



101.1: Importance.

KNOWING THE IMPORTANCE OF

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION



City &
Guilds

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Importance.

101.1.1 – State the importance of health and safety in the construction industry.

Before You Start

This section helps you understand **why health and safety matters** in construction. You'll explore real accident statistics and learn how the industry has changed over the last 10 years. Everything you complete here links directly to **Assessment Criterion 101.1.1 – State the importance of health and safety in the construction industry.**

What You Need to Know (Knowledge Input)

Use this section to learn the key ideas before completing the tasks.

Why Health & Safety Matters

Construction is one of the most dangerous industries in the UK. Workers face risks such as falls from height, electrical hazards, heavy machinery, hazardous substances, and poor site organisation. Good health and safety prevents injuries, saves lives, and keeps sites running smoothly.

Health and Safety Statistics.

Using the HSE publications:

- HSE Statistics 2014 2015.pdf
- HSE Statistics 2024 2025.pdf

Complete the table below.

Statistic:	2014/15	2024/25
Fatal Injuries		
Non-Fatal Injuries		
Work-Related Ill Health		
Falls From Height		
Lost Working Days		
Enforcement Notices		

Guided Notes.

Why is Health & Safety Important?

Complete the sentences using the keywords provided.

1. Construction has many _____ that can cause harm.

2. Good health and safety helps prevent _____ and _____.

3. Following safety rules protects both workers and the _____.

4. The number of _____ injuries shows why safety must be taken seriously.

5. Lost working days cost the industry _____ and reduce productivity.

Keywords: accidents, public, risks, money, fatal

Activity 101.1a: What the numbers say.

Task 1 — Compare the Numbers.

Look at the statistics on the previous page. Then answer:

Q1: Which category increased the most over 10 years?

Q2: Why do you think this happened?

Q3: Which category decreased?

Q4: What might have caused the improvement?

Q5: Which statistic do you think is the most serious?

Q6: Explain your answer.

Task 2 — Explain the Importance.

