

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY II CTE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://commercialphotography2cte.examzify.com>



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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. Who typically owns the copyright to a commercial photograph, and how are licensing terms defined?**
 - A. The client always owns the copyright; licensing is not needed.
 - B. The model owns the copyright; licensing is optional.
 - C. The agency owns the copyright; terms are implied by practice.
 - D. The photographer typically owns the copyright unless transferred; licensing grants the client specific usage rights; contracts define terms.

- 2. What is an appropriate first step when a client request would violate usage rights or licensing terms?**
 - A. Explain the constraints, offer alternatives within terms, propose additional licensing if feasible, and document changes or escalate to legal counsel if needed.
 - B. Accept the request and hope it falls within terms.
 - C. Ignore licensing issues and proceed with the request.
 - D. Terminate the project immediately.

- 3. Which statement best matches Split Lighting?**
 - A. It places the key light behind the subject.
 - B. It creates a soft, even illumination across the face.
 - C. It uses a broad light to fill in shadows.
 - D. Fully highlights on one side of the face.

- 4. Which term describes reducing image file size by discarding data?**
 - A. Compression
 - B. Resolution
 - C. Color Space
 - D. Metadata

- 5. What does exclusivity mean in licensing terms?**
 - A. It indicates whether use rights are exclusive to one client or can be shared/non-exclusive.
 - B. It refers to the duration of the license.
 - C. It refers to the location of the shoot.
 - D. It indicates the number of models involved.

- 6. Which term describes measuring light at a single spot within the frame?**
- A. Area Focus
 - B. Matrix Metering
 - C. Spot Focusing
 - D. Continuous Shooting
- 7. Which term describes the grainy texture that appears in photos, especially at higher ISO?**
- A. Noise
 - B. White Balance
 - C. Exposure
 - D. Sharpening
- 8. What is the difference between a model release and a property release?**
- A. A model release applies to brands; a property release applies to buildings only for construction photos.
 - B. A model release covers the person's likeness; a property release covers consent to use protected or location-based imagery; both are required to license images properly.
 - C. A model release is optional; a property release is mandatory for all shoots.
 - D. A model release covers property rights; a property release covers the model's likeness.
- 9. What keyboard shortcut activates the Transform Tool on Mac?**
- A. Command T
 - B. Command + T
 - C. Ctrl + T
 - D. Option + T
- 10. What is the combined effect of flags and backdrops in lighting control?**
- A. Flags shape light and block spill; backdrops prevent unwanted illumination and help control shadows.
 - B. They determine the camera's focal length.
 - C. They change the color temperature of the lights.
 - D. They provide power to lighting units.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who typically owns the copyright to a commercial photograph, and how are licensing terms defined?

- A. The client always owns the copyright; licensing is not needed.
- B. The model owns the copyright; licensing is optional.
- C. The agency owns the copyright; terms are implied by practice.

D. The photographer typically owns the copyright unless transferred; licensing grants the client specific usage rights; contracts define terms.

Ownership of a commercial photograph usually stays with the photographer who created it, unless a contract explicitly transfers those rights. Copyright is automatic once the image is fixed, so the photographer begins with ownership by default. Licensing, on the other hand, is a separate grant that lets a client use the image in defined ways. The contract is where those terms are spelled out—exactly what the client may do with the image, for how long, in which places or media, whether the use is exclusive or nonexclusive, and whether sublicensing is allowed. If the client wants more than a license—true ownership—the photographer must transfer or assign the rights in writing. Models' rights to their likeness are separate from the photo's copyright, so ownership of the image isn't automatically tied to the model. And licensing isn't optional in practical terms: it's the mechanism that authorizes use. Claims that the client automatically owns the copyright, that licensing isn't needed, or that the agency or model owns the copyright don't align with how commercial photography rights are typically handled.

2. What is an appropriate first step when a client request would violate usage rights or licensing terms?

- A. Explain the constraints, offer alternatives within terms, propose additional licensing if feasible, and document changes or escalate to legal counsel if needed.**
- B. Accept the request and hope it falls within terms.
- C. Ignore licensing issues and proceed with the request.
- D. Terminate the project immediately.

When a client's request would violate usage rights, the first step is to clearly explain the licensing constraints to the client so they understand what is permitted and what isn't. Then propose alternatives that stay within the terms—adjusting the scope of use, distribution, formats, or time frame to fit the license. If there's a feasible path to cover the request through additional licensing or a separate agreement, explore that option with the client and the rights holder. It's also important to document any changes to approvals or usage rights and, if needed, escalate to legal counsel to ensure the correct handling and risk mitigation. This approach protects you from unauthorized use while keeping the collaboration constructive and within contractual obligations. Accepting the request, ignoring licensing issues, or terminating immediately without exploring compliant options don't address the actual constraints and can create risk or disruption.

3. Which statement best matches Split Lighting?

- A. It places the key light behind the subject.
- B. It creates a soft, even illumination across the face.
- C. It uses a broad light to fill in shadows.
- D. Fully highlights on one side of the face.**

Split lighting deliberately places the light to the subject's side so that one half of the face is illuminated while the other half falls into shadow, producing a sharp division down the center of the face. The best description among the options is that one side is fully highlighted. This setup is typically achieved with a single hard light source positioned at about a 90 degree angle from the camera and roughly at face height, creating a dramatic, sculpted look with high contrast. The other described scenarios either place light behind the subject (backlight), spread light to soften and even out the face (flat or broad lighting), or fail to create the strong division characteristic of split lighting.

