Scaffolder Duties And Responsibilities Complete Guide

scaffolder duties and responsibilities encompass a wide range of tasks essential for the safe and efficient erection, maintenance, and dismantling of scaffolding structures on construction sites. These responsibilities require a combination of technical skills, safety awareness, and adherence to industry standards to ensure the safety of workers and the structural integrity of the scaffolding. Whether working on residential buildings, commercial projects, or infrastructure developments, scaffolders play a vital role in enabling access and working platforms at various heights. Understanding the core duties and responsibilities of a scaffolder is crucial for employers, workers, and clients to ensure projects are completed safely, on time, and within budget.

Understanding the Role of a Scaffolder

A scaffolder is a specialized tradesperson responsible for constructing temporary structures that support workers, materials, and equipment during the construction, repair, or maintenance of buildings and other structures. The role demands technical knowledge, physical fitness, and a strong commitment to safety protocols.

Core Responsibilities of a Scaffolder

- Erecting, modifying, and dismantling scaffolding structures
- Conducting safety inspections and risk assessments
- Ensuring compliance with safety regulations and standards
- Collaborating with other trades and project teams
- Maintaining tools and equipment

Key Duties of a Scaffolder

A scaffolder?s duties are diverse and require meticulous attention to detail. Here are the primary tasks involved:

1. Planning and Preparing

Before starting any scaffolding work, the scaffolder must:

- Review project blueprints, drawings, and specifications
- Conduct site inspections to assess the terrain and access points
- Identify potential hazards and plan for safe installation
- Gather necessary tools, equipment, and materials

2. Erecting Scaffolding Structures

The core task involves:

- Selecting appropriate scaffolding materials and components
- Assembling scaffolding frames, platforms, and braces
- Ensuring structures are level, stable, and secure
- Installing guardrails, toe boards, and safety netting
- Using appropriate techniques for working at heights

3. Conducting Safety Checks

Safety is paramount in scaffolding work. Key safety duties include:

- Inspecting scaffolding components for damage or defects
- Verifying that the structure can support the intended loads
- Securing scaffolding to prevent movement or collapse
- Checking that safety features are correctly installed
- Documenting safety inspections and compliance

4. Modifying and Adjusting Structures

As the project progresses, scaffolding may need:

- Adjustments to height or configuration
- Addition or removal of components
- Reinforcing structures to support increased loads
- Ensuring ongoing safety and stability

5. Dismantling and Removing Scaffolding

When the project concludes or scaffolding is no longer needed:

- Carefully dismantle in reverse order of erection
- Remove debris and unused materials from the site
- Store or dispose of scaffolding components safely
- Conduct final safety inspections before leaving the site

Safety Responsibilities of a Scaffolder

Safety is the cornerstone of scaffolding duties. A scaffolder must prioritize safety at every stage of their work to prevent accidents and injuries.

Common Safety Responsibilities

- Adhering to health and safety regulations such as OSHA, OSHA-UK, or local standards
- Wearing appropriate PPE, including helmets, harnesses, gloves, and safety boots
- Ensuring scaffolding is erected according to manufacturer instructions and safety codes
- Regularly inspecting the scaffolding for damage or instability
- Securing tools and materials to prevent falling hazards
- Communicating hazards or unsafe practices to the team and site managers
- Providing safety training or guidance to other workers when necessary

Training and Certification

Proper training ensures scaffolders understand safety procedures and technical skills. Certifications may include:

- CSCS card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme)
- Working at Heights certificate
- Scaffolding safety courses
- First aid certification

Skills and Qualities of an Effective Scaffolder

Successful scaffolders possess a combination of technical skills, physical attributes, and personal qualities.

Essential Skills

- Strong knowledge of scaffolding techniques and materials

- Ability to read and interpret technical drawings
- Excellent problem-solving skills
- Good communication and teamwork abilities
- Attention to detail and precision
- Physical strength and stamina

Personal Qualities

- Commitment to safety and compliance
- Reliability and punctuality
- Adaptability to changing site conditions
- Responsibility and accountability
- Willingness to learn and improve skills

Legal and Industry Standards for Scaffolding

Compliance with legal and industry standards is a critical component of scaffolder responsibilities.