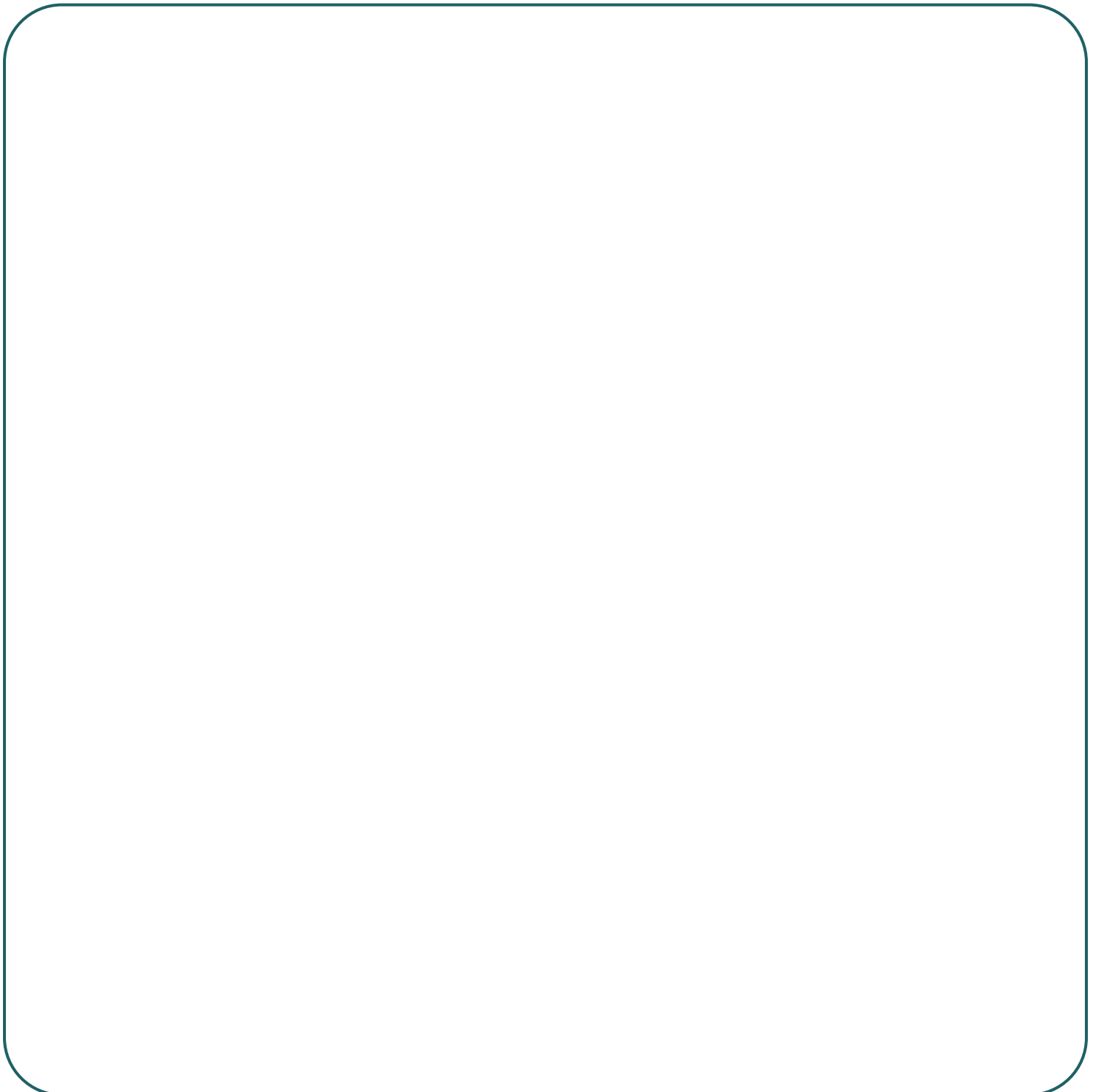
Write a short paragraph explaining why health and safety is important in construction.

Use these sentence starters:

“The data shows that...”

“This is important because...”

“If safety rules are not followed...”



Quick Check (Self-Assessment)

Tick the statements you understand:

- ☐ I can explain why health and safety is important in construction
- ☐ I can use real statistics to support my explanation
- ☐ I understand how accidents and ill health affect workers and employers

Feedback.

Task Completed: ☐

Date: _____

Lecturer Signature:

HSE Role.

101.1.2: state the role of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Before You Start

In this section, you'll learn what the **Health and Safety Executive (HSE)** does and how it helps keep construction sites safe. The HSE is the organisation that makes sure everyone follows the law and works safely. You'll explore real inspection scenarios and discover how the HSE protects workers through **guidance, improvement notices, prohibition notices, and prosecutions.**

What You Need to Know (Knowledge Input)

The HSE is a government body responsible for enforcing health and safety laws across all workplaces in the UK. It investigates accidents, provides advice, and ensures employers meet their legal duties.

Main Roles of the HSE

Inspect sites to check safety standards.

Advise employers and workers on how to stay safe.

Issue notices when rules are broken.

Prosecute companies that ignore safety laws.

Collect and publish data to show how the industry is performing.

Why Health & Safety Matters

Without the HSE, unsafe practices could go unchecked. Their work prevents serious injuries and deaths by making sure everyone follows the same safety standards. When inspectors visit a site, they look for hazards, check training records, and ensure equipment and PPE meet regulations. Every notice or prosecution helps raise awareness and improve future safety.

What the data shows.

Without the HSE, unsafe practices could go unchecked. Their work prevents serious injuries and deaths by making sure everyone follows the same safety standards. When inspectors visit a site, they look for hazards, check training records, and ensure equipment and PPE meet regulations. Every notice or prosecution helps raise awareness and improve future safety.

