live powerlines extend?**

A. 4.9 m.

Q15. **How can a scaffold built alongside a road be protected from traffic damage?**

A. Any one of: Re-route traffic; Provide guards or fenders; Use a flag person to direct traffic.

Q16. **What could happen if the tie tubes on a scaffold stuck out too far when a crane is operating?**

A. Crane loads could snag the scaffold.

Q17. **Name something which might corrode scaffolding equipment.**

A. Any one of: Acids; Alkalis; Salts.

Q18. **What is the danger where a scaffold is being constructed close to machinery with moving parts?**

A. Injury from machinery operation.

Q19. **What type of scaffolding material would you use to construct a scaffold where there may be a danger of explosion?**

A. Non-conductive material (or timber).

SECTION 2 — EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

Q20. **How far above the maximum nut extension must the spindle of an adjustable baseplate extend?**

A. 150 mm.

Q21. **What is the maximum extension on an adjustable baseplate?**

A. 600 mm.

Q22. **What is the minimum size of a square baseplate?**

A. 150 mm x 150 mm (or 225 cm^2).

Q23. **What is the minimum outside diameter of a common scaffold tube (to the nearest mm)?**

A. 48 mm.

Q24. **What is the minimum wall thickness of a common steel scaffold tube?**

A. 4 mm.

Q25. **What is the minimum wall thickness of a common aluminium scaffold tube?**

A. 4.45 mm (or 4.4 mm or 4.5 mm).

Q26. **What is the minimum width of a scaffold plank?**

A. 220 mm (or 225 mm).

Q27. **What is the minimum thickness of a hardwood solid timber scaffold plank?**

A. 32 mm.

Q28. **What is the minimum thickness of an oregon solid timber scaffold plank?**

A. 38 mm.

Q29. **What is the minimum diameter of fibre rope you would use for a handline?**

A. 12 mm.

Q30. **What is the minimum diameter of fibre rope you would use for a gin wheel?**

A. 16 mm.

Q31. **What is the maximum load you would lift with a gin wheel?**

A. 50 kg.

Q32. **Would you use a gin wheel with no rope guides?**

A. No.

Q33. **How far along an unbraced cantilevered scaffold tube would you fix a gin wheel?**

A. 600 mm.

Q34. **How would you stop a ring-type gin wheel from sliding along the scaffold tube?**

A. Fix a coupler on either side.

Q35. **Would you suspend a gin wheel from a right angle coupler?**

A. No.

Q36. **What would you do to make safe a hook-type gin wheel with no safety catch?**

A. Mouse the hook.

SECTION 3 — PLATFORMS & EDGE PROTECTION

Q37. **What is the maximum load in each bay of a light duty working platform?**

A. 225 kg (or 2.2 kN).

Q38. **What is the maximum load in each bay of a medium duty working platform?**

A. 450 kg (or 4.4 kN).

Q39. **What is the maximum load in each bay of a heavy duty working platform?**

A. 675 kg (or 6.6 kN).

Q40. **What maximum load would you place on a right angle coupler?**

A. 630 kg (or 6.25 kN).

Q41. **What maximum load would you place on an adjustable baseplate?**

A. 3030 kg (or 30 kN).

Q42. **What is the maximum allowable load on a chain?**

A. One sixth of the breaking load.

Q43. **What is the maximum allowable load on a flexible steel wire rope?**

A. One sixth of the breaking load.

Q44. **When a scaffold is built on soil, what would you place under the baseplates to distribute the load?**

A. Soleplates.

Q45. **What minimum width of timber would you use as a soleplate?**

A. 220 mm (or 225 mm, or the width of a scaffold plank).

Q46. **Are gaps allowed between the planks of a working platform?**

A. No.

Q47. **Can platform planks be lapped on the returns of a scaffold?**

A. Yes.

Q48. **What is the minimum width of a light duty working platform?**

A. 450 mm (or 2 planks).

Q49. **What is the minimum width of a medium duty working platform?**

A. 900 mm (or 4 planks).

Q50. **What is the minimum width of a heavy duty working platform?**

A. 1000 mm (or 5 planks).

Q51. **What is the minimum width of clear access along a working platform for persons with hand tools only?**

A. 450 mm (or 2 planks).

Q52. **What is the minimum width of clear access along a working platform for persons and materials?**

A. 675 mm (or 3 planks).

Q53. **Can planks with different thicknesses be used to deck out a working platform?**

A. No.

Q54. **When is edge protection needed on working platforms?**

A. When a person or object could fall more than 2 m.

Q55. **How far above the working platform must a toeboard extend?**

A. 150 mm.

Q56. **At what height above the working platform would you fix a guardrail?**

A. Not less than 900 mm and not more than 1100 mm.

Q57. **What must be provided between the guardrail and the toeboard to complete a platform's edge protection?**

A. A midrail (or infill, or brickguards).

Q58. **What is the maximum gap allowed between an unprotected platform edge and the working face?**

A. Less than 225 mm (or the width of a scaffold plank).

SECTION 4 — MOBILE SCAFFOLDS & PREFABRICATED SYSTEMS

Q59. **Is it acceptable to use a personnel hoist as the only means of access to a scaffold's working platforms?**

