

Chapter 9 Quiz

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

The job of a DP is to make sure that the images you are capturing are of the highest possible quality. The difference between a DP and a cinematographer is that the cinematographer operates the camera and the DP does not.

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

The DP's crew consists of a camera operator, the 1st assistant camera operator, and the 2nd camera assistant. The camera operator operates the camera, the 1st assistant camera operator acts as the focus puller, and the 2nd camera assistant acts as the clapper/loader.

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

Depth perception allows us to distinguish the distance between foreground and background. Our eyes naturally do this, because there are two of them, but when you only have one camera, you must accomplish this through lighting.

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

The three main lights used in cinematography are the key, fill, and backlights. The key light lights your subject, and if used alone it removes the shadows and creates a very flat image. The fill light is used to bring those shadows back. The backlight is then used to separate the subject from the background.

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

Tungsten incandescents give you a yellow light and HMIs give you a blue light. They are both used for mood lighting and for lighting outside.

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

A DP will also use gels, scrims, and a bounce. Gels are used to change the color of the light, scrims are used to diffuse or change the pattern of the light, and a bounce is used to bounce light from one area to another.

7. What are the different parts of a camera?

The standard parts of a camera are lenses, filters, and aspect ratios.

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

Vetting your DP is important because it allows you to figure out if they are a good match for you, by telling you if their style matches yours, if they are easy to work with, and if they know what they're doing.

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

The most important quality of a camera is the ability to exclude light except where it is wanted.

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

A lens is a collection of glass elements, all different shapes, that are mounted in a barrel. The primary purpose of the lens is to form a sharp image onto the focal plane.

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

Focal length is the magnification power of a lens. It affects the size of the image on the focal plane.

12. What is controlled by the iris?

The iris controls the intensity of the light that hits the film, allowing you to brighten or darken an image.

13. What does the shutter control?

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