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Principles of studio photography

Studio photography is where the photograph is taken in a studio. There are many benefits to this – the most obvious being that you have complete control of the environment, unlike on-site location photography. There are lots of key people who will be involved in studio photography including the models, make-up artist, hairdresser, costume designer, photographers, editors and printers. In this unit we are going to look at how to prepare for a shoot, how to set up a studio safely and how to use different lighting techniques to achieve the looks that we desire.

Assignment mark sheet

Unit 339 Principles of studio photography

Your assessor will mark you on each of the knowledge and practical tasks in this unit. This page is used to work out your overall grade for the unit. You must pass **all** parts of the tasks to be able to claim a grade. For the knowledge tasks a pass equals 2 points, a merit equals 4 points and a distinction equals 6 points. For the practical tasks a pass equals 1 point, a merit equals 2 points and a distinction equals 3 points.

What you must know	Grade	Points
Task 1a: theme 1 folio of images		
Task 1a: theme 2 folio of images		
Or tick if covered by an online test		

What you must do	Grade	Points
Task 1b: theme 1 supporting evidence		
Task 1b: theme 2 supporting evidence		

Total points for graded tasks	
Divided by	÷ 6
= Average grade for tasks	
Overall grade (see conversion chart)	

Conversion chart	
Grade	Points
Pass	1–1.5
Merit	1.6–2.5
Distinction	2.6–3

Candidate name:

Candidate signature: Date:

Assessor signature: Date:

Quality assurance co-ordinator signature (where applicable): Date:

External Verifier signature (where applicable): Date:

What does it mean?

Some useful words are explained below

Aperture

An adjustable opening inside the lens of your camera. This adjusts the amount of light that can travel through the lens.

Composition

'Putting together'. It's the way we put any work of art together.

DOF

Depth of field is the amount of distance between the nearest and farthest objects that appear in a photograph.

Exposure

The amount of light allowed to fill the photograph at the time of photographing.

Fill flash

Used to fill in shadowy areas.



Filter

An accessory used alongside the camera to change or enhance colour, contrast and effects.

ISO

A measure of the sensitivity of the image sensor. Raising the ISO makes the photo grainier, which lowers the quality. An ISO of 100 is 'normal'.

Light meter

A device inside your camera which informs your camera what amount of light is coming in. This takes into account shutter speed and aperture.

Noise

Image noise is the variations in brightness and colour.



Reflector

A device used to diffuse light.

Sharpness

The more defined the image is, the sharper it is.

Shutter speed

Controls the amount of time the film/sensor is exposed to light.

Soft box or umbrella

These are used to soften and direct light.

Three point lighting

Studio lighting involving the main light, backlight and the fill light.

Tripod

A stand/support. It has three legs.

What you must know

You must be able to:

- 1 Outline the main health and safety hazards and risks when preparing for and managing photography
- 2 Describe how the studio environment should be maintained
- 3 Outline the roles and relationships of the main personnel involved in the preparation and management of a studio shoot
- 4 Outline the steps in the preparation and management of studio photography
- 5 Describe how to select, handle and store studio equipment safely
- 6 Outline basic set construction principles
- 7 Outline the principles of lighting and lighting balance
- 8 Describe how to work effectively with others
- 9 Identify materials, equipment and processes
- 10 Describe how to capture images
- 11 Describe how to assess the captured image
- 12 Outline the role of external image processors
- 13 Explain how to document and store finished images securely
- 14 Outline legal and ethical considerations
- 15 Identify the documentation associated with studio photography



Follow in the footsteps of... *Kerry McKenna-McKenzie* “

Kerry knew as soon as she started her GCSEs that she wanted to work in the creative sector. So she enrolled on a degree in Graphic Design at Bath College of Higher-Education specialising in photography. After completing her degree Kerry worked as a freelance photographer but also found a full time position as a photography teacher, teaching GCSE and A Level photography. After a few years she moved on to Davies Laing and Dick College and eventually became the Head of Art. Moving on to City & Guilds and becoming the Portfolio Manager for the Photo Imaging qualifications has meant a new way of thinking and working in the photographic environment. She works with the industry, colleges and learners to make sure that City & Guilds qualifications meet their needs.

[Read on for Kerry's top photography tips.](#)

“

Tin foil scrunched up and then flattened out again can create fabulous textured light effects. Shine a single light onto the foil and direct it towards the face.

Revision tip

When a photograph is created, it is copyrighted to the photographer that took it. The photographer or agent owns the exclusive right to the copyright of each image and this exists for the life of the photographer. If anyone wants to use the photographs for any purpose, they must obtain permission from the photographer. This must be in writing to avoid possible violation of the federal law on copyright.



Ambient light is light that is already present. It could be sunlight or overhead room lights. Keep control of all your light sources.

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Flash can capture so many things, from a splash of water to someone jumping in the air. Experiment!

Photog



Enjoy colour! Add gels to the front of the lights to throw different colours onto the model or backgrounds.



