

# Digital Photography 1A Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## **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.**

## **7. Use Other Tools**

**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!**

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## Questions

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- 1. What are the two most common types of studio lighting used by photographers?**
  - A. Incandescent and LED lights**
  - B. Continuous lighting and studio strobes**
  - C. Flash and ambient light**
  - D. Natural light and reflectors**
  
- 2. How does using a lower f-stop number affect a photograph?**
  - A. It increases the depth of field**
  - B. It reduces the amount of light**
  - C. It creates a larger aperture**
  - D. It increases shutter speed**
  
- 3. How does lens choice affect the quality of an image?**
  - A. It only affects color saturation**
  - B. It determines the camera's battery life**
  - C. It influences sharpness, distortion, and bokeh**
  - D. It has no significant impact on image quality**
  
- 4. In portrait photography, what background is generally preferred?**
  - A. A busy, colorful background**
  - B. A plain background for focus**
  - C. A backdrop with many props**
  - D. A reflective surface**
  
- 5. How can depth be created in a photograph?**
  - A. By using a single layer**
  - B. Through monochromatic color schemes**
  - C. By using layers, leading lines, and varying focus**
  - D. By ignoring background elements completely**
  
- 6. How can you achieve a long exposure effect?**
  - A. By increasing the aperture size**
  - B. By using a fast shutter speed**
  - C. By using a slow shutter speed**
  - D. By adjusting the ISO sensitivity**

- 7. What is the significance of the "golden hour" in photography?**
- A. It occurs at high noon when lighting is harsh**
  - B. It is the time of day with the softest and warmest lighting**
  - C. It happens during overcast days**
  - D. It is when natural light is weakest**
- 8. What kind of information is recorded on Exchangeable Image Format for JPEG and RAW files?**
- A. Image filters used**
  - B. Camera model and serial number**
  - C. Photo editing history**
  - D. File compression settings**
- 9. What might happen if a built-in flash is used improperly?**
- A. It can enhance color accuracy**
  - B. It can create harsh shadows**
  - C. It can increase image resolution**
  - D. It can improve focus on the subject**
- 10. What does the term "bokeh" refer to?**
- A. A photographic technique for enhancing detail**
  - B. The aesthetic quality of blur in out-of-focus areas**
  - C. The process of adjusting brightness levels**
  - D. A method for creating sharp images**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What are the two most common types of studio lighting used by photographers?**

- A. Incandescent and LED lights**
- B. Continuous lighting and studio strobes**
- C. Flash and ambient light**
- D. Natural light and reflectors**

The choice of continuous lighting and studio strobes as the two most common types of studio lighting is based on the distinct purposes and functionalities that each type offers to photographers. Continuous lighting provides a constant light source that allows photographers to see how the light interacts with the subject in real-time. This is especially beneficial for beginners or for those working in situations where managing shadows and highlights is essential. It makes it easier to achieve the desired exposure and composition since photographers can assess the lighting before taking a shot. On the other hand, studio strobes are powerful flash units that output short bursts of light. These are extremely useful for freezing motion, providing high-intensity light, and enabling greater control over light positioning and modifiers. Strobes are particularly favored for portrait and product photography due to their ability to create dramatic lighting effects and maintain color consistency in the photos. Both continuous lighting and studio strobes complement each other in various studio settings, making them the preferred choices for many photographers. The other options do not encapsulate the primary types of studio lighting as effectively. For instance, while incandescent and LED lights are common light sources, they do not represent specific studio lighting techniques in the same way. Flash and ambient light reference different lighting styles rather than types, and natural light

**2. How does using a lower f-stop number affect a photograph?**

- A. It increases the depth of field**
- B. It reduces the amount of light**
- C. It creates a larger aperture**
- D. It increases shutter speed**

Using a lower f-stop number results in a larger aperture. This is because the f-stop scale is inversely related to the size of the aperture: a smaller f-stop number like f/2.8 means the aperture opens wider, allowing more light to enter the camera. This increased light can help in low-light situations and create a softer background blur, enhancing the subject of the photograph by isolating it. In addition, a larger aperture has implications for other aspects of the photograph, such as allowing for faster shutter speeds in well-lit conditions, which can reduce motion blur. While this might also create the potential for a shallower depth of field, the key takeaway is that a lower f-stop directly correlates with a larger aperture opening.

