

# COMPOSITION

'Composition' in Photography means the nature of how something is made up, or the positioning of things in a photograph.

Composition can be changed by moving around, zooming in or out, changing lenses or even just crouching down.

Even the slightest tweak can make a big difference to the finished photograph... the possibilities are endless!

There are 8 examples that you can follow to get you started.



## Genius task:

Practise taking one photograph for each of the composition ideas shown on the right... 8 photographs in total

➤ Why do I need to learn this?

It is important to know and understand the rules of composition so that you can take successful photographs!



Rule of thirds



Leading lines



Cropping



Framing

## 8 RULES OF COMPOSITION

There are no fixed rules in photography, but there are guidelines which can often help you to enhance the impact of your photos.



Depth



Background control



Point of view



Horizon line

# THE FORMAL ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The 'Formal Elements of Photography' are the visual features that make up a photograph. These go hand-in-hand with composition. A photo can contain some or all of the formal elements.

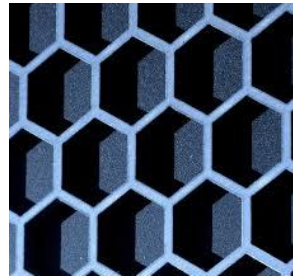
The 6 formal elements are:



Colour



Texture



Shape



Line



Form



Pattern

What do you know?

List three formal elements that you can see in these two images:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

It is important to know the formal elements so that you can analyse photographs accurately!



# APERTURE

'Aperture' controls 'depth of field' within a photograph. Like the pupil of your eye moves objects into focus while the background becomes blurry, aperture does the same for your digital camera.

Understanding how to use aperture is essential to taking high quality photographs.

A large aperture setting results in a large amount of background blur. This is good for portraits or for objects where they are the main focus of the image.

A small aperture setting results in a small amount of background blur. The majority of the image will remain sharp.

Don't get confused! On your digital camera setting, small numbers are large apertures, and large numbers are small apertures.

E.g.  $f/2.8$  is larger than  $f/4$  and much larger than  $f/11$ . ('f' stands for F-stop which is the measurement of aperture size.)

Use aperture settings to change how 'in focus' your object or person is, and how 'out of focus' the background becomes...

## Size of Aperture: Large vs Small Aperture



Large aperture

Small aperture

# ISO

'ISO' is a digital camera setting that will change the brightness or darkness of a photograph.

If you increase your ISO setting, the photograph will become brighter. Be careful - if your ISO setting is too high, your photo will have a lot of 'grain' or 'noise' (fuzziness).

Every camera has a different range of ISO values that you can use. A common set is as follows:

- ISO 100 (low ISO)
- ISO 200
- ISO 400
- ISO 800
- ISO 1600
- ISO 3200
- ISO 6400 (high ISO)

When you double your ISO, you are doubling the brightness of the photo. So a photo at ISO 400 will be twice brighter than ISO 200, which will be twice brighter than ISO 100.

Use ISO settings to change how bright your photograph will be... Outdoors, the ISO should be on a lower setting as it is naturally brighter than indoors...





# MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

'Macro photography' is very close-up photography, and is used to take photographs of small objects/insects and detailed surfaces.

There are standard 'macro' settings on a digital DSLR camera that can be used. On a DSLR camera, the macro settings make the lens aperture close to its minimum, which extends the depth of field and allows you to move closer to the subject.

Taking the photograph works best when the camera is rested on a surface as this will give you sharper focus.



## Genius task:

Take a macro photograph of a still object, and then another of a something moving, such as a person or insect... Which one is more challenging for you?



➤ Why do I need to learn this?

It is important to practice different styles of photography to gain marks! Use macro to capture close up detail

# SHUTTER SPEED

'Shutter speed' is the length of time it takes for your camera to capture the photograph.

Slow shutter speed (also known as 'long exposure') (5 seconds or longer) means that the moving object will blur. This is used for photographs that advertise cars so that it gives a sense of speed. It is also used in light painting to capture the movement of light.

Fast shutter speed (such as  $1/1600^{\text{th}}$  of a second) is also known as 'freeze motion'. This is because all movement is eliminated from the image. Freeze motion can be used to capture fast-moving things like water splashes and birds in flight.

Shutter speeds are measured in seconds;  $1/4$  means one quarter of a second,  $1/250$  means one two-hundred-and-fiftieth of a second... etc.

Using a slow shutter speed will enable the camera to capture more light, therefore the photograph will look brighter. A faster shutter speed will make the image darker.

How image brightness changes with shutter speed:

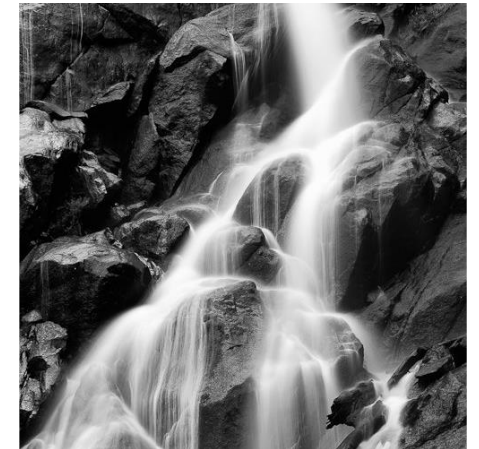


Quicker Shutter Speed

Longer Shutter Speed



Fast shutter speed



Slow shutter speed

Use fast shutter speed to capture fast-moving subjects in focus - use slow shutter speed for creative blur effects



# LIGHT PAINTING

'Light painting' is a photography technique that uses a moving light source (such as a torch) in dark conditions, and a slow shutter speed on a digital camera.

The slow shutter speed means that it takes longer for the camera to take the photograph. This can be set for up to thirty seconds on a standard digital camera, giving the photographer time to move the light source around to create swirls or pictures with the light.

Using different coloured light sources such as glowsticks can create colourful effects.

The camera is usually held still on a tripod so that no other movement is picked up. The longer the shutter-speed, the more effective the light painting will be.



## Genius task:

Take photographs with a 10 second, 20 second and 30 second shutter speed... compare the difference!



# DOUBLE EXPOSURE

'Double exposure' involves combining two or more ('multiple exposure') images into a single frame. There are two types of double exposure techniques: 'in-camera' and 'post-production'.

In-camera double exposures are used in film photography, using a film camera. This involves rewinding the film and shooting over the same frame again. This results in two 'ghost' images visible in one photograph.

Some digital cameras allow you to use a double exposure setting to layer your photographs in one frame.

Post-production double exposure is the digital method, using photo-editing software like Adobe Photoshop or some apps. This method gives you full control and you can layer up as many photographs as you like to create the desired effect.

## *Genius task:*

*Take several photographs of the same thing, but from different angles... Layer them on Photoshop to create an abstract double/multiple exposure...*

