

# NCCER/OSHA Scaffold SG Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is the minimum number of wraps the winding drums on a suspension scaffold should have at the lowest point of travel?**
  - A. 1**
  - B. 2**
  - C. 3**
  - D. 4**
- 2. What is the primary purpose of a safety harness when using scaffolding?**
  - A. To enhance mobility**
  - B. To provide protection from falls**
  - C. To support tool belts**
  - D. To keep scaffolds stable**
- 3. Approximately how much torque should be used to tighten a clamp?**
  - A. 30 ft/lbs**
  - B. 35 ft/lbs**
  - C. 45 ft/lbs**
  - D. 50 ft/lbs**
- 4. What is the primary purpose of installing cross braces on a fabricated frame scaffold?**
  - A. To increase load capacity**
  - B. To ensure the scaffold is plumb, square, and rigid**
  - C. To provide additional work surfaces**
  - D. To support the weight of the scaffold**
- 5. What is identified as the runner in a scaffold configuration?**
  - A. Vertical support**
  - B. Horizontal plank**
  - C. Base support**
  - D. Guardrail**

- 6. When are toe boards on scaffolds required by OSHA?**
- A. When working on scaffolds below 10 feet**
  - B. When the working platform is less than 5 feet above lower levels**
  - C. When the working platform is 10 feet or more above lower levels**
  - D. When working with hazardous materials**
- 7. What is the normal outside diameter (O.D.) of a tube in a tube and clamp scaffold?**
- A. 1.5 inches**
  - B. 1.9 inches**
  - C. 2.0 inches**
  - D. 2.5 inches**
- 8. What is the function of diagonal braces in scaffolding systems?**
- A. To provide additional platforms**
  - B. To connect horizontal tubes**
  - C. To support vertical stability**
  - D. To adjust scaffold height**
- 9. What is a critical factor determining the stability of a scaffold?**
- A. Design and materials used**
  - B. Height of the scaffold**
  - C. Location of the scaffolding**
  - D. Load capacity only**
- 10. Which type of clamp is used to attach a diagonal brace on a tube and coupler scaffold?**
- A. Swivel clamp**
  - B. Fixed clamp**
  - C. Corner clamp**
  - D. Double clamp**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

- 1. B**
- 2. B**
- 3. C**
- 4. B**
- 5. B**
- 6. C**
- 7. B**
- 8. C**
- 9. A**
- 10. A**

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the minimum number of wraps the winding drums on a suspension scaffold should have at the lowest point of travel?**

- A. 1
- B. 2**
- C. 3
- D. 4

The minimum number of wraps the winding drums on a suspension scaffold should have at the lowest point of travel is two wraps. This requirement helps ensure the safety and stability of the scaffold system during use. Having at least two wraps of rope around the winding drum provides a greater margin of safety by reducing the risk of the rope slipping off the drum, which could lead to a sudden drop of the scaffold platform and endanger workers. Moreover, multiple wraps help distribute the load more evenly around the drum and minimize the likelihood of excessive wear on the rope or drum, thereby prolonging the lifespan of the equipment. This safety measure is critical for maintaining the integrity of suspension scaffolds, especially when they are subjected to dynamic forces such as personnel movement or loading.

**2. What is the primary purpose of a safety harness when using scaffolding?**

- A. To enhance mobility
- B. To provide protection from falls**
- C. To support tool belts
- D. To keep scaffolds stable

The primary purpose of a safety harness when using scaffolding is to provide protection from falls. Safety harnesses are crucial safety devices designed to secure a worker to a safe anchor point, preventing them from falling when working at heights. In the context of scaffolding, where the risk of falls is significant, using a safety harness greatly reduces the potential for serious injuries or fatalities associated with falls from elevated surfaces. While enhancing mobility, supporting tool belts, and keeping scaffolds stable may have some relevance to work practices on scaffolding, these factors are not the main function of a safety harness. The primary focus remains on fall protection, ensuring that individuals can work safely and effectively while reducing the risk of accidents related to height.

**3. Approximately how much torque should be used to tighten a clamp?**

- A. 30 ft/lbs**
- B. 35 ft/lbs**
- C. 45 ft/lbs**
- D. 50 ft/lbs**

The correct amount of torque for tightening a clamp is typically around 45 ft/lbs. This specification is important because it ensures that the clamp is secured adequately to hold scaffolding components together without risking loosening due to vibrations or stress during use. Using the correct torque helps prevent structural failure or accidents that could arise from improperly secured scaffolding. Selecting the correct torque value is essential for safety and efficiency in scaffold assembly. Exceeding the recommended torque can damage the clamp or the materials it secures, while insufficient torque may lead to loosening over time. Knowledge of these specifications follows industry standards that emphasize safety during the setup and use of scaffolding systems.

**4. What is the primary purpose of installing cross braces on a fabricated frame scaffold?**

- A. To increase load capacity**
- B. To ensure the scaffold is plumb, square, and rigid**
- C. To provide additional work surfaces**
- D. To support the weight of the scaffold**

The primary purpose of installing cross braces on a fabricated frame scaffold is to ensure the scaffold is plumb, square, and rigid. Cross braces are essential components that help maintain the structural integrity of the scaffold system. By securing the frames in both vertical and horizontal orientations, cross braces prevent lateral movement and shifting of the scaffold. This is crucial for maintaining safety as it minimizes the risk of collapse or instability while workers are on the scaffold. When properly installed, cross braces create a supportive framework that upholds the scaffold's alignment and load distribution, allowing for safe operation under various working conditions. The rigidity provided by these braces is essential for workers to perform their tasks confidently without the concern of the scaffold becoming unsteady or misaligned.

