

Commercial Photography II CTE Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is the role of a color grading ladder in post-production?**
 - A. A reference grade used to match shots; apply across all frames to maintain a uniform look with controlled adjustments.**
 - B. A tool for automatically adjusting exposure without input.**
 - C. A device used to measure color in real time.**
 - D. A file format used for color management.**

- 2. Which editing tool is used to trim or reframe an image by removing outer areas?**
 - A. Cropping**
 - B. Retouch Tools**
 - C. Filters**
 - D. Resizing**

- 3. Which term describes adjusting colors so the image looks natural under a given light source?**
 - A. Megapixel**
 - B. Harmony**
 - C. Framing**
 - D. White Balance**

- 4. In the History Palette, what does stepping through edits allow you to do?**
 - A. Step forward only**
 - B. Step backward only**
 - C. Step forward and backward through edits**
 - D. Save the history state to disk**

- 5. Which term relates to high quality prints at 300 PPI?**
 - A. Print Size**
 - B. Cropping Options**
 - C. Down Sampling**
 - D. Display Size**

- 6. What does 100% opacity indicate about a layer?**
- A. The contents of the layer are fully opaque.**
 - B. The layer contents are fully transparent.**
 - C. The layer is currently hidden.**
 - D. The layer is locked.**
- 7. What lens is best for wildlife and sport photography?**
- A. Wide Angle**
 - B. Macro**
 - C. Standard**
 - D. Telephoto**
- 8. What is the purpose of color temperature metering and white balance in studio photography?**
- A. To ensure accurate color rendering by matching the light source color temperature with the camera's white balance, preventing color casts.**
 - B. To increase saturation in post-processing.**
 - C. To adjust focus distance.**
 - D. To measure light intensity for exposure.**
- 9. What is the purpose of using diffusion or light tents on a lighting setup?**
- A. To project patterns onto the subject.**
 - B. To block all light from a source.**
 - C. To soften and spread light, reducing harsh shadows and controlling highlights.**
 - D. To change color temperature of lights.**
- 10. Which term describes how the subject's position relates to the viewer's frame and scene?**
- A. Harmony**
 - B. Perspective**
 - C. Balance**
 - D. Framing**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. A
9. C
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What is the role of a color grading ladder in post-production?

- A. A reference grade used to match shots; apply across all frames to maintain a uniform look with controlled adjustments.**
- B. A tool for automatically adjusting exposure without input.
- C. A device used to measure color in real time.
- D. A file format used for color management.

A color grading ladder acts as a reference grade that establishes and preserves the look for the whole project. It provides a baseline you apply across shots to keep brightness, color balance, and mood consistent. Start with a representative frame, apply the desired grade, and save that look as a ladder or sequence of adjustments. Then reproduce that exact grade on other frames or scenes, making only small, controlled tweaks when necessary. This approach ensures uniformity across the timeline even when lighting or exposure varies between shots. It's not about automatic exposure changes, a measuring device, or a file format, but about coordinating the color treatment so the final video feels cohesive.

2. Which editing tool is used to trim or reframe an image by removing outer areas?

- A. Cropping**
- B. Retouch Tools
- C. Filters
- D. Resizing

Cropping is the editing action that trims or reframes an image by removing outer areas. It focuses the composition, eliminates distractions at the edges, and can change the aspect ratio to fit a specific display or print size. This is different from resizing, which only changes the overall pixel dimensions without cutting away any part of the image; retouch tools modify details within the existing frame; and filters apply effects rather than alter the photo's composition. If you want a tighter portrait or a cleaner background, cropping is the tool you use to remove what's outside the desired frame.

3. Which term describes adjusting colors so the image looks natural under a given light source?

- A. Megapixel
- B. Harmony
- C. Framing
- D. White Balance**

White balance is the adjustment of color temperature to keep colors looking natural under the light you're shooting in. Different light sources cast different color tints: tungsten bulbs can warm a scene with orange, while shade or cloudy daylight can cool it down. By balancing the white and neutral tones, whites stay white and other colors appear accurate, which helps skin tones and product colors look true to life. In practice, you choose a white balance setting that matches the lighting (or set a manual Kelvin value) so the image isn't marred by unwanted color casts. The other terms don't fit this idea: megapixel relates to resolution, framing to how you compose the shot, and harmony to color relationships rather than correcting color casts.

4. In the History Palette, what does stepping through edits allow you to do?

- A. Step forward only**
- B. Step backward only**
- C. Step forward and backward through edits**
- D. Save the history state to disk**

Stepping through edits in the History Palette lets you move through the sequence of changes in both directions. You can go back to earlier states to undo actions and compare how the image looked before those edits, then step forward again to reapply later edits or review how different steps affect the result. This bidirectional navigation enables true non-destructive editing, since you can experiment freely and revert to any previous point without losing the original data. Saving the history state to disk isn't what stepping through edits does, and limiting movement to only one direction would prevent revisiting or reapplying edits as you explore.