From your uploaded presentation:

- **Enforcement Notices:** 2,300 (2014/15) → 2,400 (2024/25)
- **Prosecutions:** 35 (2014/15) → 37 (2024/25)

These figures show that the HSE continues to take action when safety standards are not met — proving that enforcement remains essential to protect workers and maintain accountability.

Guided Notes.

Fill in the blanks using the keywords provided.

1. The HSE is responsible for _____ health and safety laws.
2. Inspectors can issue _____ or _____ notices when rules are broken.
3. The HSE helps prevent _____ by ensuring safe working practices.
4. Companies that ignore notices may face _____.
5. The HSE also provides _____ to help employers improve safety.

Keywords: enforcing, improvement, prohibition, accidents, prosecution, guidance

Activity 101.1b: The Safety Squad.

Task 1 — Compare the Numbers.

Scenario	HSE Action	Why?
Unsafe scaffolding with missing guardrails		
Faulty electrical equipment near wet flooring		
Inadequate training for power tool use		
Poor housekeeping and trip hazards		

Task 2 — Explain the Importance.

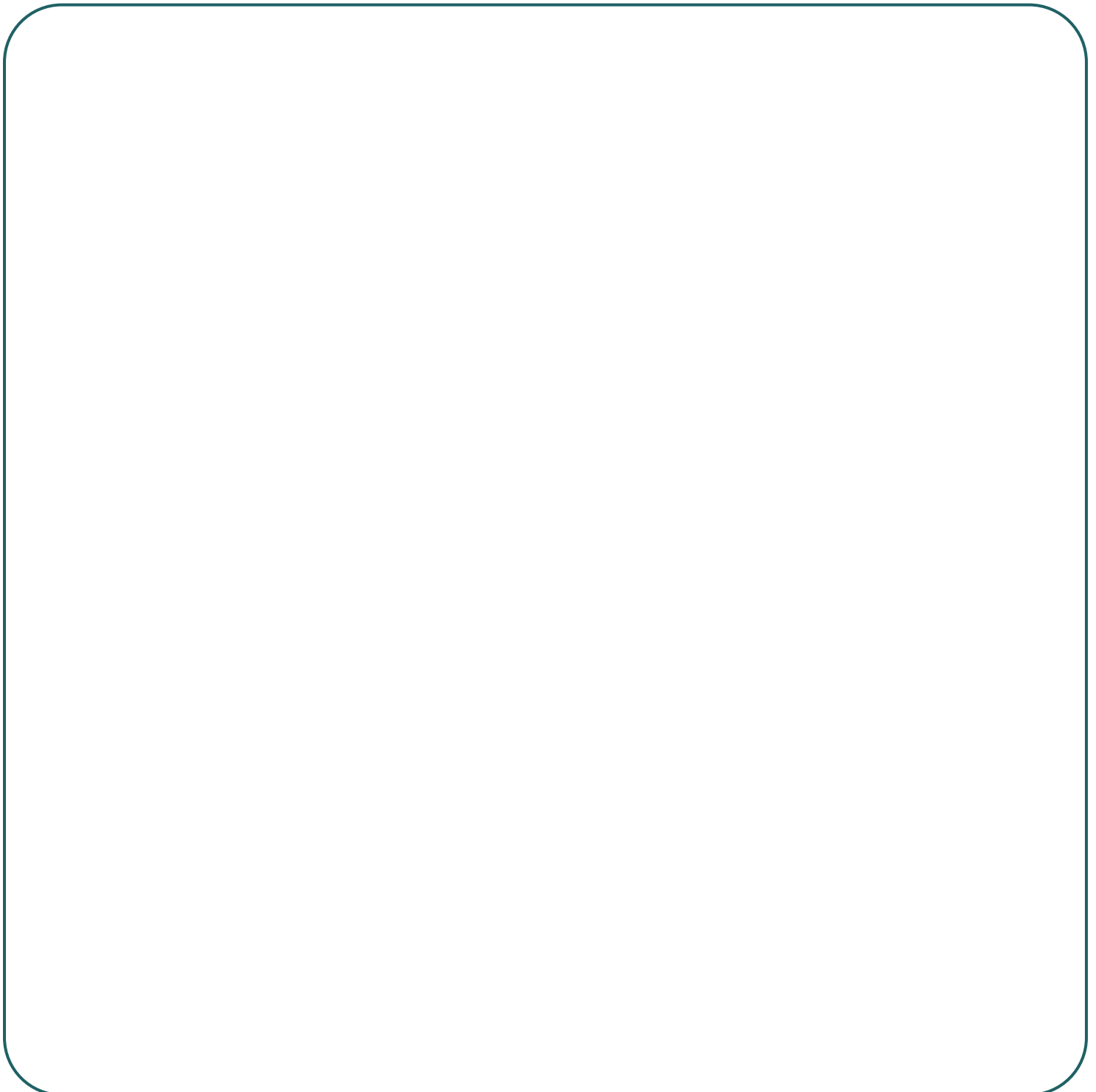
Write a short paragraph explaining how the HSE helps keep construction workers safe.

