

AP/IB Photo Pre-Assessment Test Study Guide

All of you come to this class with varying experience in photography. As a result, everyone must be tested at the beginning of the class on the functions and tools of the camera. You are expected to know this information upon your entry into the class so you should study over the summer.

1. Camera Optic & Chemical History

- A. What is Camera Obscura?
- B. How does your eye work exactly like a camera?
- C. What did Schulz and Scheele discover?
- D. Who created the world's first photo and what year did this occur?
- E. What is Henry Fox Talbot known for?
- F. What is a Daguerreotype? What is dangerous about this type of photography?
- G. What is Eadweard Muybridge known for?
- H. Why is the Kodak Brownie camera significant in human and photographic history?

2. ISO

- A. What does ISO stand for?
- B. How is it related to photography?
- C. When do you use high ISO settings (generally) and when do you use low ISO settings (generally)?
- D. How do ISO settings affect the quality of an image? (hint: this has to do with "grain" in film photography and "noise" in digital photography)
- E. Why is ISO important? (ISO is often overlooked by many beginning photographers, this is why I am asking this)

3. Stop – what is a stop in relation to photography?

4. Exposure

- A. What is an exposure in photography?
- B. What does the light meter do in a camera?
- C. What is 18% gray? Why is this important in photography?
- D. What is meant by "equivalent exposure"?
- E. What is exposure compensation?
- F. When a subject is backlit, how do you control exposure to get a silhouette?
- G. In the same circumstances, how do you control your exposure to get the shadow detail to come out on the subject?
- H. What is "bracketing" in relation to photography? Why is it important to know how to do this?

5. Shutter Speed

- A. What is shutter speed?
- B. What does it control?
- C. What is freeze motion?
- D. What is pan motion?
- E. What is blur motion?
- F. What is a good shutter speed to freeze most forms of motion?
- G. What shutter speed is ideal for shooting pan and blur motion?

6. Aperture (or f-stop)

- A. What is the aperture on a camera?
- B. What does it control?
- C. F/4 is a larger f-stop opening than f/22. Why is this? (in other words, why would a smaller number mean a larger opening?) What do these numbers actually represent?
- D. What is depth of field?
- E. How does the aperture control depth of field?
- F. What is meant by a shallow depth of field?
- G. Which would give you a larger depth of field: f/4 or f/22?
- H. Why would you want a shallow depth of field?

7. White Balance

- A. What is white balance?
- B. Why is it important to know about this as a photographer?
- C. How do you adjust white balance on you camera?

8. File types

- A. What is a JPEG (or JPG)? What are its advantages and disadvantages?
- B. What is a TIFF? What are its advantages?
- C. What is a PSD?
- D. What is a RAW file? What are its advantages and disadvantages?

9. Shooting Settings

- A. What is Manual Mode (M)?
- B. What is Aperture Priority Mode or Aperture Value Mode (A or Av)? They are the same thing, manufacturers use different names.
- C. What is Shutter Priority Mode or Time Value Mode (S or Tv)?
- D. What is Program Mode (P)?
- E. What is Auto Mode? (A or a green rectangle)

Resources:

Many of the videos I have recorded and the slide decks I have will contain the answers to most of these questions. There are a few questions, you can search for answers online.

It is incumbent upon you to be familiar with this information. If you miss a lot of the questions on the test, you could jeopardize your ability to continue in the class as it would seem obvious you are not taking this very seriously. This is an advanced photo class and the camera is the primary tool used. If you don't know at least the basics, you are not in the right place.