5. Which term relates to high quality prints at 300 PPI?

- A. Print Size**
- B. Cropping Options**
- C. Down Sampling**
- D. Display Size**

Understanding how image resolution translates to physical size is key. A 300 PPI target is a common standard for sharp, high-quality prints because it keeps detail crisp and edges clean. The term that describes the real-world dimensions you can print at while maintaining that level of detail is print size. It links the image's pixel dimensions to the final print measurements. For example, if your image is 3600 by 2400 pixels, printing at 300 PPI gives a 12 by 8 inch print. If you want a larger print at the same 300 PPI, you'd need more pixels; otherwise the PPI would drop and the image would lose sharpness. The other options affect cropping, on-screen display, or overall pixel data, but they don't define the print's achievable size at a given PPI.

6. What does 100% opacity indicate about a layer?

- A. The contents of the layer are fully opaque.**
- B. The layer contents are fully transparent.**
- C. The layer is currently hidden.**
- D. The layer is locked.**

Opacity controls how much of a layer's content is seen in relation to layers beneath it. At 100% opacity, the layer is completely opaque, so its pixels block anything underneath and you see only the content on that layer. Lowering opacity makes the layer more transparent, letting underlying layers show through. The ideas of being hidden or locked are separate controls and don't change the fact that, at 100% opacity, the layer is fully opaque.

7. What lens is best for wildlife and sport photography?

- A. Wide Angle
- B. Macro
- C. Standard
- D. Telephoto**

In wildlife and sports photography, you need reach to keep a safe, respectful distance while still filling the frame with your subject. A telephoto lens provides long focal lengths that magnify distant subjects, letting you capture details like a determined expression, feathers, or muscle tension without getting in close. It also compresses the scene, which makes the background appear closer and helps the subject pop, producing cleaner, more dramatic compositions. Additionally, the magnification plus appropriate settings lets you use faster shutter speeds to freeze motion, which is essential for both fast action and erratic animal movement. Stabilization and good technique further enhance sharpness when shooting from a distance. Other lens types can be useful in different contexts—wide-angle emphasizes the environment, macro focuses on close-up details, and standard is versatile but generally lacks the reach needed for distant wildlife or rapid action—so the telephoto is the best fit for this scenario.

8. What is the purpose of color temperature metering and white balance in studio photography?

- A. To ensure accurate color rendering by matching the light source color temperature with the camera's white balance, preventing color casts.**
- B. To increase saturation in post-processing.
- C. To adjust focus distance.
- D. To measure light intensity for exposure.

Color temperature metering and white balance are about keeping colors true under the lighting you're using. Light has a temperature, measured in Kelvin, and different sources (like tungsten or daylight-balanced strobes) emit light with different tints. If you don't compensate for that tint, whites can look creamy or gray, skin tones can shift, and overall colors won't be accurate. Metering or measuring the color temperature helps you set the camera's white balance to match the light, so neutral whites render as white and other colors render correctly. In practice, you balance the camera to your light source—often by using a white or gray card to create a custom white balance—so the camera applies the right color gains to neutralize the warmth or coolness of the light. This yields faithful color reproduction and natural skin tones, which is essential in studio work. Color balance doesn't directly change exposure or saturation, and it isn't about adjusting focus. It's all about ensuring the colors you see in the scene are captured without unintended color shifts.

9. What is the purpose of using diffusion or light tents on a lighting setup?

- A. To project patterns onto the subject.**
- B. To block all light from a source.**
- C. To soften and spread light, reducing harsh shadows and controlling highlights.**
- D. To change color temperature of lights.**

Diffusion and light tents are used to soften and spread light by making the source appear larger relative to the subject. When light passes through diffusion material or bounces around inside a light tent, it is scattered in many directions. That scattering reduces contrast, softens shadow edges, and prevents harsh hotspots, producing more even illumination. This softer, wrapping light is especially helpful for portraits, where it smooths skin tones, and for product photography, where it minimizes glare on shiny surfaces and preserves detail. You can dial in the look by adjusting the diffusion material, the distance from the subject, and the tent size—the goal is to control how soft or subtle the light becomes.

10. Which term describes how the subject's position relates to the viewer's frame and scene?

- A. Harmony**
- B. Perspective**
- C. Balance**
- D. Framing**

Perspective focuses on the viewpoint from which the scene is seen and how the subject sits in relation to the frame and background. It's about camera position, angle, and distance—all of which shape how large the subject appears, how depth is read, and how the scene is perceived. When you change the vantage point, you change the relative position of the subject within the viewer's frame and the sense of depth in the image. For example, a low angle can make the subject look taller or more powerful, while a tight close-up changes what we notice about the subject in relation to the surroundings. Harmony, balance, and framing describe other aspects of composition. Harmony is about color and tone relationships to create a cohesive feel. Balance deals with the visual weight distribution across the image. Framing is about how you crop the scene and what's included inside the edges of the frame. The specific idea of how the subject's position relates to the viewer's frame and scene aligns with perspective.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://commercialphotography2cte.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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