A. No.

Q60. **What type of ladder cannot be used for access to a scaffold?**

A. Any one of: A domestic grade ladder; An extension ladder; A step ladder.

Q61. **What is the maximum height allowed between ladder landings?**

A. 6 m (or 3 lifts).

Q62. **What is the minimum height an access ladder must extend above the landing?**

A. 900 mm (or 1 m).

Q63. **Do castors for mobile scaffolds need wheel locks?**

A. Yes.

Q64. **Can a castor for a mobile scaffold have a pneumatic tyre?**

A. No.

Q65. **Why is plan bracing needed in a mobile scaffold?**

A. To stop the scaffold from twisting or distorting when it is moved.

Q66. **What is the minimum platform width when platform brackets are fixed between lifts?**

A. 450 mm (or 2 planks).

Q67. **Would you fix platform brackets on the inside of the scaffold or on the outside of the scaffold?**

A. The inside (or alongside the working face).

Q68. **When platform brackets are fixed between lifts, where would you place the extra working platforms?**

A. At the lift immediately above and the lift immediately below.

Q69. **What maximum spacing would you use between tank brackets supporting 50 mm thickness solid timber scaffold planks?**

A. 2 m.

Q70. **What maximum spacing would you use between tank brackets supporting 63 mm thickness solid timber scaffold planks?**

A. 2.5 m.

Q71. **What would you do to stop the movement of planks on a crane-lifted shutter bracket scaffold?**

A. Positively fix (or lash, strap, or spike) them.

Q72. **Should the design of a sheeted scaffold be checked by an engineer?**

A. Yes.

Q73. **Would you use hessian to sheet a scaffold?**

A. No.

Q74. **Does the supplier of prefabricated scaffolding need to provide written information about the system?**

A. Yes.

Q75. **Would you mix components of two prefabricated systems in the one scaffold without a supplier's or engineer's consent?**

A. No.

Q76. **What maximum horizontal tie spacing would you use on an unsheeted modular scaffold?**

A. 3 bays (or 6 bays with plan bracing).

Q77. **What maximum vertical tie spacing would you use on an unsheeted modular scaffold?**

A. 4 m (or 2 lifts; or 8 m / 4 lifts with ledger bracing).

Q78. **If you used plan bracing to increase the tie spacings on a prefabricated scaffold, how would you strengthen each tie?**

A. Fix check couplers (or additional couplers) to the tie tubes.

Q79. **If a tie tube was fixed to a wedge-type modular ledger, how would you fix the ledger against uplift?**

A. Fix a check coupler (or additional coupler) over the wedge.

Q80. **Where would you fix the first lift on a modular scaffold?**

A. At the standards' lowest connection points (or at the base of the standards).

Q81. **How many unbraced panels would you allow between the longitudinally braced panels of an unsheeted modular scaffold?**

A. 3.

Q82. **Where would you fix transverse braces to a run of unsheeted modular scaffold?**

A. At each end (or in each lift at each end).

Q83. **What would you attach to a run of frame scaffold at the platform level so that random-length scaffold planks can be butted?**

A. Ledgers and putlogs.

Q84. **How high would you build an unsheeted free-standing steel frame scaffold?**

A. Three times the least base width.

Q85. **Without supplier's information or engineer's approval, how high would you build a light duty aluminium tower frame scaffold?**

A. 9 m.

Q86. **Would you fix the ladder access to a tower frame scaffold internally or externally?**

A. Internally (or within the framework).

Q87. **How is the ladder opening in a tower frame scaffold's working platform usually protected?**

A. With a trapdoor (or hinged hatch).

Q88. **Without supplier's information or engineer's approval, how many working platforms would you place on a light duty aluminium tower frame scaffold?**

A. One.

SECTION 5 — SAFETY NETS & HOISTS

Q89. **What is the maximum mesh size of a safety net?**

A. 100 mm.

Q90. **What maximum gap would you allow between the edge of a safety net and the building or structure?**

A. 200 mm.

Q91. **What are the two maximum fall distances which you might find marked on the label of a safety net?**

A. 1 m and 6 m.

Q92. **What minimum and maximum initial sag would you allow for a safety net?**

A. 1/4 and 1/5 of the shortest side length.

Q93. **What minimum clearance would you ensure below a safety net?**

A. 2/3 of the shortest side length or 2 m, whichever is greater.

Q94. **What minimum horizontal distance should an outrigged safety net extend past the outermost working position?**

A. 2/5 of the maximum fall height plus 2 m.

Q95. **What maximum spacing would you use between ties along the border chord of a safety net?**

A. 750 mm.

Q96. **What is the minimum overrun distance between the hoist rope attachment and the head sheave on a cantilevered platform hoist?**

A. 1.5 m.

Q97. **What is the minimum and maximum horizontal clearance between the moving platform of a cantilevered hoist and any landing or floor?**

A. 25 mm and 100 mm.

Q98. **What is the minimum height of a landing gate for a cantilevered platform hoist?**

A. 1.8 m.

Q99. **What maximum distance would you use between lateral braces of a cantilevered platform hoist?**

A. 6 m.

Q100. **How high would you free-stand the tower of a cantilevered platform hoist above its last tie?**

A. 3 m.