



# Basic Scaffolding Ticket (Australia)

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## Practice Questions

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### 1. Which HRWL class is required to erect, alter or dismantle a basic scaffolding system in Australia?

- A. Class SB (Basic Scaffolding)
- B. Class WP (EWP)
- C. Class WC (Dogging)
- D. No licence is required for scaffolding under 4 metres

### 2. What is the primary function of a 'standard' (vertical tube) in a tube and coupler scaffold?

- A. To transfer the vertical load from the scaffold to the base plates and ground
- B. To provide horizontal bracing
- C. To support the guardrail only
- D. To connect ledgers to transom

### 3. Before erecting scaffolding, the scaffolder must assess:

- A. Ground conditions, proximity to overhead services, wind exposure, access/egress routes, and loads to be imposed on the scaffold
- B. Only the weather forecast
- C. Only the height of the scaffold
- D. Only the number of workers available

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### 4. The primary purpose of wall ties (reveal ties, through ties, lip ties) on a scaffold is to:

- A. Prevent the scaffold from overturning and moving away from or into the building under horizontal loads (wind, impact)
- B. Carry the vertical load of the scaffold
- C. Provide access between scaffold and building
- D. Support scaffold boards



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**5. The minimum height for the top guardrail on a scaffold working platform is:**

- A. 900 mm above the working platform surface
- B. 750 mm
- C. 600 mm
- D. 1200 mm always

**6. The three load classifications for scaffold platforms under AS/NZS 4576 are:**

- A. Light duty (225 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), medium/general duty (450 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), and heavy duty (675 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- B. Light (100 kg), medium (300 kg), heavy (500 kg)
- C. Class 1, 2, and 3 with no specific kg/m<sup>2</sup> values
- D. Only two classes — domestic and industrial

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**7. The minimum width of a scaffold platform used as a working platform (where work is performed from it) under AS/NZS 4576 is:**

- A. 450 mm (3 standard boards wide)
- B. 225 mm (1 board)
- C. 900 mm (4 boards)
- D. 600 mm (2 boards)

**8. Bracing can be used for climbing on the scaffolding.**

- A. True
- B. False

**9. What does the HRWL class SI cover?**

- A. Basic scaffolding only
- B. Advanced scaffolding and suspended scaffolding
- C. Intermediate scaffolding — tube and coupler systems exceeding basic scope
- D. Scaffold inspection only

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**10. A 'ledger' in scaffolding terminology is:**

- A. A vertical component running up the scaffold
- B. A diagonal brace running at 45°
- C. A horizontal tube running parallel to the face of the structure along the length of the scaffold
- D. A base plate used under standards

**11. The first step when erecting a tube and coupler scaffold on an uneven surface is:**

- A. Install the top guardrail
- B. Attach all bracing
- C. Level and secure the base plates and sole boards on firm, load-bearing ground
- D. Install the scaffold boards

**12. A 'through tie' (box tie) is formed by:**

- A. Screwing the scaffold into the building facade
- B. Attaching a wire rope to the building
- C. Passing a tube through an open window and connecting it to the scaffold on both sides — the strongest tie method
- D. Clamping the scaffold to the guttering

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**13. An intermediate (mid) rail on a scaffold must be positioned:**

- A. At 500 mm from the top rail only
- B. At 300 mm from the platform
- C. Midway between the top rail and the toe board — typically at approximately 450–500 mm above the platform
- D. At any height chosen by the scaffolder

**14. Which activity would require a heavy-duty scaffold classification?**

- A. Painting the facade
- B. Window cleaning
- C. Brick laying with a full pallet of bricks on the platform
- D. Simple inspection work



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**15. Scaffold access ladders must extend at least how far above the scaffold landing?**

- A. 300 mm
- B. 600 mm
- C. 1 metre above the landing to provide a handhold for users stepping on and off
- D. 2 metres above the landing

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**16. A temporary structure used for erecting, construction and maintenance is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Floor
- B. Scaffolding
- C. Bench
- D. None of the others

**17. Which HRWL class covers advanced scaffolding including cantilevered, hung, and spur scaffolding?**

- A. SB
- B. SA
- C. SI
- D. No HRWL covers advanced scaffolding

**18. A 'transom' (also called a putlog in older terminology) is:**

- A. A diagonal bracing tube
- B. A horizontal tube at right angles to the ledger, supporting the scaffold boards
- C. The connecting pin in a system scaffold
- D. A ground anchor for the scaffold

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**19. When erecting scaffolding adjacent to a live road or pedestrian area, you must:**

- A. Work as fast as possible to reduce risk time
- B. Establish an exclusion zone with barriers and, if required, obtain a traffic management plan
- C. Only warn workers verbally
- D. Use spotters instead of barriers



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**20. The maximum vertical spacing between scaffold ties depends on:**

- A. The height of the building only
- B. The design, the scaffold type, and wind loads — typically 4 metres vertically and 6 metres horizontally for basic scaffolds, per the manufacturer's design
- C. Always 2 metres
- D. Always 5 metres regardless of wind exposure

