

# MEDIA UNIT 3 – PRODUCTION EXERCISE 1

Miss Asbury

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FORM: 12F

## INTENTION:

*What are you intending on focusing on during this exercise. This might include any of the following:*

- *aesthetics and/or structural capacities and/or characteristics of a media product to be explored*
- *technical equipment to be operated*
- *applications used to be applied to develop particular skills to present specific ideas to achieve particular effects*

During this production exercise I intend on...

During my first production exercise I intend to learn how to use manual settings of aperture, ISO and shutter speed on my Canon EOS 600D.

I will also be experimenting with 3 different camera lenses, including 50mm lens, 55-250mm lens and 18-55mm lens. For my practise photographs, using various combinations of the above, I will also be changing the background of the photos, to see which look appeals to me most. I would like to try a black background, a white background, and a 'naturalistic' background with action blurred out.

## APERTURE

For the manual setting of aperture, I would like to test out f8, f10, f14 and f18. I am already aware that a higher f-number reduces the amount of light coming into the camera, compared to a low f-number, which allows more light into the camera. As I would like to achieve low key lighting in my final photographs, a high f-number may work better, however I do want to test lower numbers like f8 and f10 to see if this works better in conjunction with the other manual settings of ISO and shutter speed that also contribute to the light coming into the camera.

## SHUTTER SPEED

For the manual setting of shutter speed, I would like to experiment with 1/60 sec, 1/80 sec, 1/100 sec, 1/125 sec and 1/160 sec. I know that a fast shutter speed reduces the amount of light coming into the camera, due to the shutter "curtain" closing faster, compared to a low shutter speed which allows more light into the camera, but can also cause motion blur in the image something that I would like to avoid. However, I would still like to test slower shutter speed settings from 1/60 sec to 1/80 sec, to see if this gives a better kind of lighting paired with a high f-number. In contrast, I'd like to see how a high fast shutter speed paired with a low f-number looks, as well as a fast shutter speed and high f-number.

## ISO

I would like to experiment with ISO settings of 100, 200 and 400. I am aware that a high ISO requires less light, but can create a more grainier image, compared to a low ISO speed that requires more light and produces a cleaner image. I also know that in a natural external environment, an ISO speed of 100 or 200 is the most appropriate. In conjunction with shutter speed and aperture, I will test these different ISO speeds.

## LENS

For each of the above settings, I would also like to experiment with my 3 different lenses 55mm, 18-55mm and 55-250mm. I would like to try each different combination, with each lens to see which gives me the most sharp and focused image, and which works best in an indoor environment, as well as my outdoor locations. Through this lens process I also hope to discover the depth of field that I would like in my final photos. By doing this process I will discover which lens works best in each location, and I may use different lenses for different photos of my final product.

## BACKGROUND

I would like to trial a black background, a white background and a natural background. In my final photos these backgrounds may vary in the different images, based on whether they need to be shot outdoors, or indoors, and also whether the photos have an element of action, or are more staged. For example, one of my final photographs will be of a father and son playing cricket this will be shot outdoors so the background will be naturalistic consisting of whatever action is happening at the time. A few of my photos will definitely be shot outdoors so will have the same kind of natural background, however I'd still like to experiment with black backgrounds and white backgrounds to see if this effect achieves more low key lighting and/or draws more focus to the hands in my image.

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## EVALUATION:

*Explain how the completed exercise realises the stated intention. This should outline the extent to which the intention/s were realised. Outline what possibilities and limitations you have discovered with the technical equipment.*

The first thing I discovered was...

One limitation was...

A solution for this could be...

Through my first production exercise I discovered that I will not be using a white back ground in my final photos as I didn't like the look that it achieved. I felt that the background when white, was too shadowy and uneven and didn't illuminate the hand in the way that I was looking for. However, I will also trial editing this to see if it can be fixed to achieve a better look.

In contrast, I discovered that I really liked the look of the black background, and also the natural background. The black background really illuminated the focus of my image the hand, which I liked, and it also helped me to achieve the lighting that I was after, which was not too bright but still clear and focused.

I also liked the natural background and the way that it focused on the hand, but still had other visible, blurred elements in the background, giving the image a bit more of an interesting look and didn't look as staged.

Testing the different backgrounds was really useful as it helped me discover that I didn't like the white background and that I did like the black and natural background.

In terms of the lens I will use, I found that I definitely preferred my 50mm lens and 18-55mm lens to my 55-250mm lens.

I liked the way that these two lenses focused on the hand in the image and gave the background a more blurred out look. I found that the 55-250mm lens didn't give the same look, and illuminated the background with detail, which I didn't like. For my final photos I'd like to use both the 50mm lens and 18-55mm lens.

Experimenting with the manual settings on my camera was also really helpful and familiarised me with my camera. Although I still do not know exactly what settings I will use in my final photos, I now feel confident to be able to adjust the settings depending on the lighting on the day and other factors.



### Trial one photos

These were from my first round of trial photos. The background was just a plain white wall. I used flash, because I had my aperture too high and ISO too low and at this point I wasn't as familiar with my camera settings and how I could make the image lighter so I had to put my flash on. I also found that the hand was placed too close to the wall and this created an unwanted shadow behind/underneath the hand. This first trial process was beneficial as it highlighted to me what I needed to change in order to achieve a better photo overall.

### Trial two photos

For my second round of trial photos I also used a white background, but instead of a wall I used a white sheet for the background. I also adjusted the manual settings by lowering the aperture and increasing the ISO and this meant that I didn't need to use flash. I thought that the white sheet might create a crisper white background, however it just caused creases and shadows, which I didn't like. Through this exercise I have decided that I don't want to use a white background because the hand does not stand out, and isn't as focused as I'd like.





### Trial three photos

For my third round of trial photos I used a black background (inside of sleeping bag). I really liked the way that the black background illuminated, and drew focus to the hand. Both of these photos were taken without flash. I also used various lenses to see what difference they made to the photo. I found that I didn't like the look of the 55-250mm lens as much as my 50mm lens and 18-55mm lens, as I felt that it detailed the background too much rather than creating an even background colour.

### Trial four photos

For my final round of trial photos, I used a 'natural' background. I found that some of my photos were too dark, but with the right lighting I did also like the look of this background. The idea behind this would be that my final photos would not look as staged, but at the same time I am unsure as to whether the natural background would be as effective as the black when converted to black and white. The hand may not stand out as much if there is action in the background, rather than just plain black.