Key Regulations and Standards

- OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards
- EN 12811 (European standard for temporary works equipment)
- Local building codes and safety regulations
- Manufacturer guidelines for scaffolding components

Risk Management and Documentation

- Conducting comprehensive risk assessments before work begins
- Maintaining detailed records of inspections and safety checks
- Ensuring all work is performed under a permit-to-work system when required
- Reporting incidents and near-misses promptly

Tools and Equipment Used by Scaffolders

A scaffolder relies on a variety of tools and equipment to perform their duties efficiently and safely.

Common Tools

- Scaffold tubes and fittings
- Couplers and clamps
- Lifting equipment (hoists, pulleys)
- Leveling devices
- Power tools (drills, saws)
- Safety harnesses and fall arrest systems
- Personal protective equipment (helmets, gloves, safety glasses)

Equipment Maintenance

Regular checks and maintenance of tools and equipment are vital to prevent failures and accidents.

Conclusion: The Importance of Scaffolder Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of a scaffolder are fundamental to the success and safety of any construction project involving elevated work platforms. From meticulous planning and precise erection to diligent safety inspections and careful dismantling, scaffolders ensure that construction sites are safe, compliant, and productive. Their expertise not only facilitates access to difficult-to-reach areas but also protects lives by adhering to rigorous safety standards. As construction methods evolve and safety regulations become more stringent, the role of a skilled scaffolder continues to be indispensable in building a safer, more efficient industry.

Keywords for SEO Optimization: scaffolder duties, responsibilities of a scaffolder, scaffolding safety, scaffold erection, scaffolding skills, construction safety standards, scaffolding tools, scaffolder training, site safety inspections, scaffolding regulations

Scaffolder Duties and Responsibilities: An Expert Overview

In the realm of construction, maintenance, and industrial projects, scaffolding serves as an essential backbone that ensures safety, accessibility, and efficiency. At the heart of this critical operation is the scaffolder?a skilled professional tasked with designing, erecting, and dismantling scaffold structures that support workers and materials at heights. The role of a scaffolder is multifaceted, requiring a blend of technical expertise, safety awareness, and physical dexterity. This article provides an in-depth exploration of scaffolder duties and responsibilities, offering a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to excel in this vital trade.

Understanding the Role of a Scaffolder

A scaffolder is more than just someone who assembles temporary platforms; they are integral to the successful execution of construction projects. Their work ensures that workers can reach elevated work sites safely and efficiently, whether it?s for building new structures, performing repairs, or

conducting inspections.

Key Aspects of a Scaffolder?s Role:

- Planning and assessing scaffold requirements
- Erecting and dismantling scaffolding structures
- Ensuring safety and compliance with regulations
- Maintaining and inspecting scaffolding equipment
- Collaborating with other construction professionals

The following sections delve into these aspects in detail.

Main Duties of a Scaffolder

1. Planning and Site Assessment

Before any physical work begins, a scaffolder must conduct a comprehensive assessment of the site. This step involves understanding the project scope, identifying potential hazards, and determining the appropriate scaffolding type and configuration.

Responsibilities include:

- Analyzing blueprints and engineering drawings
- Evaluating ground conditions and access points
- Assessing environmental factors such as wind, weather, and nearby structures
- Planning scaffolding layouts that maximize safety and efficiency
- Calculating the materials and equipment needed

Effective planning reduces the risk of accidents and ensures that the scaffold structure will support the necessary loads safely.

2. Material Selection and Preparation

Once the planning phase is complete, the scaffolder selects suitable materials?typically including tubes, couplers, boards, and safety components?and prepares them for assembly.

Material responsibilities include:

- Checking materials for defects or damage
- Ensuring all equipment meets safety standards
- Organizing materials on-site for efficient access
- Preferring lightweight yet durable components to ease handling

Proper material management is critical for safe and efficient scaffold erection.

3. Erecting Scaffold Structures

The core responsibility of a scaffolder is the erection of scaffoldings according to the planned design and safety guidelines. This process involves several detailed steps:

- Foundation Preparation: Ensuring the ground or support surfaces are stable, level, and capable of supporting the scaffold.
- Base Assembly: Installing base plates, sole boards, or adjustable supports.
- Vertical and Horizontal Framework: Erecting standards (vertical posts) and ledger (horizontal) members.
- Bracing and Stabilization: Adding diagonal braces and ties to prevent movement.
- Platform Installation: Securing planks or decking to create working surfaces.
- Safety Features: Installing guardrails, toe boards, and access points such as ladders or stairs.