**21. The minimum height of a toe board (kickboard) on a scaffold platform is:**

- A. 50 mm
- B. 150 mm above the platform surface
- C. 300 mm
- D. 750 mm

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**22. The safe working load of a scaffold standard (tube) is reduced when:**

- A. It is painted
- B. The unsupported (free) length increases — longer unsupported lengths buckle at lower loads
- C. It is used outdoors
- D. It is galvanised

**23. Internal scaffold stair towers are preferred over ladders for access when:**

- A. The scaffold is less than 3 metres high
- B. The scaffold is to be used by large numbers of workers, for extended periods, or when heavy materials must be carried
- C. Cost is the only consideration
- D. The client requests it

**24. A scaffold must be erected by a qualified/trained person only.**

- A. No
- B. Yes

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**25. Under the Model WHS Act, a PCBU must ensure scaffolding work is carried out by:**

- A. Any worker with 2+ years site experience
- B. A worker who has watched someone erect scaffolding
- C. A worker with a current white card
- D. A licenced scaffolder holding the relevant HRWL class for the work

**26. What is the purpose of a base plate in scaffolding?**

- A. To connect two standards together
- B. To provide a working surface
- C. To brace the scaffold diagonally
- D. To distribute the load from the standard over a larger area on the ground or sole board

**27. During erection, fall protection for the scaffolders must be provided by:**

- A. Guardrails only — no harness needed at any stage
- B. A spotter watching from below
- C. Verbal warnings
- D. A combination of controls — perimeter protection, harnesses with lanyards attached to anchor points, and catch platforms where required

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**28. If wall ties cannot be installed because the building facade will not allow it, the scaffold must be:**

- A. Used without ties — it is the client's responsibility
- B. Angled away from the building
- C. Reduced in height to 4 metres maximum
- D. Independently tied using kentledge (ballast) and outriggers or a specifically designed independent scaffold

**29. Toe boards on a scaffold are required to:**

- A. Add extra load capacity to the platform
- B. Support the mid-rail
- C. Mark the edge of the scaffold for visibility
- D. Prevent tools, materials, and debris from being kicked or rolling off the platform edge



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**30. Concentrated point loads (such as a concrete pump line or hoist) on a scaffold must be:**

- A. Placed anywhere on the platform
- B. Limited to the light duty SWL
- C. Assessed by the scaffolding supervisor
- D. Reviewed by a competent person or structural engineer to confirm the scaffold can carry the load before it is applied



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## Answer Key & Explanations

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1. A — Class SB (Basic Scaffolding)
2. A — To transfer the vertical load from the scaffold to the base plates and ground
3. A — Ground conditions, proximity to overhead services, wind exposure, access/egress routes, and loads to be imposed on the scaffold
4. A — Prevent the scaffold from overturning and moving away from or into the building under horizontal loads (wind, impact)
5. A — 900 mm above the working platform surface
6. A — Light duty (225 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), medium/general duty (450 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), and heavy duty (675 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
7. A — 450 mm (3 standard boards wide)
8. B — False  
Bracing is a structural component and must never be used as a means of access or climbing. Proper access ladders or stairways must be used.
9. C — Intermediate scaffolding — tube and coupler systems exceeding basic scope
10. C — A horizontal tube running parallel to the face of the structure along the length of the scaffold
11. C — Level and secure the base plates and sole boards on firm, load-bearing ground
12. C — Passing a tube through an open window and connecting it to the scaffold on both sides — the strongest tie method
13. C — Midway between the top rail and the toe board — typically at approximately 450–500 mm above the platform
14. C — Brick laying with a full pallet of bricks on the platform
15. C — 1 metre above the landing to provide a handhold for users stepping on and off
16. B — Scaffolding  
Scaffolding is defined as a temporary structure erected to provide a working platform for construction, maintenance, and other work at height.
17. B — SA
18. B — A horizontal tube at right angles to the ledger, supporting the scaffold boards
19. B — Establish an exclusion zone with barriers and, if required, obtain a traffic management plan



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20. B — The design, the scaffold type, and wind loads — typically 4 metres vertically and 6 metres horizontally for basic scaffolds, per the manufacturer's design
21. B — 150 mm above the platform surface
22. B — The unsupported (free) length increases — longer unsupported lengths buckle at lower loads
23. B — The scaffold is to be used by large numbers of workers, for extended periods, or when heavy materials must be carried
24. B — Yes  
Under Australian WHS legislation, scaffolding above certain heights is classified as high risk work requiring a licensed scaffolder.
25. D — A licenced scaffolder holding the relevant HRWL class for the work
26. D — To distribute the load from the standard over a larger area on the ground or sole board
27. D — A combination of controls — perimeter protection, harnesses with lanyards attached to anchor points, and catch platforms where required
28. D — Independently tied using kentledge (ballast) and outriggers or a specifically designed independent scaffold
29. D — Prevent tools, materials, and debris from being kicked or rolling off the platform edge
30. D — Reviewed by a competent person or structural engineer to confirm the scaffold can carry the load before it is applied



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