

IDLA Digital Photography Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. When was the first photograph taken?**
 - A. Before 1800**
 - B. In the 1820s**
 - C. In the late 1840s**
 - D. In the 1860s**
- 2. Which of the following is NOT a purpose of the aperture?**
 - A. Open and close**
 - B. Focus on subject matter**
 - C. Control amount of light**
 - D. Adjust color temperature**
- 3. A log cabin in the woods would best fit into which category of architectural photography?**
 - A. Detail**
 - B. Scenic**
 - C. Intimate**
 - D. Documentary**
- 4. What was the primary purpose of the Camera Lucida in art?**
 - A. A device that artists often used to assist them in drawing**
 - B. The first camera**
 - C. Invented in the 1500's around the time of Leonardo da Vinci**
 - D. A type of projection method for photography**
- 5. Which of the following is considered an element of design in photography?**
 - A. Lighting**
 - B. Shape**
 - C. Texture**
 - D. Contrast**

- 6. What do cropping, resizing, and page format adjustments primarily relate to?**
- A. Composition**
 - B. Elements of design**
 - C. Digital file management**
 - D. Lighting conditions**
- 7. What are two essential elements to include when properly citing a photograph?**
- A. Artist source and date of publication**
 - B. Artist source and title of photograph**
 - C. Title of photograph and location**
 - D. Artist source and camera settings**
- 8. What adjustment can you make to increase the amount of light in your photos?**
- A. Increase shutter speed**
 - B. Decrease aperture**
 - C. Increase aperture**
 - D. Change ISO setting**
- 9. In what year was the first photograph taken?**
- A. 1800**
 - B. 1820**
 - C. 1840**
 - D. 1860**
- 10. How can you save memory after downloading images from your camera?**
- A. Rename files**
 - B. Delete the files from your camera**
 - C. Compress files to a zip format**
 - D. Move files to an external drive**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. When was the first photograph taken?

- A. Before 1800
- B. In the 1820s**
- C. In the late 1840s
- D. In the 1860s

The answer indicates that the first photograph was taken in the 1820s, which is historically accurate. The pioneering work in photography is credited to Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, who created the first permanent photographic image in the year 1826 or 1827. This landmark image, known as "View from the Window at Le Gras," was captured using a process called heliography. This process required a long exposure time of about eight hours, resulting in a blurred but significant step toward modern photography. The timeline of photography continues to evolve after the 1820s, but the foundational image occurred during that decade, marking the beginning of photography as we understand it today. This period set the stage for subsequent advancements in photographic technology and techniques, establishing the 1820s as a pivotal time in the history of visual representation.

2. Which of the following is NOT a purpose of the aperture?

- A. Open and close
- B. Focus on subject matter**
- C. Control amount of light
- D. Adjust color temperature

The aperture in photography primarily serves several essential functions, including controlling the amount of light that enters the camera and adjusting the depth of field, which influences how much of the image is in focus. While it can affect the sharpness and clarity of the subject in contrast to the background, it does not inherently focus on subject matter in the way that a lens might. The focus is determined more by the lens's focal length and the camera's focusing mechanism rather than the aperture itself. Adjusting the aperture primarily alters the depth of field, which affects the area in focus, but its main roles are light control and depth manipulation, not directing focus specifically onto subjects. Thus, the statement regarding focusing is not a central function of the aperture, making it the answer to the question.

3. A log cabin in the woods would best fit into which category of architectural photography?

A. Detail

B. Scenic

C. Intimate

D. Documentary

Scenic architectural photography focuses on capturing buildings and structures in their surrounding environments, showcasing their relationship with nature and landscape. A log cabin in the woods is an ideal subject for this category because the natural elements of the surroundings, like trees, sunlight filtering through the branches, and the rustic charm of the cabin itself, come together to create a picturesque scene. This type of photography aims to convey a sense of place and evoke emotions related to the harmony between the architecture and the landscape, making it the perfect fit for a log cabin setting. Detail photography would emphasize specific architectural elements, intimate photography would focus on creating a close, personal connection with a space, and documentary photography would aim to narrate a more factual story about the structure rather than its aesthetic appeal within an environment. Each of these other categories has a different focus that does not align with the picturesque essence inherent in photographing a log cabin situated in the woods.

4. What was the primary purpose of the Camera Lucida in art?

A. A device that artists often used to assist them in drawing

B. The first camera

C. Invented in the 1500's around the time of Leonardo da Vinci

D. A type of projection method for photography

The primary purpose of the Camera Lucida was indeed to assist artists in drawing. This innovative device allowed artists to see their subject and the working surface simultaneously, which helped them create accurate drawings. The Camera Lucida uses a prism to reflect the image of the subject onto the drawing surface, allowing the artist to trace the outlines and details directly. This made it an invaluable tool for artists who wanted to improve their precision and detail in their work. While the Camera Lucida was invented in the early 19th century and was similar to some concepts explored during the Renaissance, such as those by Leonardo da Vinci, its main function was not to be the first camera or a projection method for photography. Rather, it facilitated the drawing process, making it a beneficial tool for artists of that time and beyond.