**5. What is identified as the runner in a scaffold configuration?**

- A. Vertical support**
- B. Horizontal plank**
- C. Base support**
- D. Guardrail**

In scaffold terminology, the runner refers to a horizontal plank that is integral to the structure's design. This component serves as a supporting element that helps to distribute the load across the scaffold system. Runners are typically placed at specific intervals to provide additional support and stability, especially when platforms or working surfaces are constructed. This is crucial because it enhances the integrity of the scaffold, ensuring that it can safely hold workers and materials during construction activities. The other components mentioned, such as vertical supports and base supports, serve different purposes in the overall scaffold system. Vertical supports provide the necessary height and structural strength, while base supports serve as the foundation to stabilize the entire scaffold. Guardrails are safety features designed to prevent falls, but they do not contribute to the scaffold's primary load-bearing capacity like the horizontal planks do. Understanding these distinctions helps ensure safe and effective scaffold use on construction sites.

**6. When are toe boards on scaffolds required by OSHA?**

- A. When working on scaffolds below 10 feet**
- B. When the working platform is less than 5 feet above lower levels**
- C. When the working platform is 10 feet or more above lower levels**
- D. When working with hazardous materials**

Toe boards on scaffolds are required by OSHA when the working platform is 10 feet or more above lower levels to prevent materials and tools from falling off the scaffold and potentially injuring personnel or damaging property below. This requirement is in place because the higher the working platform, the greater the risk associated with falling objects, which can lead to serious accidents. By having toe boards installed, scaffolding can help create a safer work environment, as they act as a barrier that prevents items from sliding off the edge of the platform. OSHA emphasizes safety measures like toe boards to mitigate risks and protect workers on elevated platforms, making adherence to this standard crucial in scaffold safety protocols.

**7. What is the normal outside diameter (O.D.) of a tube in a tube and clamp scaffold?**

- A. 1.5 inches**
- B. 1.9 inches**
- C. 2.0 inches**
- D. 2.5 inches**

The normal outside diameter (O.D.) of a tube in a tube and clamp scaffold is typically 1.9 inches. This specific diameter is standardized because it provides the necessary strength and stability needed for scaffolding applications, while also allowing for compatibility with clamps and other components that are designed to fit securely around this dimension. Using the 1.9-inch diameter ensures that the scaffold can safely support the loads it is designed to carry, providing safety for workers and maintaining the integrity of the structure. Additionally, this standardization across the industry makes it easier for builders to specify materials, maintain inventory, and ensure that components are interchangeable. Other diameters, such as 1.5 inches, 2.0 inches, or 2.5 inches, do not conform to the established standard for tube and clamp scaffolding, and using them could compromise the safety and stability of the scaffolding system.

**8. What is the function of diagonal braces in scaffolding systems?**

- A. To provide additional platforms**
- B. To connect horizontal tubes**
- C. To support vertical stability**
- D. To adjust scaffold height**

Diagonal braces play a crucial role in scaffolding systems by providing vertical stability. They are typically installed in a crisscross manner between the vertical and horizontal members of the scaffold. This configuration helps to prevent lateral movement and shifting of the scaffold under load or during use. Without diagonal braces, a scaffold could easily become unstable, especially in windy conditions or when subjected to uneven weight distribution. The presence of these braces ensures that the structural integrity of the scaffold is maintained, allowing workers to operate safely at heights. It's essential in preventing collapses and ensuring the overall safety of the scaffolding system. The functions of additional platforms, connecting horizontal tubes, or adjusting scaffold height are not directly related to the primary purpose of diagonal braces, emphasizing their specific role in maintaining stability.

**9. What is a critical factor determining the stability of a scaffold?**

- A. Design and materials used**
- B. Height of the scaffold**
- C. Location of the scaffolding**
- D. Load capacity only**

A critical factor determining the stability of a scaffold is the design and materials used. The design ensures that the scaffold can withstand various forces, such as wind and the weight of workers and materials, while the materials must have the necessary strength and durability to support these loads. Proper design incorporates considerations like load distribution, connections between components, and stability features such as braces and base plates. While the height of the scaffold, the location where it is set up, and its load capacity are important, they are secondary to the fundamental role that design and materials play in ensuring safety and stability. For instance, a well-designed scaffold made from high-quality materials can be stable even at greater heights or in less ideal conditions. Thus, without a solid foundation of good design and suitable materials, the scaffold's overall stability could be compromised, regardless of other factors.

**10. Which type of clamp is used to attach a diagonal brace on a tube and coupler scaffold?**

- A. Swivel clamp**
- B. Fixed clamp**
- C. Corner clamp**
- D. Double clamp**

The use of a swivel clamp to attach a diagonal brace on a tube and coupler scaffold is appropriate due to its design and functionality. Swivel clamps offer the advantage of allowing a greater range of motion, making it easier to adjust the angle of the brace as needed for optimal support and stability. This flexibility is crucial in scaffolding applications, where proper alignment and angle of braces can significantly impact the overall structural integrity of the scaffold. In contrast, fixed clamps provide a rigid connection that cannot accommodate angles other than those predetermined when the clamp is installed. This rigidity could limit the effectiveness of the diagonal brace in providing stability. Corner clamps are specifically designed for connecting scaffold components at right angles, which may not be suitable for attaching braces that typically need angular adjustments to maximize strength and support. Double clamps are primarily used for connecting two tubes together in a parallel configuration, which isn't applicable for supporting diagonal bracing. Therefore, the selection of a swivel clamp is the best choice for securely attaching a diagonal brace and ensuring it can effectively stabilize the scaffold structure.