

Chapter 9 Quiz

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1. Describe the basic duties of a DP. Explain the difference between a director of photography and a cinematographer.

The basic duty of a DP is to ensure that the visual image is captured at the highest possible quality. The DP does not hold the camera, whereas the cinematographer does.

2. What jobs comprise the director of photography's crew? What are the duties of each member of his team?

The DP has a camera operator, 1st assistant camera operator, the duties of the camera operator is to pull the camera into focus. Then there is a 2nd camera assistant. The duties of the 2nd camera assistant is to load the film.

3. Why is depth perception important when lighting an actor?

Depth perception is important when lighting an actor because it helps us distinguish the distance between foreground and background. Since we see with two eyes, in our body it enables us to see different distances. In the film industry, they use light to create depth perception.

4. What are the three main lights used in cinematography? How are they used together to create "the visual image"?

The three main lights used in cinematography are key, fill, and backlights. The key light is the light that is shined directly at the actor's face. This washes out the shadows of the face so they add a fill light to cause the natural shadows. Then a backlight is added to add some depth, it separates the subject from the background.

5. What is the difference between tungsten incandescents and HMIs? What is the purpose of each?

Tungsten incandescents give you more of a yellow light and HMIs give you a blue light. Both of these lights are used to establish moods and themes.

6. What are some of the other tools a director of photography will use to create lighting effects?

DPs also use other tools to create lighting effects. Gels are colored sheets of cellophane. Scrims are anything you put in front of the light to diffuse it, they are usually made of fabric. You can also use sheets of wood, plastic, or fabric that will pattern the light to look like something else, that is called cucolorises. You can also do a bounce. To do this you need large pieces of reflective foam, a shiny piece of plastic, or even mirrors.

7. What are the different parts of a camera?

The camera body is the place where a lens is mounted. The lens is a collection of glass elements of different shapes mounted in a barrel made of metal or plastic. They are all different sizes. The iris or diaphragm regulates the intensity of light that travels to the film. The shutter controls the length of time that light is exposed to the film. Filters are the piece that is placed over the lens. They can come in many different colors and come in different levels of darkness. The focal plane is the area where either a piece of film or a digital sensor is located, it's usually at the back of the camera.

8. Why is "vetting" your DP so important? When vetting him, what characteristics are you looking for? What do you want to avoid?

Vetting your DP is very important because you want to make sure that you are compatible working and vision wise. You want to be able to get along well with them so that when it comes down to working together you will be on the same page. You want to avoid anyone stubborn and not willing to look at the film as a work of art.

9. What is the most important quality of a camera?

The lens is the most important quality of a camera because it is the part that captures the film.

10. What is a lens and what is its primary purpose?

A lens is a collection of glass elements of different shapes mounted in a barrel made of metal or plastic. The purpose of the lens is to form a sharp image of an object onto the focal plane.

11. What is focal length and what does it affect?

Focal length is the magnification power of a lens, usually expressed in millimeters. The greater the focal length the larger the image will appear. The focal length also controls the field of view the camera sees.

12. What is controlled by the iris?

The iris controls the intensity of the light that travels to the film.

13. What does shutter control?

The length of time the light is exposed to the film is controlled by the shutter.

14. In your own words, why is well executed sound important?

Well executed sound is important because if it is improperly recorded, it can ruin the experience for an audience. It can become a nightmare because it can cost a large amount of money to try and fix in post-production.

15. Who generally comprises a sound crew?

The audio crew consists of a mixer, a boom operator, and one or two assistants.

16. Why does the mixer need to make sure levels are kept within a proper range?

The mixer needs to make sure the levels are kept within a proper range because if sounds are at too high of a level it will be distorted and difficult to fix in post-production.

17. What are the tasks of a sound assistant?

Sound assistants have a bunch of tasks, they start with attaching wireless mics to the actors. They also take the mics off the actor when they leave the set. They are in charge of wrapping cables and changing batteries in the wireless mics and other devices.

18. What is the time code used for?

The time code is used to be able to sync the audio with the video once it's time to put the film together. It is also helpful to show the director what previous takes look and sound like.