### 3. How does lens choice affect the quality of an image?

- A. It only affects color saturation
- B. It determines the camera's battery life
- C. It influences sharpness, distortion, and bokeh**
- D. It has no significant impact on image quality

The choice of lens significantly influences various aspects of image quality, including sharpness, distortion, and bokeh. Sharpness is a paramount factor in image quality, and different lenses have varying levels of sharpness based on their construction and design. High-quality lenses can capture more detail and provide a clearer image, while lower-quality lenses may produce images that appear soft or out of focus. Distortion is another critical consideration. Some lenses, particularly wide-angle ones, can introduce barrel or pincushion distortion, altering the shapes of objects in the frame. A well-designed lens helps in minimizing these types of distortion, leading to more accurate representations of subjects. Bokeh, which refers to the quality of the out-of-focus areas in an image, is also heavily influenced by lens choice. Lenses with wide apertures and specific optical designs can create smooth, aesthetically pleasing blurred backgrounds. This can enhance the subject's prominence and overall composition of the image. Therefore, the selection of a lens is essential in achieving desired artistic effects and technical quality in photography.

### 4. In portrait photography, what background is generally preferred?

- A. A busy, colorful background
- B. A plain background for focus**
- C. A backdrop with many props
- D. A reflective surface

In portrait photography, using a plain background is generally preferred because it helps to maintain the focus on the subject being photographed. A simple, unobtrusive background ensures that there are no distractions that could take attention away from the subject's facial expressions or features. This allows the viewer's eye to be drawn directly to the person being portrayed, enhancing the emotional impact and clarity of the image. Moreover, a plain background can also provide a greater sense of depth and make the subject stand out more vividly, creating a more compelling portrait overall. While other backgrounds may have their place in certain styles or creative contexts, a clean and simple backdrop is widely accepted as the standard for effective portrait photography.

## 5. How can depth be created in a photograph?

- A. By using a single layer
- B. Through monochromatic color schemes
- C. By using layers, leading lines, and varying focus**
- D. By ignoring background elements completely

Creating depth in a photograph involves several techniques that enhance the perception of three-dimensional space within a two-dimensional image. Using layers, leading lines, and varying focus are all effective methods to achieve this. Incorporating layers means placing objects at varying distances from the camera, such as foreground elements that frame the main subject, a middle ground where the subject resides, and a background that provides context. This multi-faceted approach allows the viewer's eye to travel through the image, creating a sense of depth. Leading lines are compositional elements that draw the viewer's gaze toward the subject or through the scene. These lines can be roads, paths, fences, or any linear feature in the environment that guides the eye, enhancing the perception of distance. Varying focus, or depth of field, involves blurring the background or foreground while keeping the main subject in sharp focus. This separation between the subject and the surrounding environment makes the subject stand out and adds to the three-dimensional feel of the image. Together, these techniques work in harmony to contribute to the overall depth of the photograph, making it more engaging and dynamic.

## 6. How can you achieve a long exposure effect?

- A. By increasing the aperture size
- B. By using a fast shutter speed
- C. By using a slow shutter speed**
- D. By adjusting the ISO sensitivity

To achieve a long exposure effect, utilizing a slow shutter speed is essential. A slow shutter speed allows the camera's sensor to be exposed to light for an extended period. This results in the accumulation of light, which can create various artistic effects such as motion blur for moving subjects, smoothness in flowing water, or the capturing of light trails from moving vehicles. The other methods mentioned, such as increasing the aperture size or using a fast shutter speed, are not suitable for creating a long exposure effect. A larger aperture allows more light into the camera but also alters depth of field, while a fast shutter speed captures light in shorter bursts, freezing motion rather than allowing for the gradual blending of light that characterizes long exposures. Adjusting ISO sensitivity affects the camera's sensitivity to light, but it does not inherently allow for longer exposure times. Instead, a higher ISO may enable shorter exposures in lower light, which is the opposite of achieving long exposure effects.