Use these sentence starters:

“The HSE makes sure that...”

“When inspectors visit a site...”

“If rules are broken...”



Quick Check (Self-Assessment)

Tick the statements you understand:

- ☐ I can describe what the HSE does.
- ☐ I can identify different types of HSE actions and notices.
- ☐ I understand why the HSE is important for construction safety.

Lecturer Feedback.

Task Completed: ☐

Date: _____

Lecturer Signature:

Before You Start

In this section, you will learn about the **key health and safety regulations** that protect workers in the construction industry. Each regulation focuses on a different type of risk — from hazardous substances to working at height — and understanding them helps you recognise what the law expects on a safe site.

What You Need to Know (Knowledge Input)

The **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HASAWA)** is the main law that keeps people safe at work. Under this Act, several important regulations apply specifically to construction. From your uploaded PDF, the regulations covered in this unit are:

HASAWA 1974

RIDDOR 2013

COSHH 2002

Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005

PUWER 1998

Work at Height Regulations 2005

PPE Regulations 2002

Each regulation has a clear purpose and sets out what employers and workers must do to stay safe.

Why Health & Safety Matters

Regulations exist because construction is one of the highest-risk industries.

They ensure that:

- hazards are controlled
- equipment is safe
- workers are trained
- dangerous substances are handled properly
- accidents and diseases are reported
- work at height is planned and supervised

Without these regulations, accidents, injuries, and long-term health problems would be far more common.

What the data shows.

Your uploaded presentation highlights how regulations link directly to real-world safety outcomes:

- **Falls from height:** 34,500 (2014/15) → 61,000 (2024/25)
- **New cases of ill health:** 3,700 → 3,900
- **Musculoskeletal disorders:** 53% → 54%
- **Prosecutions:** 35 → 37

These figures show that risks remain significant — and that regulations like **WAH**, **COSHH**, and **PUWER** are essential for preventing harm and holding employers accountable.

Guided Notes.

Fill in the blanks using the keywords provided.

1. HASAWA is the main law that protects _____ at work.
2. RIDDOR requires employers to _____ certain accidents and diseases.
3. COSHH controls how workers use _____ substances.
4. PUWER ensures that work _____ is safe to use.
5. The Work at Height Regulations help prevent _____.
6. PPE Regulations require employers to provide suitable _____.

Keywords: equipment, falls, hazardous, report, PPE, everyone

Activity 101.1c: Spin The Regs.

Task 1 — Complete the table.

Write the correct regulation next to each scenario.

1.A decorator is sanding old paint containing lead dust.

- **Regulation:** _____

2.A worker fractures a toe after dropping a block.