Composition is key – look at everything in the frame of the image and consider why it's there and how it could look better.

graphy

For really dramatic high contrast images use high contrast light – often a single strong light shone directly at the model or reflected off a shiny surface.



What you must do

Practical observations

This page shows what you need to do during your practical task. You can look at it beforehand, but you're **not** allowed to have it with you while carrying out your practical task. You must achieve **all** the criteria; you can achieve 1 mark, 2 marks or 3 marks for the criteria indicated with *****.

Conversion chart

Grade	Marks
Pass	5–7
Merit	8–12
Distinction	13–15

Assessment criteria

Task 1a Theme 1:

Images are relevant to the theme *

Use of techniques *

Use of lighting *

Use of exposure *

Use of equipment and media *

Marks

1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

Feedback

Total

Grade

Candidate signature
and date

Assessor signature
and date

Assessment criteria

Task 1a Theme 2:

Images are relevant to the theme *

Use of techniques *

Use of lighting *

Use of exposure *

Use of equipment and media *

Marks

1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

Feedback

Large empty light blue area for providing feedback.

Total

Grade

Candidate signature
and date

Assessor signature
and date

Four empty light blue rows for recording marks and signatures.

What you must do

Practical observations descriptors table

This table shows what you need to do to achieve 1, 2 or 3 marks for the criteria indicated with * on the previous page.

Task 1a (Theme 1 and Theme 2)

Descriptors	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks
Images are relevant to the theme	Images are related to the theme	All images clearly relate to the theme	All images relate consistently and coherently to the theme
Use of techniques	There is some evidence of use of techniques Examples: composition, use of depth of field, sharpness	There is clear evidence of the use of techniques in creating meaningful images	There is clear and consistent evidence of a range of techniques contributing to the effectiveness of the images
Use of lighting	There is some evidence of control of lighting	There is clear evidence of control of lighting contributing to success of images	There is clear and consistent evidence of control of lighting contributing to success of images
Use of exposure	Exposure has enabled sufficient detail to be recorded	Exposure has been controlled to ensure necessary detail has been recorded	There is clear and consistent evidence of exposure control contributing to the success of the images
Use of equipment and media	Some evidence of use of equipment and media contributing to the intended visual message	Clear evidence of use of equipment and media contributing to the intended visual message	There is clear and consistent evidence of equipment and media ensuring the intended visual message is achieved

Task 1b Supporting evidence/written account for theme 1

Pass	Merit	Distinction
The candidate has provided:	The candidate has achieved everything at pass grade and provided:	The candidate has achieved everything at pass and merit grade and provided:
a statement of intent	evidence of relevant research using a variety and range of sources	evidence of a high level of research that is clearly referenced
the minimum relevant information required by the task	an account of assignment planning, which includes information on choice of equipment	an accurate account of assignment planning which includes detailed information on choice of equipment
limited evidence of research and influences	a log of image capture, outlining safe equipment operation in the accomplishment of the set task	a detailed log of image capture outlining equipment operation and health and safety considerations
a limited account of assignment planning	a structured explanation which supports the choice of final images	a structured and reasoned explanation which fully supports the choice of final images
a log of image capture		
a limited explanation of why final images were selected (ie without structured reasons)		

Note: All points at each grade **must** be evidenced in order to achieve the grade, ie all pass criteria met and only one from merit, would result in a pass grade only. For distinctions **all** criteria must be met for **each** grade.

Assessor signature and date:

What you must do

Practical observations descriptors table (continued)

This table shows what you need to do to achieve 1, 2 or 3 marks for the criteria indicated with * on page 9.

Task 1b Supporting evidence/written account for theme 2. This evidence can be captured during the practical assessment and submitted as part of the portfolio.

Pass	Merit	Distinction
The candidate has provided:	The candidate has achieved everything at pass grade and provided:	The candidate has achieved everything at pass and merit grade and provided:
a statement of intent	evidence of relevant research using a variety and range of sources	evidence of a high level of research that is clearly referenced
the minimum relevant information required by the task	an account of assignment planning, which includes information on choice of equipment	an accurate account of assignment planning which includes detailed information on choice of equipment
limited evidence of research and influences	a log of image capture, outlining safe equipment operation in the accomplishment of the set task	a detailed log of image capture outlining equipment operation and health and safety considerations
a limited account of assignment planning	a structured explanation which supports the choice of final images	a structured and reasoned explanation which fully supports the choice of final images
a log of image capture		
a limited explanation of why final images were selected (ie without structured reasons)		

Note: All points at each grade **must** be evidenced in order to achieve the grade, ie all pass criteria met and only one from merit, would result in a pass grade only. For distinctions **all** criteria must be met for **each** grade.

Assessor signature and date:

Comment form

Unit 339 Principles of studio photography

This form can be used to record comments by you, your client, or your assessor.



Image courtesy of iStockphoto.com/DomenicoGelermo Image courtesy of Croydon College