**7. What is the significance of the "golden hour" in photography?**

- A. It occurs at high noon when lighting is harsh**
- B. It is the time of day with the softest and warmest lighting**
- C. It happens during overcast days**
- D. It is when natural light is weakest**

The significance of the "golden hour" in photography lies in its unique lighting characteristics that can enhance the visual quality of photographs. This time occurs shortly after sunrise and just before sunset. During the golden hour, the sun is low in the sky, which results in soft, diffused light that minimizes harsh shadows and brings a warm, golden tone to the scene. This natural lighting can create depth and texture in images, making subjects appear more flattering and vibrant. Many photographers aim to capture their shots during this period to take advantage of these ideal lighting conditions, leading to more aesthetically pleasing photographs. Other options do not accurately define the golden hour. High noon is characterized by harsh, direct sunlight, which can create strong shadows and overexposed highlights. Overcast days provide different lighting conditions, often resulting in flat or dull images due to the absence of direct sunlight. When natural light is weakest, it usually refers to dusk or late evening when the sun has set, further diverging from the warm, rich light associated with the golden hour.

**8. What kind of information is recorded on Exchangeable Image Format for JPEG and RAW files?**

- A. Image filters used**
- B. Camera model and serial number**
- C. Photo editing history**
- D. File compression settings**

The Exchangeable Image Format (EXIF) is a standard that embeds metadata in image files, including JPEG and RAW formats. This metadata typically contains essential information about the image, such as the camera settings used to take the photo, the date and time it was captured, and crucially, the camera model and serial number. This information helps photographers identify the exact equipment used and can also be useful for organizing and cataloging images. Understanding the camera model and serial number can assist in troubleshooting issues or applying specific techniques related to that particular model. For example, certain cameras may have unique characteristics or quirks that can influence how an image is processed or edited. Other options, while related to images and photography, do not accurately describe the typical contents of the EXIF data. Filters applied to images, detailed photo editing history, and specific file compression settings are not standardly recorded in EXIF data for JPEG or RAW files.

**9. What might happen if a built-in flash is used improperly?**

- A. It can enhance color accuracy
- B. It can create harsh shadows**
- C. It can increase image resolution
- D. It can improve focus on the subject

Using a built-in flash improperly can indeed create harsh shadows in your photographs. When the flash is positioned close to the lens, which is typically the case with built-in flashes, it can produce strong, direct light on the subject. This direct lighting often results in pronounced shadows that can be unflattering and distracting, especially if the subject is not positioned carefully. Harsh shadows can cause uneven lighting and diminish the overall quality of the image. In contrast, an appropriately used flash can create softer, more diffused light, which tends to enhance the appearance of a subject, but when used improperly, the negative impacts like harsh shadows take precedence. Understanding the positioning and timing of the flash is crucial in avoiding this common pitfall in photography.

**10. What does the term "bokeh" refer to?**

- A. A photographic technique for enhancing detail
- B. The aesthetic quality of blur in out-of-focus areas**
- C. The process of adjusting brightness levels
- D. A method for creating sharp images

The term "bokeh" refers to the aesthetic quality of the blur found in the out-of-focus areas of an image. This effect is particularly noticeable in photographs where there are elements in sharp focus against a background that is intentionally blurred. The characteristics of this blur can greatly impact the overall mood and visual appeal of an image, as different lenses and aperture settings can produce varying degrees of softness, color, and shape in the blurred areas. Bokeh is often sought after in portrait photography, where subjects are isolated against a gently blurred background, drawing attention directly to them while still providing context in the image.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://digiphotography1a.examzify.com>**

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