- **Regulation:** _____

3.A groundworker uses a pneumatic breaker with no ear protection.

- **Regulation:** _____

4.A painter stands on the top step of a ladder on uneven ground.

- **Regulation:** _____

5.A worker cuts metal with an angle grinder without goggles.

- **Regulation:** _____

6.A cement mixer is used even though the cable is damaged.

- **Regulation:** _____

Task 2 — Explain the Regulation

Choose **one** regulation from the list and explain:

- What it covers
- Why it is important
- An example of how it protects workers

Use this sentence starter: **“This regulation is important because...”**

This regulation is important because...

Quick Check (Self-Assessment)

Tick the statements you understand:

- ☐ I can name the main health and safety regulations.
- ☐ I can match regulations to real-world construction scenarios.
- ☐ I understand why regulations are essential for preventing accidents and ill health

Lecturer Feedback.

Task Completed: ☐

Date: _____

Lecturer Signature:

HSE Role.

101.1.2: state the role of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Before You Start

In this section, you will learn what **employers** and **employees** must do to keep a construction site safe. Everyone on site has responsibilities — not just managers. Understanding these duties helps prevent accidents, improves teamwork, and ensures legal compliance.

What You Need to Know (Knowledge Input)

Health and safety responsibilities are shared across the whole site. From your uploaded PDF, the responsibilities are divided into two groups:

Employer Responsibilities

- Employers must:
- Provide a **safe workplace**
- Provide **safety training**
- Complete and maintain **risk assessments**
- Provide and maintain **safe machinery and equipment**
- Provide a **safety policy**
- Provide **PPE** free of charge

Employee Responsibilities

Employees must:

- Not put themselves or others at risk
- Follow **site rules**
- Co-operate with employers on safety matters
- Use **PPE correctly**
- Use safety equipment provided
- Not misuse or interfere with anything provided for safety

These responsibilities ensure that everyone contributes to a safe working environment.

Why Health & Safety Matters

Construction sites only stay safe when **everyone** plays their part. If employers fail to provide training or equipment, workers are exposed to unnecessary risks. If employees ignore rules or misuse equipment, accidents become far more likely. Shared responsibility creates a culture where safety becomes part of everyday work.

What the data shows.

- **Non-fatal injuries** remain high (61,000 in 2024/25)
- **Falls from height** have increased significantly (34,500 → 61,000)
- **Enforcement notices** and **prosecutions** continue to rise

These figures highlight why both employers and employees must follow their responsibilities — poor behaviour, lack of training, or unsafe equipment can lead to serious consequences.

Guided Notes.

Fill in the blanks using the keywords provided.

1. Employers must provide a safe _____ for workers.
2. Employees must follow all _____ rules.
3. Employers must complete and maintain _____ assessments.
4. Employees must use _____ correctly.
5. Employers must provide safe _____ and equipment.
6. Employees must not _____ with anything provided for safety.

Keywords: PPE, interfere, workplace, site, risk, machinery

Activity 101.1d: Responsibility Rumble.

Task 1 — Who is responsible.

Responsibility	Who?
Provide PPE free of charge	
Follow site rules	
Maintain machinery	
No put others at risk	
Complete risk assessments	
Use PPE correctly	

Task 2 — Real-World Scenario

Choose one of the following situations and explain:

- Who is responsible
- What they should have done
- How the issue could be prevented

Choose one:

- A worker refuses to wear PPE
- A machine is used even though it hasn't been inspected
- A walkway is blocked with materials
- A new employee hasn't received training

Use this sentence starter: **“The responsibility in this situation belongs to...”**

The responsibility in this situation belongs to...”

Quick Check (Self-Assessment)

Tick the statements you understand:

- ☐ I can explain employer responsibilities
- ☐ I can explain employee responsibilities
- ☐ I can apply responsibilities to real-world scenarios

Feedback.

Task Completed: ☐

Date: _____

Lecturer Signature:
