

Chapter 5 - Hierarchy of a Production - Quiz

1. What are the responsibilities of an AD, and why are they so vital to a production?

The responsibilities of an AD (Assistant Director) are all the on-set, day-to-day operations. Assistant Directors are so vital to a production because they have to oversee all of the operations on a daily basis. They are, in a way, part of the glue that holds the entire film together.

2. Define in as much detail as possible what “below the line” means.

“Below the Line” is a term given to the members of production responsible for all the hands on, physical work. This means the assistant director, the art director, the line producer, the location manager, the director of photography, the costume designer, the unit production manager, the script supervisors, the make-up artists, the sound mixer, and many many others. All of the people listed are doing physical work that may look small of paper but really, all their roles are vitally important to making a film. The director and producer are the head and heart of the production, everyone who is not a director or producer are “below the line”.

3. What are the must-have qualities of a PA? Why are they so important on a film set?

Production Assistants need to have many qualities. These include punctuality, flexibility, clarity, calmness, attentiveness, professionalism, resourcefulness, vigilance, bravery, and responsibility. A PA also needs to FORSEE what someone on set will need so it can already be there when they ask for it. They are so important on a film set because all of their “small jobs” add up to working all over set and being able to assist in every area, where a boom mic operator or sound mixer are only there to work in their specific job areas.