REFLEX PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB
Hints & Tips

Cheat Sheet - Guide to Capturing Shots

Aperture & depth of field

Aperture controls how much light enters the camera. The wider the aperture (lower f-stop number), the more light reaches the sensor. Aperture also affects depth of field (DoF) i.e. how much of an image appears in sharp focus:

f1.4 f2 f2.8 f4 f5.6 f8 f11 f16

Shallow — **Depth of field** — **Deep**

A wide aperture (low f-stop) = Shallow DoF. This isolates the subject by blurring the background - great for portraits.

A narrow aperture (high f-stop) = Deep DoF. This keeps more of the scene in focus - ideal for landscapes.

ISO (light sensitivity)

ISO measures how sensitive the camera sensor is to light.

100 200 400 640 1800 1600 3200

Low ISO — **High ISO**

Low ISO (e.g. 100-400) is best for bright conditions resulting in sharp images with minimal noise.

High ISO (e.g. 1600-3200 and beyond) is better for low-light shooting but may introduce more noise.

Exposure

Exposure is determined by the camera's light meter. The goal is to keep the meter at zero for balanced exposure, though adjustments may be needed for different lighting conditions.

-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3

Underexposed — **Optimal** — **Overexposed**

Shutter speed

Shutter speed controls how long the shutter stays open, affecting light and motion:

30sec 10Sec 2Sec 1/30 1/100 1/250 1/1000

Slow speed — **Fast speed**

Fast shutter speeds (e.g. 1/1000s) freeze action and are great for sports and wildlife.

Slow shutter speeds (e.g. 1/30s) can blur motion and are ideal for night photography or creative effects.