5. Which of the following is considered an element of design in photography?

- A. Lighting**
- B. Shape**
- C. Texture**
- D. Contrast**

The choice indicating that shape is an element of design in photography is a valid consideration, as shape indeed plays a crucial role in composition. Shapes can influence a viewer's perception of an image by creating visual pathways and guiding the eye to various points within the composition. They help to illustrate forms and can evoke emotions or highlight the subject matter. In photography, understanding and utilizing shape allows photographers to create stronger visual narratives, either by emphasizing geometric patterns or contrasting organic forms. While lighting, texture, and contrast are also significant components that contribute to the overall aesthetic and effectiveness of a photograph, shape specifically pertains to the structural aspect of the elements within the frame. This understanding enriches a photographer's ability to compose an image thoughtfully, leveraging shapes to enhance storytelling and visual appeal.

6. What do cropping, resizing, and page format adjustments primarily relate to?

- A. Composition**
- B. Elements of design**
- C. Digital file management**
- D. Lighting conditions**

Cropping, resizing, and page format adjustments primarily relate to composition in photography. Composition refers to the arrangement of visual elements within a photograph and plays a crucial role in how an image is perceived by viewers. When photographers crop an image, they are selectively removing parts of the photograph to enhance the framing and focus on the subject. This process helps guide the viewer's eye and can significantly alter the balance and harmony of the composition. Resizing allows photographers to change the scale of the image for various purposes, including printing or displaying on different platforms, also impacting how the composition is experienced. Page format adjustments relate to the layout and presentation of images in a physical or digital format, which influences overall visual flow and audience engagement. Other concepts such as elements of design, digital file management, and lighting conditions, while important in photography, do not directly pertain to the act of refining the composition through cropping, resizing, and format adjustments.

7. What are two essential elements to include when properly citing a photograph?

A. Artist source and date of publication

B. Artist source and title of photograph

C. Title of photograph and location

D. Artist source and camera settings

When citing a photograph, two essential elements that must be included are the artist source and the title of the photograph. The artist source provides credit to the creator of the photograph, which is important for intellectual property reasons and acknowledging the original work. The title of the photograph is critical because it helps identify the specific piece being referenced, allowing others to locate or understand the photograph in context. The artist's name serves as recognition of the creator's contribution, while the title provides clarity about which photograph you are discussing, as multiple works may exist with similar themes or subjects. Together, these elements ensure proper attribution and facilitate better communication about the work. Understanding the importance of citing photographs accurately not only respects the rights of artists but also contributes to more reliable and credible academic and artistic discourse.

8. What adjustment can you make to increase the amount of light in your photos?

A. Increase shutterspeed

B. Decrease aperture

C. Increase aperture

D. Change ISO setting

Increasing the aperture is an effective way to allow more light into the camera, thereby brightening your photos. The aperture is the opening in the lens through which light passes. When you increase the aperture (using a lower f-stop number, such as from f/8 to f/4), you effectively make the opening larger. This larger opening allows more light to hit the camera sensor, resulting in a brighter image. In photography, it's important to balance exposure, and adjusting the aperture is one of the three fundamental components of exposure, along with shutter speed and ISO. A wider aperture can also create a shallower depth of field, which can be used creatively to emphasize the subject by blurring the background. While changing the ISO setting can also brighten an image, it introduces noise at higher levels, which can degrade image quality. Decreasing the aperture would reduce the light entering the camera, leading to darker images, and increasing shutter speed reduces the amount of time light is allowed in, also resulting in darker images.

9. In what year was the first photograph taken?

- A. 1800**
- B. 1820**
- C. 1840**
- D. 1860**

The first photograph recognized as such was taken in the year 1826 or 1827 by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, known as "View from the Window at Le Gras." This pioneering photographic process utilized a technique called heliography, which required a long exposure time of about eight hours. The choice of 1820 is close to this historical event, but it's essential to recognize that the actual creation of the first photograph occurred in the following years. The other years listed—1800, 1840, and 1860—do not correspond to the creation of the first photograph but represent other developments in photography that came later. Thus, although 1820 is not the exact year of the first photograph, it is the closest option provided in the context of early photography history.

10. How can you save memory after downloading images from your camera?

- A. Rename files**
- B. Delete the files from your camera**
- C. Compress files to a zip format**
- D. Move files to an external drive**

Deleting files from your camera after you have successfully downloaded them is an effective way to save memory. When you transfer images from your camera to your computer or another storage solution, the original files remain on the camera's memory card until they are explicitly removed. By deleting these files, you free up space on the memory card, allowing you to take more photos without running into storage limitations. While moving files to an external drive or compressing files can also help manage storage, they do not directly increase the available memory on the camera itself. Renaming files might be useful for organization but does not affect memory usage. Therefore, deleting files is a straightforward method to ensure that you can continue capturing new images without the risk of running out of storage space.