Throughout this process, the scaffolder must adhere to industry standards, such as those set by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) or equivalent national bodies, to guarantee structural integrity.

4. Dismantling and Removal of Scaffolding

Once the project phase requiring scaffolding concludes, the scaffolder is responsible for safely dismantling the structure.

Dismantling responsibilities include:

- Planning the dismantling sequence to maintain stability
- Carefully removing components in reverse order of erection
- Ensuring the safety of nearby workers and pedestrians
- Recycling or storing materials appropriately
- Performing inspections during and after dismantling

Effective dismantling minimizes risks and prepares the site for subsequent work or final clearance.

Additional Responsibilities and Skills of a Scaffolder

Apart from the primary duties outlined above, scaffolders undertake various other responsibilities that contribute to project success and safety.

5. Safety Compliance and Risk Management

Safety is paramount in scaffolding work. Scaffolders must:

- Conduct risk assessments prior to starting work
- Follow strict safety protocols and procedures
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as helmets, harnesses, and safety boots
- Ensure scaffolding is properly secured and stable before use
- Report safety concerns or hazards immediately
- Participate in safety training and audits

Understanding and implementing safety regulations not only protects workers but also prevents costly delays and liabilities.

6. Inspection and Maintenance

Regular inspection of scaffolding is a key responsibility. Scaffolders must:

- Check for signs of wear, corrosion, or damage
- Verify the stability and secure fitting of components
- Replace or repair defective parts promptly
- Maintain detailed inspection records
- Ensure compliance with legal and company standards

Routine maintenance prolongs the lifespan of scaffolding equipment and maintains safety standards.

7. Collaboration and Communication

Effective communication with project managers, engineers, and other tradespeople is essential. Scaffolders must:

- Clearly interpret technical drawings and instructions

- Coordinate with other teams to ensure seamless workflow
- Report progress and issues accurately
- Adapt to project changes and unforeseen challenges

Strong teamwork ensures that scaffolding operations align with overall project timelines and safety protocols.

8. Physical and Technical Skills

A scaffolder?s role demands:

- Physical strength and stamina for lifting and assembling heavy components
- Good balance and coordination
- Knowledge of scaffold systems, tools, and safety devices
- Ability to read technical drawings and schematics
- Problem-solving skills for custom or complex scaffold configurations

These skills are vital for efficient, safe, and high-quality work delivery.

Legal and Regulatory Responsibilities

Scaffolders have a legal obligation to adhere to national safety standards and regulations. They must:

- Obtain appropriate certifications and training (e.g., CISRS in the UK, OSHA certifications in the US)
- Follow industry standards for scaffold design and erection
- Keep documentation of inspections, training, and incident reports
- Ensure that all scaffolding work is compliant with local building codes and safety legislation

Failure to comply can lead to legal penalties, project delays, and serious accidents.

Health and Safety Considerations in Scaffolders? Duties

Given the inherently hazardous nature of working at heights, health and safety considerations are woven into every aspect of a scaffolder?s duties.

Key safety considerations include:

- Use of fall arrest systems
- Proper training in working at heights
- Ensuring scaffolding is erected on stable ground
- Regular safety audits
- Emergency procedures and rescue plans

Prioritizing safety reduces accidents and fosters a safety-first culture on the worksite.

Conclusion: The Expertise Behind Safe and Efficient Scaffolding

The duties and responsibilities of a scaffolder extend beyond simple assembly. They require a comprehensive understanding of structural requirements, safety standards, and project coordination. From initial site assessment to final dismantling, scaffolders play a crucial role in the success and safety of construction projects.

Their work demands technical proficiency, physical endurance, and a proactive safety mindset. As construction projects evolve and safety regulations become more stringent, scaffolders must continually update their skills and knowledge.

In essence, a proficient scaffolder is not just a builder of temporary structures but a guardian of safety, efficiency, and structural integrity?ensuring that every project can reach new heights safely and successfully.

