

COM 1205 – Photography - Introduction

Assignment #1

Ask your teacher for the “Photography – Key Components and Functions” booklet or download the document from the website. Answer the questions below to begin learning the basic parts and functions of a camera. This is a lengthy assignment, but it will give you the basic foundational knowledge you need to take great photos.

Total Marks: /146

Part A – Camera Types

/21

- 1) There are 4 types of camera that are most often used. Name these 4 types of camera.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

- 2) For most people, the _____ is all that is needed to take pictures.

- 3) For advanced amateurs and intermediate level photographers, the _____ is the camera of choice.

- 4) Most working professional photographers are using _____ as their main tool while studio photographers might need the extra _____ they get when shooting _____ or _____ cameras.

- 5) List 4 benefits of a dSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

6) List 3 benefits of a Digital Point-and-Shoot.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

7) List 3 benefits of Medium and Large Format cameras.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

8) Why are Medium and Large Format cameras typically only used in studio or large commercial settings?

Part B – Parts of a Camera

/32

For each of the questions parts of the camera listed below, use the handout booklet to explain what each part does.

1) LCD display screen

2) Image Playback Button

3) Macro selection

4) Trash Can

5) Memory Card

6) Image playback magnification selector

7) The booklet identifies 9 settings that are indicated on the LCD Data Display Screen of a dSLR. List them below.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

i. _____

8) The viewfinder is the eyepiece of the camera. It is the part that you look through to see what the camera sees. The booklet identifies 8 pieces of information that most dSLRs display in the viewfinder. List them below.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

h. _____

9) When using an autofocus capable camera there are usually two indications that your subject is in focus. Identify these below.

a. _____

b. _____

10) The "Program" mode is an automatic camera setting on a dSLR allows users to get adequate results without manually configuring the settings. How does it do this?

11) There are also 2 semi-automatic modes on most dSLRs. These are Shutter Priority and Aperture Priority. For each mode, identify what setting the user chooses and what setting the camera automatically chooses.

a. Shutter Priority

User Selects - _____

Camera Chooses - _____

b. Aperture Priority

User Selects - _____

Camera Chooses - _____

12) Manual Settings are the final mode choice for most dSLRs. This setting is often used by professionals to get the best photos possible. What settings do the user choose in this mode?

Part C – Camera Settings and How They Affect Photos /44

There are four main settings that determine how a photo will turn out once you press the shutter release. These are exposure, shutter speed, ISO, and aperture. If all four of these settings are in balance, you have a better chance of capturing a great photo.

1) Define exposure.

2) There is an exposure indicator in the viewfinder of most dSLRs. Using that indicator, identify how you know if your exposure is correct.

3) There are 3 different kinds of light metering available on most cameras. Metering is the photography term used to measure how much light is in each part of the photo. Identify and briefly describe each of the three types of metering. (6 marks)

4) ISO stands for “_____.”

5) ISO refers to the film or digital sensor’s _____.

6) The lower the ISO, the _____ sensitive the surface is to light.

7) The higher the ISO, the _____ sensitive the surface is to light.

8) If higher ISO settings require less light, why wouldn't we use higher ISO all the time? Be sure to discuss film grain/noise and detail. (2 marks)

9) ISO _____ is the normal film choice. ISO _____ offers very good _____ levels and _____ light capturing power for general shooting situations.

10) The amount of light striking the film/sensor increases either in 2x (two times) or ½x (half times), depending on which new ISO you choose. Having an ISO of 100 and then deciding to shoot at 200 tells the camera that it now needs _____ for the same exposure.

11) Changing from 100 ISO to 400 ISO means that you now only need _____ to take exactly the same image.

12) Which ISO setting will produce an image with higher film grain/noise, 100 ISO or 1600 ISO?

13) Shutter speed affects two things, _____ and _____.

14) Shutter speeds can range anywhere from 30" to 1/8000. What does the " marking mean?

15) Look at the subject motion examples in the booklet. What do you notice about the image as the shutter speeds get shorter?

16) Longer shutter speeds _____ light to strike the film or sensor.

Shorter shutter speeds _____ the amount of light striking the film or sensor.

17) Moving a full stop from one adjacent shutter speed to the next allows either _____ or _____ the amount of light through, depending on which way you move. For example, moving from a speed of _____ of a second and then moving to _____ of a second will allow $\frac{1}{2}$ the amount of light through.

18) What is an aperture?

19) The aperture setting on your camera affects two things, _____ and _____.

20) The depth of field is _____.

21) The _____ is used to control the amount of depth of field recorded.

22) The aperture is also called the _____.

23) The smaller f-stops allow the lens to have a _____ opening or a _____ aperture, allowing _____ light to pass through to strike the film/sensor.

24) Higher f-stops set the lens to a _____ aperture and therefore allow _____ light through the lens.

25) Look at the two photos of the flowers after the aperture chart. One is taken at f4, the other at f16. What do you notice that is different? Why do you think that is? (2 marks)

Part D – Digital File Formats

/14

1) Most digital cameras will offer you the ability to save your images in two or three possible file formats. The most common format is _____ (_____).

2) JPEGs are considered a lossy file format. What does this mean?

3) What is the purpose of removing needless information from a lossy format file?

4) A higher degree of JPEG compression _____ the file size but it also _____ the quality of the image.

5) The quality of highly compressed JPEG images is fine for the web. The _____ quality of the same file would be very noticeable in a print enlargement though.

6) The degree of compression affects how many shots can be taken before you memory card is full. Explain the relationship between compression and quality. (2 marks)

7) The final option of a digital image file format is known as _____.

8) The advantage of this format is that it is a _____ file format that is much smaller in size than a TIFF.

9) Even though the file size is smaller, it contains information _____, and when.

10) This file format is the choice of _____.

Part E – Composition and Lighting

/26

Simply put, composing an image means arranging elements within it in a way that suits the core idea or goal of your work best. Composition is a way of guiding the viewer's eye towards the most important elements of your work, sometimes – in a very specific order. A good composition can help make a masterpiece even out of the duller objects and subjects in the plainest of environments. On the other hand, a bad composition can ruin a photograph completely, despite how interesting the subject may be.

- 1) How you _____ within the frame will help determine the impact of the final image.

- 2) The most common strategy is to apply the rule of thirds. Instead of placing the subject in the middle of the frame and pressing the shutter button, the subject will usually _____ if it is placed _____ within the image.

- 3) How do you determine where to place your subject in the frame to apply the rule of thirds to your photos?

- 4) Look at the three examples of photos taken using the rule of thirds. Do you think they well composed photos? Why or why not? (2 marks)

- 5) Balance is another part of photographic composition. There are two types of balance. List and give a brief explanation of each. (4 marks)

6) How do you apply the golden triangle rule? Where do you place the subject? (2 marks)

7) The orientation of your photo can also have a large impact on the way it looks. Look at the example photos of the building and street. Which is more visually appealing to you and why? (2 marks)

8) Now look at the example photos of the columns. Which is more visually appealing and why? (2 marks)

9) Camera position is also a large part of composition. What is a common mistake made by many photographers?

10) Look at the example photos of the Terry Fox statue. Identify the compositional mistake related to the background in each of the first 3 photos. (3 marks)

11) Since photography is the art of capturing light, lighting also has a major effect on the outcome of your photos. What is the best lighting condition for beginners to photograph color?

12) A photographer must be keenly aware of the quality of light and how it affects the visual representation of the subject in the final image. Before the shutter button is clicked, considering the light source is crucial in understanding and predicting what the final image will look like. List 5 of the 7 lighting considerations listed in the booklet. (5 marks)

Part G – Critiquing Images

/9

Taking pictures is only one part of what it means to be a photographer. Analyzing and critiquing both the work of others and your own photos is a great way to broaden your understanding of photography as a whole, as well as helping you grow as a photographer.

1) List the 7 points of consideration identified in the booklet.

2) Come up with 2 additional points of consideration when critiquing a photo.
