An assistant director’s job is considered one of the most prestigious positions in production. The assistant director is basically the director’s right hand man, taking responsibility for a number of important theories or ideas. During pre-production, the first AD’s break down the script into a shot by shot storyboard, work with the director to determine the shoot order, and how long each scene with take to film. They then draw up the overall shooting schedule, also known as a timetable for the filming period. Then once the film is in production, the AD’s are in charge of making sure that every aspect of the shoot keeps to schedule.

The main responsibilities of a AD are assisting the director, coordinating all production activity, supervising the cast and crew, and being in charge of a department of other assistant directors and runners. Also, the first AD’s must be aware of budgetary constraints, cast availability and script coverage. During production the AD must be unsure that everyone is in place and ready for the directors cue for action. Having this massive amount of responsibilities can be a little over whelming especially when dealing with big budget films that consist a lot of preparation. Keeping everything on schedule by driving it forward can also be a challenge, so frequently, announcements are given to coordinate the cast and crew.

Being an AD also consist of having many different types of skills that would make you eligible and worthy for the position. You must be a team leader and motivator, while also being an approachable team player. Having exceptional organization and time management skills is a must. The ability to plan ahead and pay close attention to detail is vital in an AD’s role. Being an excellent communicator is also essential, as they must deal with problems or even crisis situations. Also, being able to prioritize tasks, and may be frequently interrupted, having the ability to multi task is crucial. AD’s usually work under highly pressured and stressful conditions; a positive approach to the work environment is a plus.

Personally, I wouldn’t want the responsibilities of being an Assistant Director because working under highly pressured and stressful conditions is not something I would be interested in doing. Having the ability to take upon all the tasks that are asked can be challenging and someone that has the ability to do so has a lot of courage and love for what they do.