

Film Connection
Chapter 9 Quiz - Cinematography
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February 13, 2019

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

DP's job is to ensure that the visual imagery captured is of the highest quality possible. The difference between a DP and a cinematographer is that the DP doesn't operate the camera, the cinematographer does.

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

Camera operator - cinematographer
1st Assistant camera operator - focus puller
2nd camera assistant - clapper/loader

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

Depth perception enables us to distinguish the distance between foreground and background. On film, depth perception must be created with lighting.

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

Key - shined directly at the subject's face to make it look flat and wash all shadows out
Fill- restores shadow, sits on the side of a subject and causes shadow cast on nose and brow
Backlights - added to separate the subject from the background

Combined allows the human eye into seeing separation of the subject from the background, creating depth perception from a two dimensional screen.

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

Tungsten - yellow light, used indoors
HMI - blue light, used outdoors
Both are used to create moods, or themes.

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

Gels, scrims, cucolorises, or a bounce all can be placed in front of the tungstens or HMIs to alter the lighting, or establish a pattern which create different moods and alters the lighting.

7.) What are the different parts of a camera?

Lenses - metal or plastic encasing glass discs.

Filters - used over the lens, come in different colors and levels of darkness

Aspect Ratios - the relationship between the height and width

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

Check their work and their references. (check that past film style matches or is similar to the system of film currently being made, and that they are easy to work with, smart, competent, and experienced) Avoid difficult personalities and poor quality work.

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

Excluding light, except where it is wanted.

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

A lens is glass shape mounted into plastic or metal. Primary purpose is to form a sharp image of an object onto the focal plane, where the film is located.

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

It is the magnification power of a lens expressed in millimeters. It controls the field of view the camera sees.

12.) What is controlled by the iris?

Consists of thin metal leaves. The iris controls the intensity of light that travels to the film. Allows the image to be brightened or darkened.

13.) What does the shutter control?

The shutter controls the length of time that the light is exposed to the film.

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

It is vital to the audience experience, and the bottom line of the film. Having to correct or recreate sound in post production is very expensive.

15.) Who generally comprises of a sound crew?

Comprised of a mixer, 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 keeps the levels maintained in a proper range to prevent distortion because they are difficult to fix in post production.

17.) What are the tasks of a sound assistant?

Attaching wireless mics to the actors, retrieving mics when set wraps, wrapping cables and changing batteries in wireless mics and other devices.

18.) What is time code used for?

Used to synch the the picture with the audio since they are both recorded separately.