QuestionAnswer What are the primary duties of a scaffolder on a construction site? A scaffolder's primary duties include assembling, installing, and dismantling scaffolding structures safely and efficiently, ensuring they meet safety standards, inspecting scaffolding for defects, and maintaining a safe working environment for all personnel. What safety responsibilities does a scaffolder have during their work? A scaffolder is responsible for adhering to safety regulations, conducting risk assessments, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), securing scaffolding against collapse, and reporting any unsafe conditions or hazards promptly. How does a scaffolder ensure the stability and safety of scaffolding structures? A scaffolder ensures stability by following engineering specifications, properly anchoring and bracing the scaffolding, performing regular inspections, and making necessary adjustments or repairs to maintain structural integrity throughout the project. What skills and qualifications are essential for a scaffolder? Essential skills include knowledge of scaffolding techniques, safety procedures, and reading technical drawings. Qualifications typically involve relevant certifications (such as OSHA or CISRS), physical fitness, attention to detail, and experience working at heights. What are the key responsibilities of a scaffolder in ensuring project timelines are met? A scaffolder contributes to project timelines by efficiently planning and executing scaffolding tasks, coordinating with other trades, minimizing delays caused by safety checks or repairs, and ensuring scaffolding is ready for use when needed.

Related keywords: scaffolding supervisor, safety protocols, equipment inspection, worksite coordination, risk assessment, team management, compliance standards, safety training, project planning, site supervision

FIRST YEAR SCAFFOLD EXAM

First Year Scaffold Exam: A Comprehensive Guide for Aspiring Scaffolders

Embarking on a career in scaffolding requires not only practical skills but also a solid understanding of safety protocols, technical knowledge, and industry standards. For those starting their journey, the **first year scaffold exam** serves as a crucial milestone?an assessment that tests foundational knowledge and ensures readiness to undertake scaffold-related tasks safely and efficiently. This article provides an in-depth overview of what to expect from the first-year scaffold exam, how to prepare effectively, and tips to succeed.

Understanding the First Year Scaffold Exam

The **first year scaffold exam** is typically designed for individuals new to the scaffolding industry, often as part of apprenticeship programs or initial certification processes. Its primary purpose is to evaluate the candidate's understanding of scaffolding principles, safety standards, and practical skills necessary for working at heights.

Purpose and Importance

- Ensuring Safety Compliance: The exam verifies that candidates are familiar with safety protocols to minimize accidents.
- Assessing Knowledge: It tests theoretical knowledge of scaffold types, assembly, inspection, and maintenance.
- Building Confidence: Passing the exam boosts confidence and prepares candidates for more advanced roles.
- Legal Requirement: In many regions, passing the first-year scaffold exam is mandatory for obtaining certification or licensing.

Who Should Take the Exam?

- Novice scaffolders in their first year of employment or apprenticeship.

- Individuals seeking to upgrade their skills or obtain certification.
- Workers involved in scaffold erection, inspection, or safety supervision.

Key Components of the First Year Scaffold Exam

The exam generally comprises multiple components designed to assess both theoretical understanding and practical skills. These include:

Theoretical Knowledge

- Types of scaffolds and their applications
- Material identification and usage
- Safety standards and regulations
- Risk assessment and hazard identification
- Inspection procedures

Practical Skills

- Scaffold assembly and disassembly
- Proper use of tools and equipment
- Inspection and maintenance routines
- Correct anchoring and support techniques
- Emergency procedures and fall protection

Assessment Format

- Multiple-choice questions (MCQs)
- Short-answer questions
- Practical demonstrations or on-site assessments
- Oral quizzes or interviews (region-dependent)

Preparation Tips for the First Year Scaffold Exam

Adequate preparation is key to passing the first-year scaffold exam. Here are some effective strategies:

Understand the Regulations and Standards

- Familiarize yourself with local and international scaffolding safety standards, such as OSHA, BS EN, or regional codes.
- Study the specific regulations applicable to your region or employer.

Study Core Topics Thoroughly

- Types of scaffolds: supported, hanging, mobile, and special scaffolds
- Scaffold components: planks, guardrails, toe boards, base plates
- Assembly procedures: step-by-step processes
- Inspection protocols before, during, and after use
- Safety measures: fall arrest systems, PPE, signage

Utilize Study Resources

- Training manuals and guides provided by your employer or training institutes
- Online tutorials and videos demonstrating scaffold assembly and inspection
- Practice exams and quizzes to test knowledge
- Attend preparatory courses or workshops if available

Gain Practical Experience

- Participate actively in on-site scaffold erection and dismantling under supervision
- Observe and learn from experienced scaffolders
- Practice inspection routines regularly to build confidence

Ask Questions and Seek Clarification

- Clarify any doubts with trainers or supervisors
- Engage in discussions about safety procedures and best practices

Exam Day: What to Expect

On the day of the exam, being prepared helps reduce anxiety and ensures smooth performance.

Preparation Checklist

- Bring required identification and registration documents
- Carry any authorized tools or reference materials permitted
- Dress appropriately for practical assessments
- Arrive early to familiarize yourself with the exam environment

During the Exam

- Read questions carefully before answering
- Manage your time effectively, especially in practical sections
- Demonstrate confidence and adherence to safety protocols
- Follow instructions precisely during practical tasks

Post-Exam Steps and Certification

Once you complete the exam:

- Await results, which may be provided on-site or later by mail or electronic communication
- Review feedback or areas where you may need improvement
- If successful, obtain your certification or qualification documents
- Use your certification to apply for more advanced roles and responsibilities

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

While preparing for the first-year scaffold exam, candidates often encounter certain challenges:

- **Lack of Practical Experience:** Supplement theoretical learning with hands-on practice.
- **Understanding Regulations:** Study regulations systematically and consult experts if needed.
- **Time Management:** Practice mock exams to improve speed and efficiency.
- **Anxiety and Nerves:** Prepare thoroughly and maintain a positive attitude.

Benefits of Passing the First Year Scaffold Exam

Successfully passing your first-year scaffold exam opens doors to numerous career benefits:

- Recognition as a qualified scaffold worker
- Increased job opportunities and employability
- Eligibility for advanced certifications and roles

- Enhanced understanding of safety and technical procedures
- Confidence to work independently and supervise others

Conclusion

The **first year scaffold exam** is a foundational step toward establishing a safe and successful career in scaffolding. By understanding its structure, preparing diligently, and gaining practical experience, candidates can confidently navigate the assessment process. Remember, safety is paramount in scaffolding work; passing this exam not only validates your knowledge but also reinforces your commitment to maintaining a safe working environment. Embrace the challenge, stay committed to learning, and take the first step toward becoming a competent and certified scaffolder.

First Year Scaffold Exam: A Comprehensive Guide to Success

Embarking on your first year scaffold exam can be both exciting and nerve-wracking. As one of the foundational assessments in your construction or engineering course, this exam not only tests your understanding of scaffolding principles but also sets the tone for your academic progression. Preparing effectively ensures you can demonstrate both theoretical knowledge and practical application, positioning you for future success in the industry.

Understanding the First Year Scaffold Exam

What Is the First Year Scaffold Exam?

The first year scaffold exam is an assessment designed to evaluate students' foundational knowledge of scaffolding concepts, safety standards, and practical skills relevant to construction sites. It typically covers a broad range of topics, including types of scaffolds, load capacities, safe assembly and dismantling procedures, and regulatory compliance.

Why Is It Important?

Passing this exam is often a prerequisite for more advanced certifications and practical work in the field. It also:

- Validates your understanding of safety protocols.
- Demonstrates your readiness to engage in real-world scaffold setup.
- Contributes to your overall course grade.
- Provides a stepping stone toward industry-recognized qualifications.

Key Topics Covered in the First Year Scaffold Exam

- Types of Scaffolding

Understanding various scaffolding types is essential. Common types include:

- Tube and Coupler Scaffolding: Modular system using tubes and couplers; highly versatile.
- System Scaffolding: Prefabricated components designed for quick assembly.
- Suspended Scaffolding: Platforms suspended from above, used for high-rise buildings.
- Mobile Scaffolding (Rolling Towers): Portable units suitable for interior work.
- Cantilevered Scaffolds: Support from a structure without ground contact.

- Components and Materials

Familiarity with scaffold components is crucial:

- Standards (Verticals): Support the structure.
- Ledgers: Horizontal members connecting standards.
- Transoms: Cross members supporting platforms.
- Braces: Diagonal supports for stability.
- Planks and Decks: Platforms for workers and materials.
- Base Plates and Mud Sills: Foundation elements for stability.