4. Which term describes reducing image file size by discarding data?

- A. Compression**
- B. Resolution
- C. Color Space
- D. Metadata

Compression is the process of reducing image file size by discarding data. By encoding the image information more efficiently or removing data that's less noticeable to human vision, the file becomes smaller. There are two main forms: lossy compression, which drops data to achieve larger size reductions and can affect image quality, and lossless compression, which reduces size without losing any information. This concept differs from simply changing the image's resolution (which changes pixel dimensions), color space (which defines the range of colors used), or metadata (extra information attached to the file). Because it directly describes shrinking the file by discarding data, compression is the best term for this description.

5. What does exclusivity mean in licensing terms?

- A. It indicates whether use rights are exclusive to one client or can be shared/non-exclusive.**
- B. It refers to the duration of the license.
- C. It refers to the location of the shoot.
- D. It indicates the number of models involved.

Exclusivity in licensing terms is about who can use the work under the granted rights. When a license is exclusive, the client has sole rights to use the work in the defined scope (such as media, territory, and duration), and the licensor cannot grant the same rights to anyone else during that period. When it's non-exclusive, the licensor can grant the same rights to others as well. This distinction affects control, potential reach, and often price. The other aspects—how long the license lasts, where the shoot takes place, or how many models are involved—are separate details and don't define whether rights are shared or reserved.

6. Which term describes measuring light at a single spot within the frame?

- A. Area Focus
- B. Matrix Metering
- C. Spot Focusing**
- D. Continuous Shooting

Spot metering reads the light from a small area of the frame and uses that brightness to set exposure. This gives precise control when your subject is brighter or darker than the overall scene, such as a person lit against a bright window. It's different from matrix (evaluative) metering, which averages light across the whole frame to decide exposure, and can be thrown off by backgrounds. Spot metering is about how the camera measures light; focusing on a single spot is about where you want the lens to be sharp, which is a different camera function. The term in the options that refers to focusing a point isn't describing exposure measurement, even though it uses the word spot. The accurate concept for measuring light at a single spot is spot metering.

7. Which term describes the grainy texture that appears in photos, especially at higher ISO?

- A. Noise**
- B. White Balance
- C. Exposure
- D. Sharpening

Grainy texture that shows up more at higher ISO is noise. When you raise ISO, the camera amplifies the sensor's signal to look brighter in low light. That amplification also boosts random electronic fluctuations in the sensor and circuitry, which appear as speckles or colored blotches across the image. The effect is most noticeable in shadowed areas or with longer exposures and tends to increase as the sensor's sensitivity rises. To keep noise down, shoot at the lowest practical ISO, ensure proper exposure so you're not pushing shadows too hard, and consider noise-reduction options in post or shooting in RAW to preserve more detail. The other terms describe different ideas: white balance adjusts color temperature, exposure controls overall brightness, and sharpening enhances edge contrast and can exaggerate noise if overdone, but they are not the grain itself.

8. What is the difference between a model release and a property release?

- A. A model release applies to brands; a property release applies to buildings only for construction photos.
- B. A model release covers the person's likeness; a property release covers consent to use protected or location-based imagery; both are required to license images properly.**
- C. A model release is optional; a property release is mandatory for all shoots.
- D. A model release covers property rights; a property release covers the model's likeness.

The main distinction is about what rights each release protects. A model release is about the person depicted: it gives permission to use that person's likeness in images, especially for commercial purposes, covering how the image can be published, reproduced, and distributed. A property release is about the location or property itself: it secures consent from the owner or rights holder to use imagery of that space or building, addressing rights tied to the use of the location in the final product. In practice, you typically need both when a shoot includes a recognizable person and a recognizable location you plan to license commercially. The idea that a model release applies to brands or that a property release is only for construction photos isn't accurate, and releases aren't automatically required for every shoot or that they cover the opposite rights. The essential concept is clear: likeness rights come from the model release; location and property rights come from the property release.

9. What keyboard shortcut activates the Transform Tool on Mac?

- A. Command T
- B. Command + T**
- C. Ctrl + T
- D. Option + T

Using the Command key with T is the standard Mac shortcut to activate the Free Transform tool. On macOS, most shortcuts use the Command modifier, and pressing Command together with T opens the transform handles so you can scale, rotate, or distort the selected object. The plus sign in the shortcut notation is just a way to show you're pressing both keys at once; it doesn't change the action. The Windows equivalent would be Ctrl+T, while other modifiers like Option+T perform different functions in most programs.

10. What is the combined effect of flags and backdrops in lighting control?

- A. Flags shape light and block spill; backdrops prevent unwanted illumination and help control shadows.**
- B. They determine the camera's focal length.
- C. They change the color temperature of the lights.
- D. They provide power to lighting units.

Flags and backdrops control lighting by shaping where light goes and what it affects. Flags are opaque panels that block spill and sculpt the beam, creating defined edges and preventing light from landing on areas you don't want lit. Backdrops sit behind the subject to catch or absorb light, keeping illumination from spilling onto the background and helping to define shadows and separation. Together, they give you precise control over the subject's lighting while keeping the background clean and predictable. They don't change focal length, color temperature, or power of the lights.

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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