- Safety and Regulations

Understanding safety standards is paramount:

- OSHA and Local Regulations: Compliance with legal requirements.
- Load Limits: Maximum permissible loads.
- Inspection Protocols: Regular checks before, during, and after use.
- Fall Protection: Guardrails, toe boards, and harnesses.
- Proper Assembly and Dismantling: Step-by-step procedures.
- Weather Considerations: Wind, rain, and other environmental factors.

- Erection and Dismantling Procedures

Knowledge of safe practices:

- Planning: Site assessment and risk analysis.
- Preparation: Ground stability and foundation checks.
- Assembly: Sequential steps with safety checks.
- Dismantling: Controlled removal to prevent accidents.

- Load Calculations and Structural Stability

Basic principles of ensuring scaffold safety:

- Calculating maximum load capacities.
- Understanding the importance of bracing and tying to structures.
- Recognizing signs of instability.

Preparing for the First Year Scaffold Exam

Study Strategies

- Thoroughly Review Course Materials

- Lecture notes
- Textbooks
- Industry standards (OSHA, BS EN standards)

- Utilize Visual Aids

- Diagrams and schematics of scaffold types.
- Photos of proper assembly/disassembly.

- Practice with Mock Exams

- Time yourself.
- Focus on weak areas identified.

- Attend Practical Workshops

- Hands-on experience enhances understanding.
- Observe experienced workers.

Key Resources

- Official regulatory documents.
- Construction safety manuals.
- Instructor-led tutorials.
- Online tutorials and videos.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- Memorizing without understanding.
- Overlooking safety protocols.
- Ignoring environmental factors.
- Underestimating the importance of inspection routines.

Practical Tips for Exam Day

- Arrive Prepared: Bring necessary materials such as calculators, pens, and identification.
- Read Questions Carefully: Clarify what is being asked before answering.
- Allocate Time Wisely: Spend more time on questions with higher marks.
- Show Clear, Logical Steps: Especially for calculations.
- Review Your Answers: Leave time for checking.

Post-Exam Steps

- Review Feedback: Understand mistakes to improve.
- Seek Clarification: Talk to instructors if any concepts remain unclear.
- Continue Practicing: Practical skills develop with experience.

- Prepare for Next Levels: Use the first year exam as a foundation for advanced certifications.

Conclusion: Building a Strong Foundation

The first year scaffold exam is more than just an academic hurdle; it's an opportunity to solidify your understanding of essential safety and construction principles. Success in this assessment requires diligent study, practical engagement, and a safety-first mindset. Remember, mastering these basics not only helps you pass your exam but also prepares you to work confidently and responsibly on real construction sites. Approach your preparation with commitment, utilize all available resources, and view this challenge as the first step toward a rewarding career in scaffolding and construction.

QuestionAnswer What is the purpose of the first year scaffold exam? The first year scaffold exam is designed to assess new students' foundational knowledge and understanding of core concepts, ensuring they are prepared for more advanced coursework. How can I effectively prepare for my first year scaffold exam? To prepare effectively, review your class notes, complete practice questions, attend review sessions, and seek clarification on topics you find challenging from your instructors. What topics are typically covered in the first year scaffold exam? Topics usually include fundamental principles related to your field of study, such as basic theories, key terminology, and essential problem-solving techniques relevant to your first-year curriculum. When is the best time to take the first year scaffold exam? The exam is typically scheduled at the end of the first semester or academic year, allowing students to demonstrate their understanding after initial coursework completion. What are common challenges students face during the first year scaffold exam? Common challenges include time management, understanding complex concepts, exam anxiety, and unfamiliarity with exam formats or question types. How is the first year scaffold exam graded, and what constitutes a passing score? Grading criteria vary by institution, but generally, a passing score is around 60-70%. The exam is graded based on accuracy, completeness, and application of concepts, with feedback provided for improvement.

Related keywords: scaffold exam, first year assessment, construction safety exam, trainee scaffold test, beginner scaffolding exam, initial scaffold certification, entry-level scaffold exam, safety compliance test, scaffold knowledge assessment, novice scaffold certification

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